

# The Social Web and Digital Sovereignty

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**Building Social Advocacy Networks in and for Europe.**

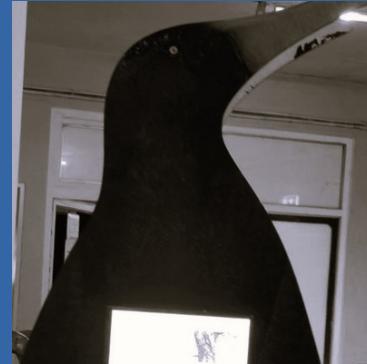
**Sandra Barthel**

# ABOUT ME



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Communications &  
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Vienna & Berlin

**fairtube**  
EN: Federated video publishing and streaming platform using peer-to-peer distribution based on PeerTube with a content focus on sustainability, culture, free software and the commons.

[More info](#)

Quick access



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Platform powered by PeerTube  
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# berlinfediday

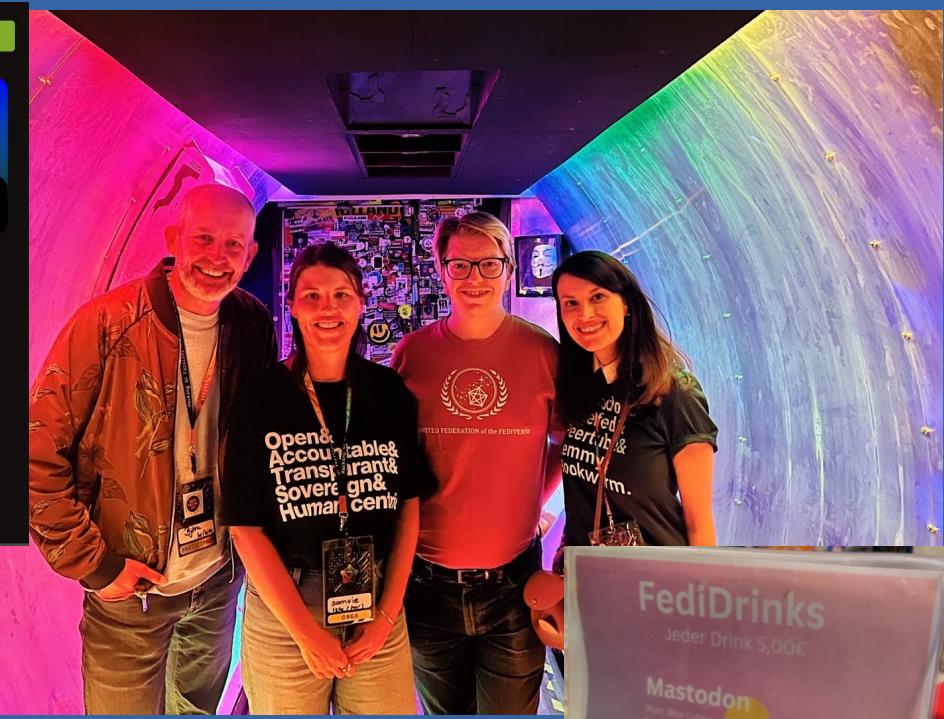
**VIDEO CHANNEL**  
**FediDay** [Subscribe](#)

@feday 13 subscribers • 21 videos

**OWNER ACCOUNT**  
Digitale Gesellschaft @digiges\_de

Wir sind eine netzpolitische Bürgerrechtsorganisation, die sich für Grundrechte und Verbraucherschutz in der digitalen Welt einsetzt.

Aufzeichnungen vom FediDay 2025 - 3. - 5.Oktober 2025 auf der c-base





SUMMIT ON  
EUROPEAN  
DIGITAL  
SOVEREIGNTY

# Who sits at the table while public money is spent ?



© 29.08.2023, Pressemitteilung

Europäischer Gipfel zur digitalen Souveränität 2025  
*Unsere digitale Souveränität gemeinsam gestalten*

Pressemitteilung 10/2025

Bundesminister für Digitales und Staatsmodernisierung, Dr. Karsten Wildberger, hat auf dem deutsch-französischen Ministerrat in Toulon den Digital-Gipfel 2025 mit einem Fokus auf europäischer digitaler Souveränität angekündigt, der am 18.11.2025 in Berlin auf Einladung des deutschen und des französischen Digitalministeriums stattfinden wird. Gemeinsam mit der französischen Digitalministerin Clara Chappaz und weiteren hochrangigen europäischen Politikerinnen und Politikern soll auf dem Gipfel ein starker Impuls für ein digital souveränes Europa gegeben werden.

11.30

## Morning Sessions

- Start-ups and Solutions
- Cloud and Data Sovereignty
- AI-State of Europe

## Afternoon Sessions

- EUDI Wallet
- Digital Commons as a Pillar of Digital Sovereignty - EDIC
- DMA - Fairer Markets in Support of Digital Sovereignty

<https://bmds.bund.de/aktuelles/eu-summit/programm/programm>

17 November

High Level Forum on Public Procurement (BMDS Side Event)

Future Builders Forum

International Workshop on Open Source Foundation Models

eco Warm-up to the European Summit on Digital Sovereignty

Announcement of the European Network for Technological Resilience and Sovereignty (ETRS)

A technologically resilient Europe: The EuroStack - Roundtable on EuroStack industry initiative

Scaling Sovereignty: VC & Startups Powering Europe's Tech Future

Digital Sovereignty as a Democratic Endeavour

POLITICO Sovereign Night

Reception on the Occasion of the European Summit on Digital Sovereignty

<https://bmds.bund.de/aktuelles/eu-summit/side-events-overview>



# Solution for Sovereignty? EuroStacks

**EuroStack** The White Paper Buy European ▾ The Letter Who We Are ▾ European Catalogue Project

## Building Europe's digital future

EuroStack™ is our original idea for a European Industrial Policy initiative bringing together tech, governance and funding for Europe-focused investment to build and adopt a suite of digital infrastructures: from connectivity to cloud computing, AI and digital platforms.

The EuroStack Industry Initiative  
[Euro-stack.eu](http://Euro-stack.eu)  
Buy European, Sell European, and Fund European

### ■ The EuroStack Directory: Trusted Tools for Digital Sovereignty

Discover sovereign European services and innovative open source technologies that champion interoperability and put you in control of your digital stack.

#### Featured Categories

- Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)**  
Virtualized computing resources available on demand.  
→ 36 solutions
- Edge Computing**  
Software and hardware systems enabling local data processing.  
→ 2 solutions
- Container Management**  
Tools for automating and managing the deployment, operation, and monitoring of containerized applications.  
→ 16 solutions

The EuroStack Directory Project  
[Euro-stack.com](http://Euro-stack.com)  
Stefane Fermigier

The EuroStack  
[Euro-stack.info](http://Euro-stack.info)  
Bertelsmann Foundation & Mercator



# The Social Web & Digital Sovereignty

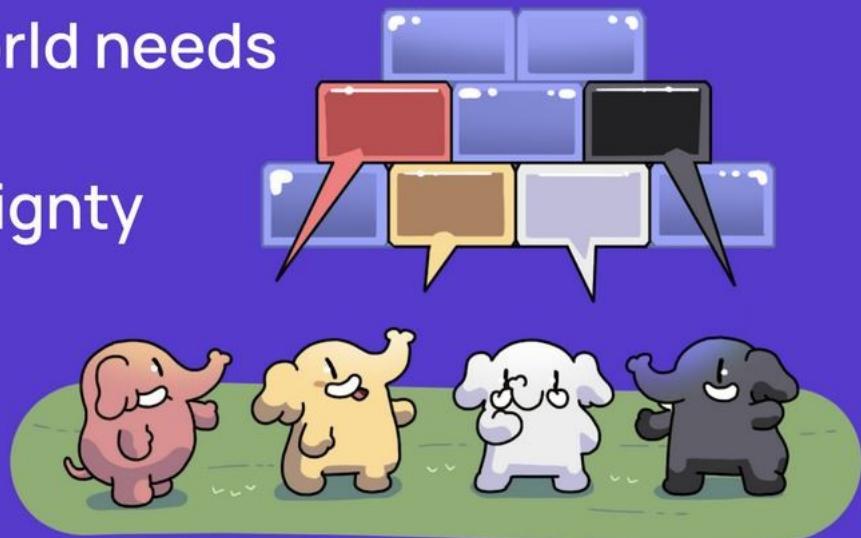
- I. Making it European is not enough. They need to be open as well.
- II. If public money is to be spent, than public digital infrastructure such as open social networks must be funded as well.
- III. Open social networks are a key part of achieving real digital sovereignty.

# The world needs social sovereignty



Hannah Aubry  
Community Director

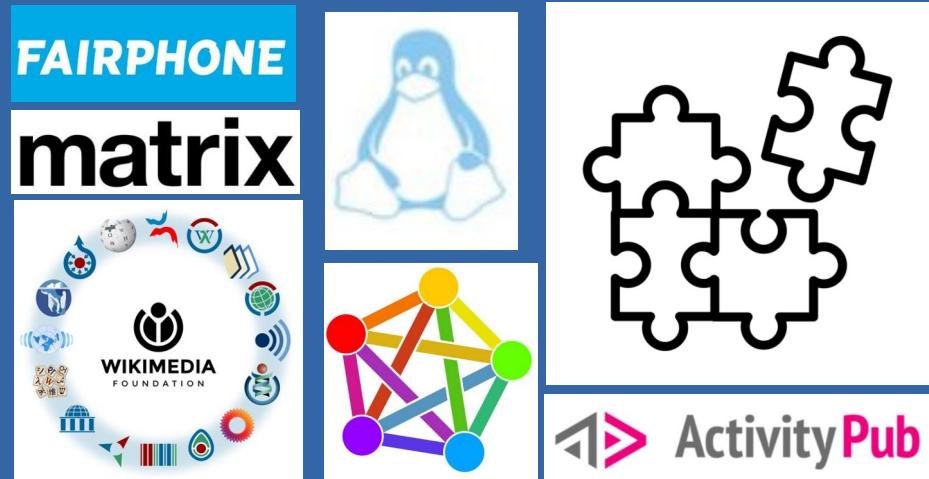
The world needs  
social  
sovereignty



<https://blog.joinmastodon.org/2025/12/the-world-needs-social-sovereignty/>

# Building blocks of public digital infrastructure

- Hardware
- Operating system
- Free and Open Software
- Means of communications
- Knowledge infrastructure
- Interoperable social networks
- .....



# Policy Paper and demands

## Our demands #EUsummit25

1. Fediverse Fund for user-centred further development, amounting to €30 million annually
2. Anchoring the +1 principle in the work of the federal government and public institutions
3. Recognition of non-profit status in the field of decentralised digital infrastructure, thereby establishing legal certainty
4. Establishment of decentralised, interoperable and cross-sectoral pan-European media platforms with the involvement of civil society from the outset



**For open networks and democratic public spheres – decentralised, sovereign, and for the common good!**

**Demands on the occasion of the European Summit for Digital Sovereignty on 18 November 2025 in Berlin**

Our alliance of digital organisations would like to actively contribute to the development of concepts for digital sovereignty on the occasion of the ‘European Summit on Digital Sovereignty’ hosted by Germany and France on 18 November 2025.<sup>1</sup>

**Political demands**

Long paper in german, french and english:

<https://offene-netzwerke.eu/forderungen/>

# Launch Alliance Press Conference

A screenshot of a video conference interface. At the top, there are five small video thumbnails of speakers. Below them is a large graphic featuring a stylized network of colored circles (red, yellow, green, blue) connected by lines, with the text "Offene Netzwerke und demokratische Öffentlichkeit" overlaid. To the right of the graphic is a vertical list of language options: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, and German. At the bottom of the screen, there is a control bar with a play button, a timestamp of "0:06/21:22", and other video controls.

Press conference Alliance

<https://displayeurope.video/w/1xijkEtEd4dMnvJD386s7C>

NETZPOLITIK.ORG

Stalkerware, Datenhändler, Rechtsradikale - wir recherchieren mit Deiner Unterstützung. [Jetzt spenden](#)

Digitale Souveränität

## Neues Bündnis fordert mehr Engagement für offene Netzwerke

In der kommenden Woche treffen sich in Berlin die Regierungschefs von Deutschland und Frankreich mit der EU-Kommission zu einem Souveränitätsgipfel. Ein neues Bündnis aus der Zivilgesellschaft stellt vier Forderungen auf, um mit offenen sozialen Netzwerken unabhängiger zu werden.

12.11.2025 um 17:36 Uhr - Markus Reuter - in Netze - keine Ergänzungen



Das Bündnis erwartet sich von offenen Netzwerken wichtige Impulse für die Demokratie. (Symbolbild)  
– Gemeinfreiähnlich freigegeben durch unsplash.com Alexander Grey

Das neue Bündnis „Offene Netzwerke und demokratische Öffentlichkeit. Dezentral, souverän und für Gemeinwohl!“ hat heute auf einer Pressekonferenz seine Forderungen für offene Netzwerke vorgestellt. Das zivilgesellschaftliche Bündnis, dem unter anderem die Digitale Gesellschaft,



**TL;DR:**  
**‘A missed opportunity to shape true digital sovereignty.’**

Long review on our blog:  
<https://offene-netzwerke.eu/Blog/>

# Alliance „Open networks and democratic public spheres“



FOSDEM





OpenForum  
Europe



# THE FEDIVERSE & THE EU'S DIGITAL SERVICES ACT

## *solving the challenges of modern social media?*



ALEXANDRA GEESE

Member of the European  
Parliament



FELIX HLATKY

Executive Director  
Mastodon GmbH



SANDRA BARTHEL

Alliance of Open Networks and  
Public Spheres



JORDAN MARIS

EU Policy Analyst,  
Open Source  
Initiative

# We can win this together! ✨

Let us

- get to know each other, 💬
- repeat our concept and demands whenever possible,
- be strong together and have fun doing it. 🎉

Thanks to Wikimedia Austria, Save Social & Askan - for making my attendance at Fosdem26 possible!