Open Source in EU Projects vs Pure Open Source: Bridging Structure and Community

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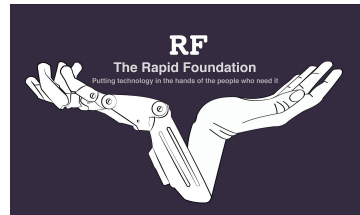www.linkedin.com/in/colin-keogh/

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Bridging two worlds

Community-Driven Open Source

- Open hardware & open research mobilisation (**Rapid Foundation & OSV**)

- Translating grassroots innovation into real-world use

- Building bridges between researchers, practitioners, and users

EU-Funded Open Research & Exploitation (with ICP)

- Horizon Europe commercialisation & exploitation lead

- From research outputs → products, startups, and adoption

- Business models for open research,Industry engagement, IP strategy, and impact pathways

Two Worlds of Open Source

My Two dominant models

EU-funded open source

- Structured, time-bound projects

- Defined deliverables & governance

- Policy-aligned, mission-driven

Community-driven open source

- Organic, long-lived ecosystems

- Meritocratic participation

- Adoption-led evolution

Innovation happens when (or if) these meet.

Three Critical Differences That Matter for Impact

Why structure alone isn't enough

	EU Projects	**Communities**
Time Horizon	3-4 years	Decades +
Ownership	Consortium Responsibility	Collective Stewardship
Success Metrics	Deliverables	Adoption

These gaps explains why many outputs stall.

Example in Practice: TeamOSV — Crisis-Driven Community Open Source

COVID-19, 2020 — community-driven open source at scale

- 3,000+ volunteers · 144 countries
- 21 ventilator concepts + PPE + documentation
- Fully open designs from day one

What worked

- Governance, translation, ownership emerged alongside creation
- Direct hospital deployment
- Rapid iteration with clinicians

What didn't

- Early chaos, Volunteer dependency, Sustainability unresolved & Guidance Misdirection

Key insight: Translation happened during development- not after (Not good)
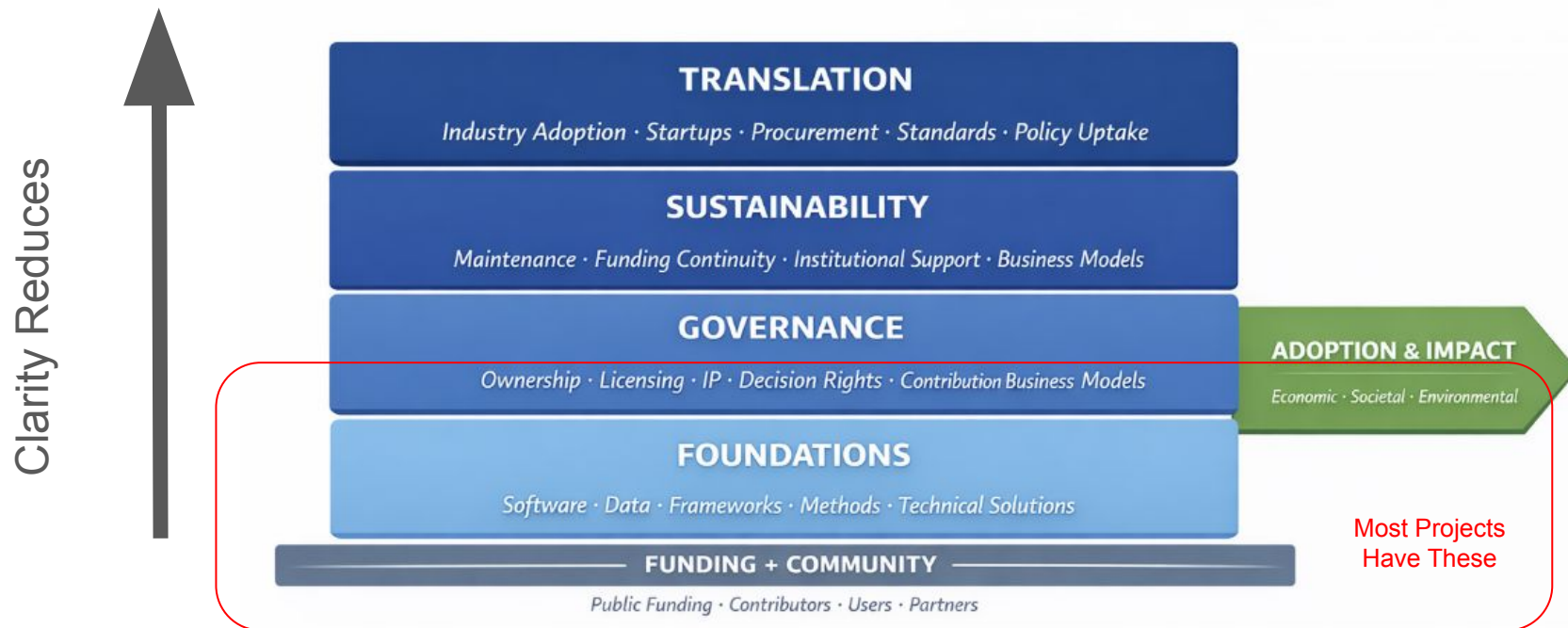
The Open Source Impact Stack (Core Framework)

THE OPEN RESEARCH IMPACT STACK
From funded outputs to real-world adoption

Clarity Reduces

TRANSLATION
Industry Adoption · Startups · Procurement · Standards · Policy Uptake

SUSTAINABILITY
Maintenance · Funding Continuity · Institutional Support · Business Models

GOVERNANCE
Ownership · Licensing · IP · Decision Rights · Contribution Business Models

ADOPTION & IMPACT
Economic · Societal · Environmental

FOUNDATIONS
Software · Data · Frameworks · Methods · Technical Solutions

FUNDING + COMMUNITY
Public Funding · Contributors · Users · Partners

Most Projects
Have These

https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18499633

Example in Practice: 5G-TIMBER

Foundations

- 25 innovations, 4 Business Use Cases, 7 patents filed (EPO & National).
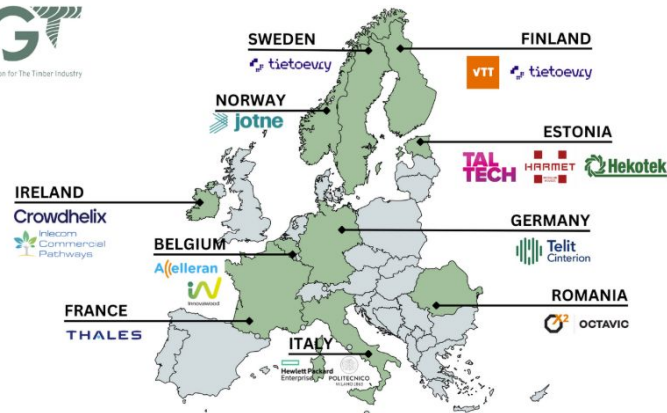
Governance

- Exploitation ambitions defined for **all partners**
- Structured IP strategy across key innovations
- Ecosystem coordination & creation

Sustainability

- Extensive market analysis informing business plans
- Clear commercial pathways for each Business Use Case
- Ownership and continuation models established across partners
- Significant open source plans for assets

Translation

- 129 experts, 93 organisations, 27 countries engaged
- Standardisation contributions +whitepapers + best practices +Publications

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The Hybrid Model

Hybrid open innovation
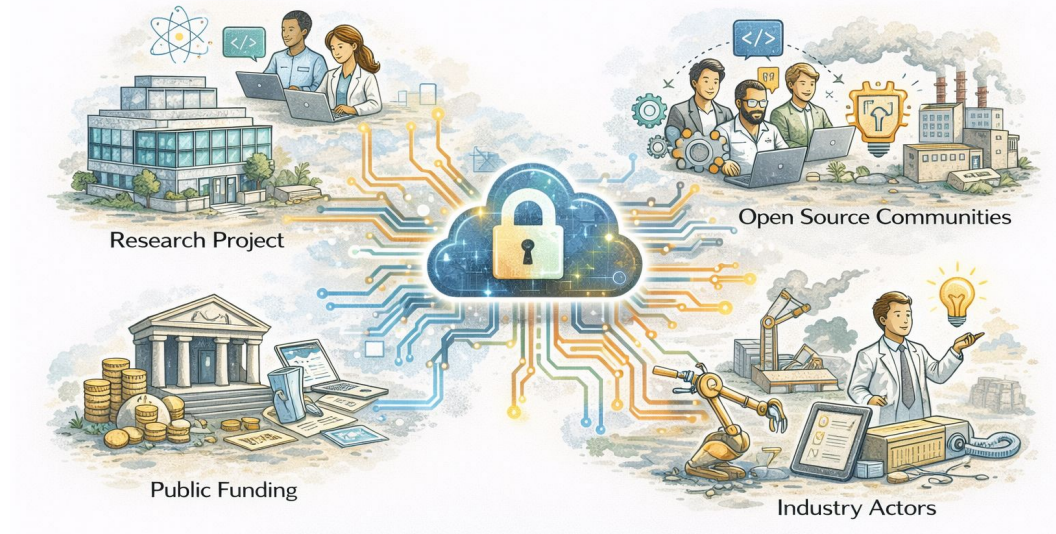
Public funding
→ accelerates creation

Open communities
→ ensure continuity

Industry
→ enables scale

Hybrid models connect all four layers of the Stack.

What This Means for Ireland (Or elsewhere)

Turning open source into national advantage

Universities

- Design for post-project ownership from day one

Startups & SMEs

- Engage with research outputs earlier

Corporates & Public Sector

- Treat open source as strategic infrastructure

Goal: build hybrid ecosystems, not isolated projects.

Let's Talk Today!

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