



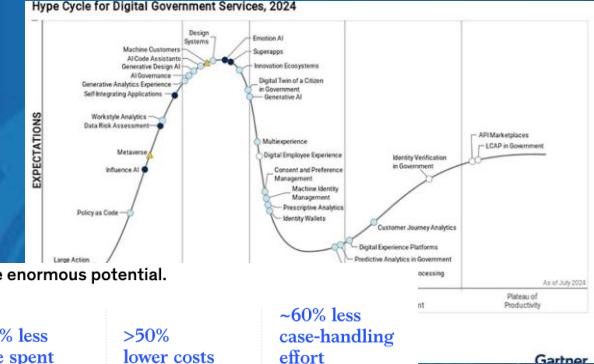
RI.  
SE

DEPENDENCY

JOHAN LINÅKER, RISE/LUND UNIVERSITY

**Digital Sovereignty through  
Open Source  
Enabling Europe's strategic opportunity**

# Technology is accelerating, as is expectations



Digital public services have enormous potential.

24/7 accessibility

even during a pandemic



~50% less time spent

interacting with public administration



>50% lower costs

for companies when interacting with the public administration



~60% less case-handling effort

through automated processing

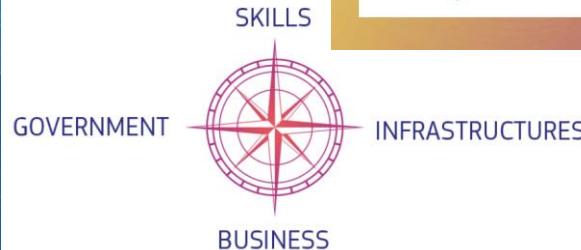


Source: German National Regulatory Control Council

McKinsey & Company

A Europe fit for the digital age

Empowering people with a new generation of technologies

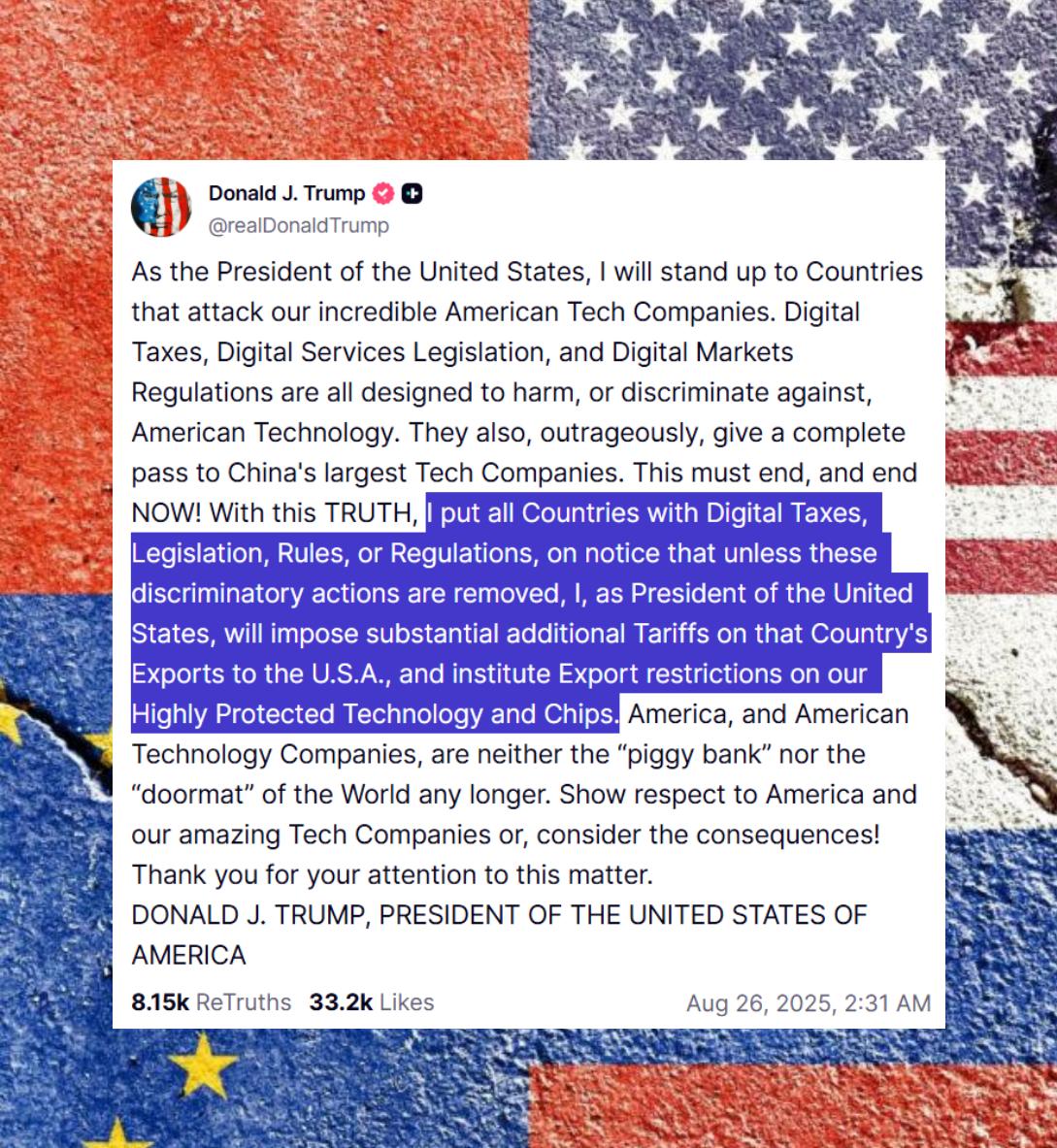


**While we are  
digitally cuffed  
by dependencies**



Photo by gaspar zaldo | <https://unsplash.com/photos/man-in-black-suit-jacket-wearing-silver-chain-bracelet-7Wg7Njy5JBE/>

# Fueled by geopolitical cracks and regionalisation



## Dutch parliament calls for end to dependence on US software companies

By Tom

March 1

- **80% total spending on cloud software and services for professional use in Europe went to 'American' companies, representing a volume of 265 billion euros.**

The anti-protectionist, pro-tech D9+ alliance switches sides as Europe debates targeting US digital services with tariffs and other measures.

**Big win: Germany, France, and sovereign EU-standards**

## Digital Sovereignty, Security, and Digital Innovation in Germany

Dirk Schrödter  
Minister und Chef der Staatskanzlei des Landes Schleswig-Holstein

### ARGUME

An expert's point of view on a current event.

## Europe Must Avoid Digital Colony

The EuroStack is the continent's last chance for tec

LA DÉPENDANCE TECHNOLOGIQUE AUX SOFTWARES & CLOUD SERVICES AMÉRICAUX : UNE ESTIMATION DES CONSÉQUENCES ÉCONOMIQUES EN EUROPE



### Digital sovereignty: less dependency, more European integration

The coalition partners are focusing strongly on digital sovereignty – an approach that could have far-reaching consequences for companies.

- **Building European integrated and resilient value chains:** "We are creating European integrated and resilient value chains for key industries, from raw materials and chips to hardware and software." This is intended to reduce dependence on non-European manufacturers – both from China and the USA.
- **Strengthening open interfaces and standards:** "We ensure our digital sovereignty: we define open interfaces and open standards across all levels and systematically promote open source [...]." This is a reaction to the increasing dependence on proprietary systems, which are causing huge difficulties in the context of digital transformation and have had an enormous braking effect. With regard to open source, two options are discussed in the document – either "define ambitious targets" or specifically "achieve an open source share of 50% by 2029" for the IT budget.
- **Exclusion of untrustworthy providers:** "We will exclude untrustworthy providers with legal certainty in future." This refers primarily to critical infrastructures and is likely a reference to the debate surrounding providers in the 5G network.



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ASTERÈS

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Zendi

Open

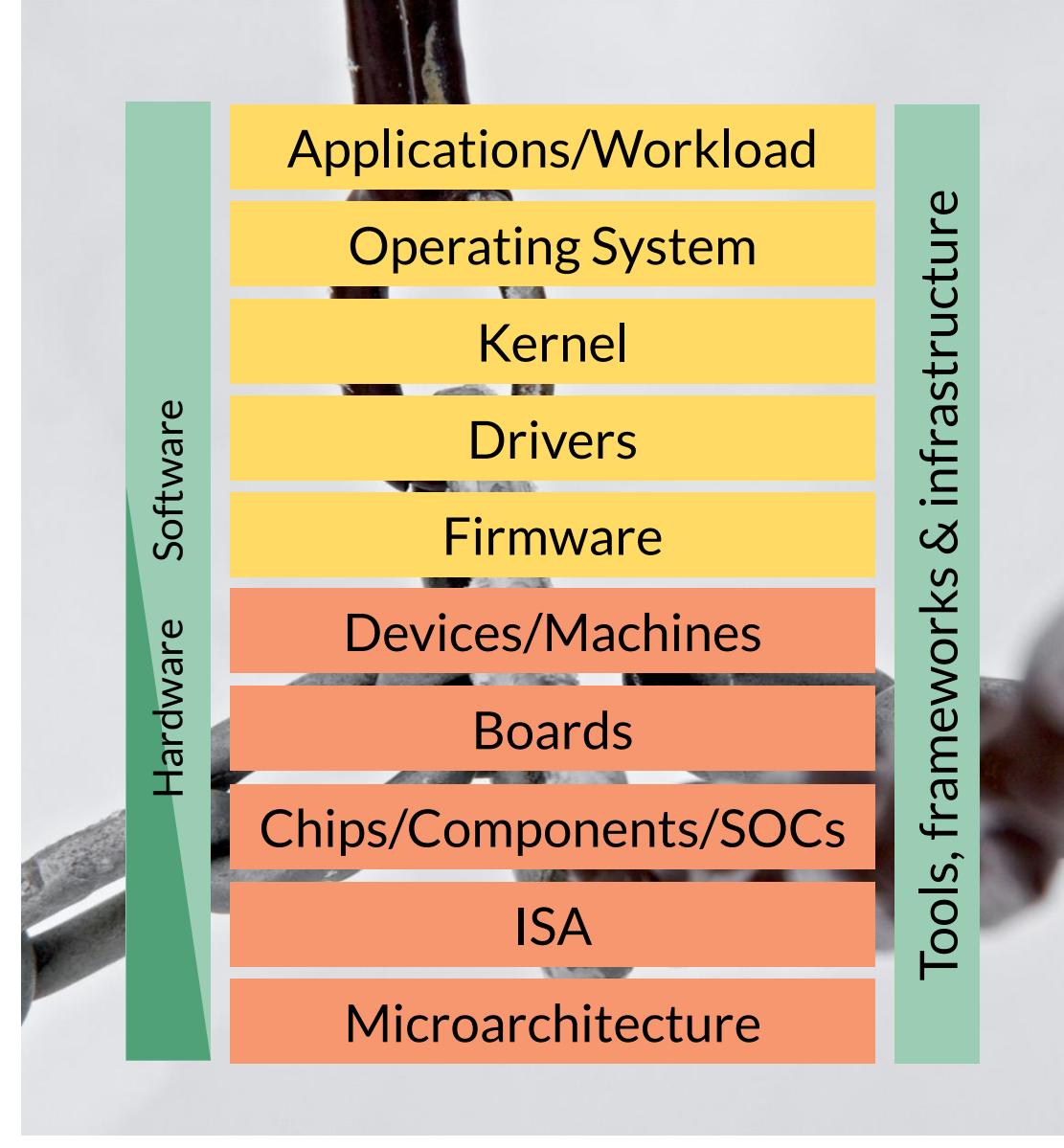
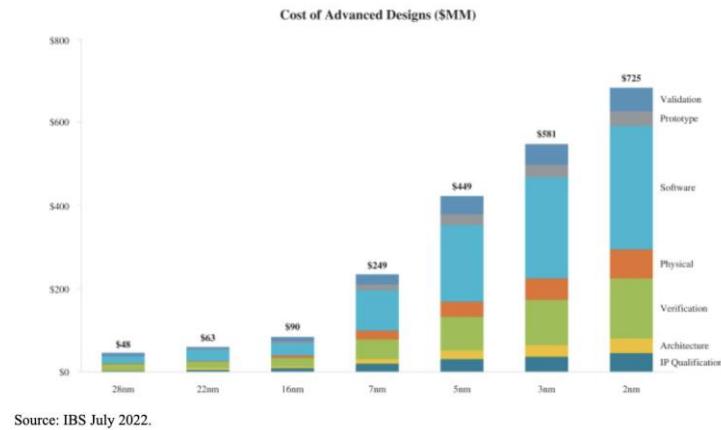
Basis Dokumentation  
April 2022

alternative  
Eswehr

work agreement with  
n solutions" such as

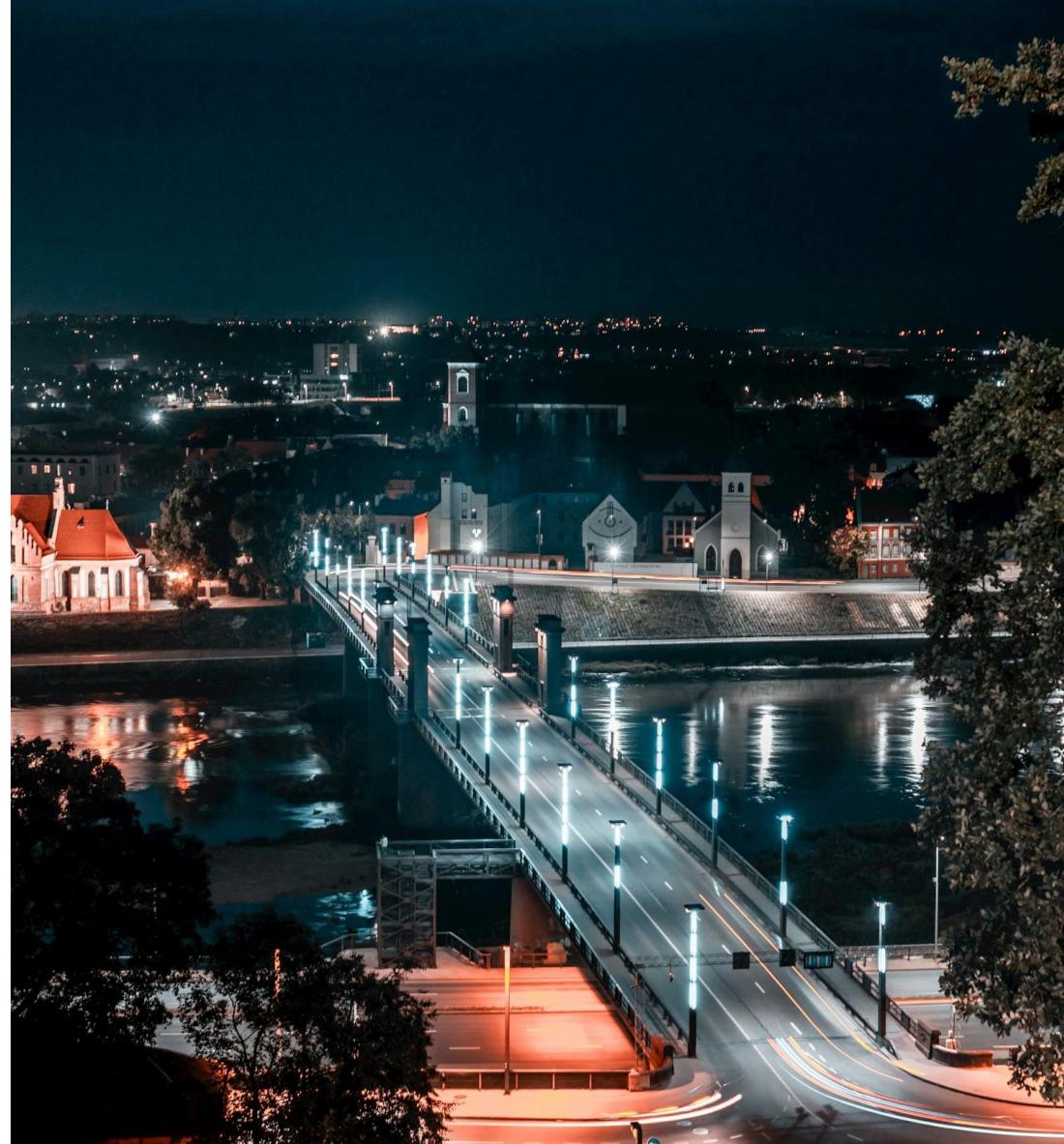


# Sovereignty is a full-stack problem



**All parts of the infrastructure are equally critical**

**Physical + Digital**



# Digital Sovereignty

=

**Open Strategic Autonomy**



**Open  
Strategic  
Autonomy  
requires  
control**

**Control  
requires  
investments  
and  
contributions**

**Investments  
and  
contributions  
requires  
capabilities**



<< Further reading [2]

# **Public sector suffers of the Comfort syndrome**



Photo by Coen Staal | <https://unsplash.com/photos/man-lying-on-black-couch-xrb1Y7As0pU>

# It's a We- problem



Høring i Udvalget for Digitalisering og It om Danmarks digitale suverænitet

4. **Political leadership:** courage to act
5. **Understanding:** sovereignty requires systemic changes and not just technical replacements

**Need to start  
growing  
courage and  
collaborate**



# **Open as a toolbox for enabling collaboration**

## **{Software, Standards, AI, Hardware...}**



Photo by Julie Molliver | <https://unsplash.com/photos/yellow-and-black-handle-hammer-and-screw-driver-Z3vFp7szCAY>



<< Further reading [3]

# **Clear intent and direction needed from policy makers**

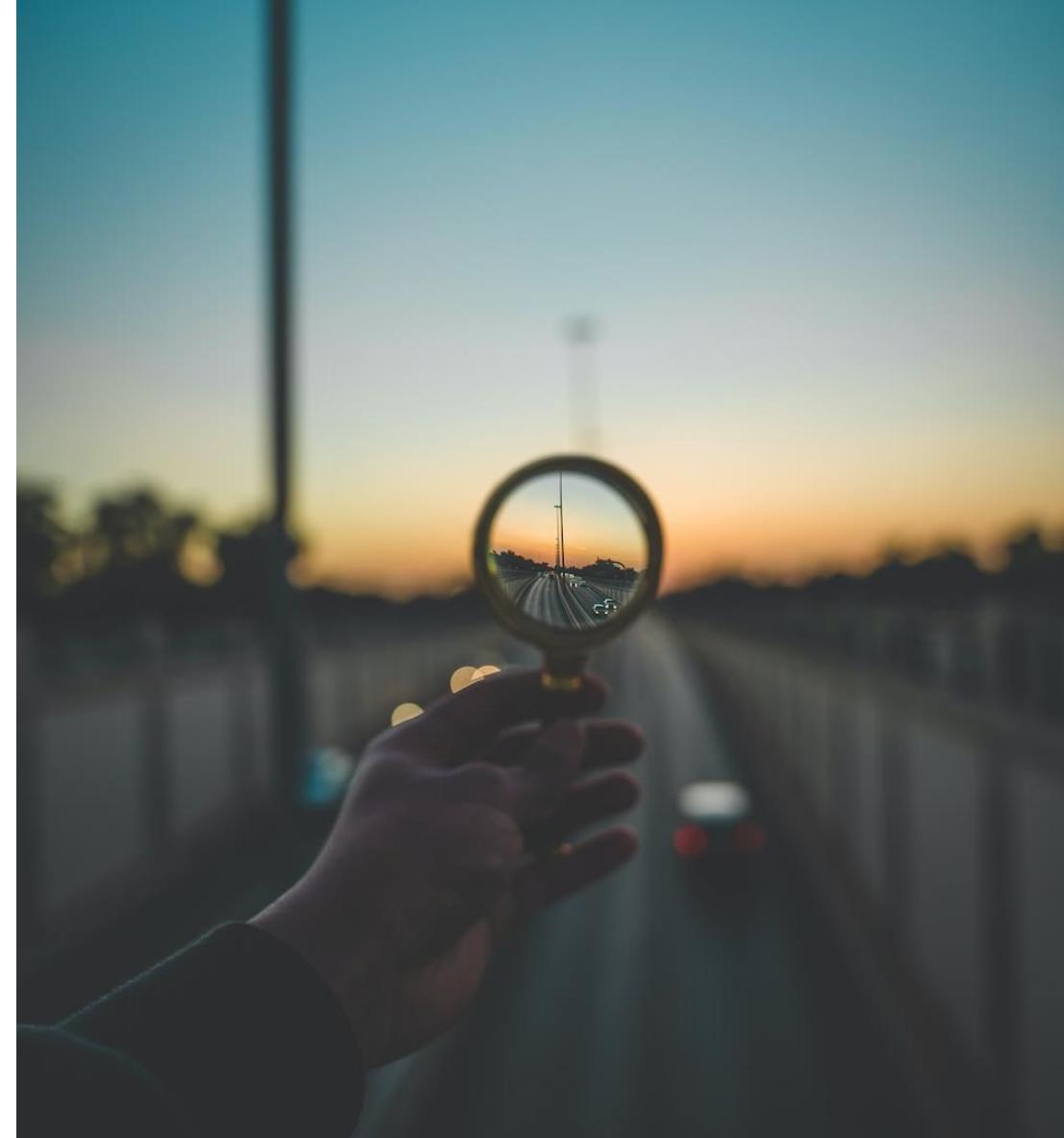
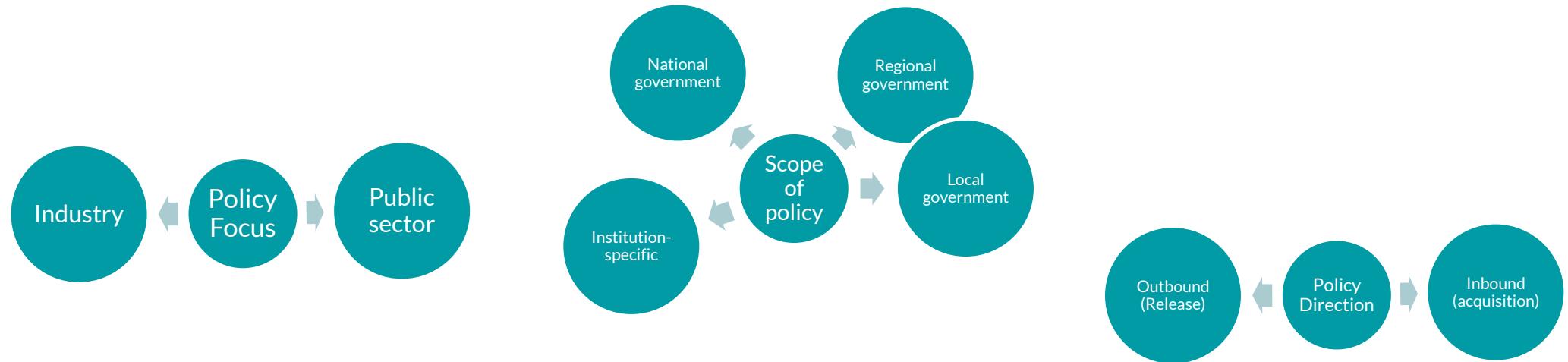


Photo by Yosef Futsum | <https://unsplash.com/photos/person-holding-magnifying-glass-during-sunset-ZAvhxLTcSok>



# Comprehensive and complementary policies required





<< Further reading [3]

# Support structures needed to enable policy goals



Photo by Nguyễn Hiệp | <https://unsplash.com/photos/grayscale-photo-of-crane-near-building-mvYyxn02rjk>

# Enter <Open Source Program Offices>



## TODO Group

“Centre of competency for an organisation’s open source operations and structure”



## OpenForum Europe

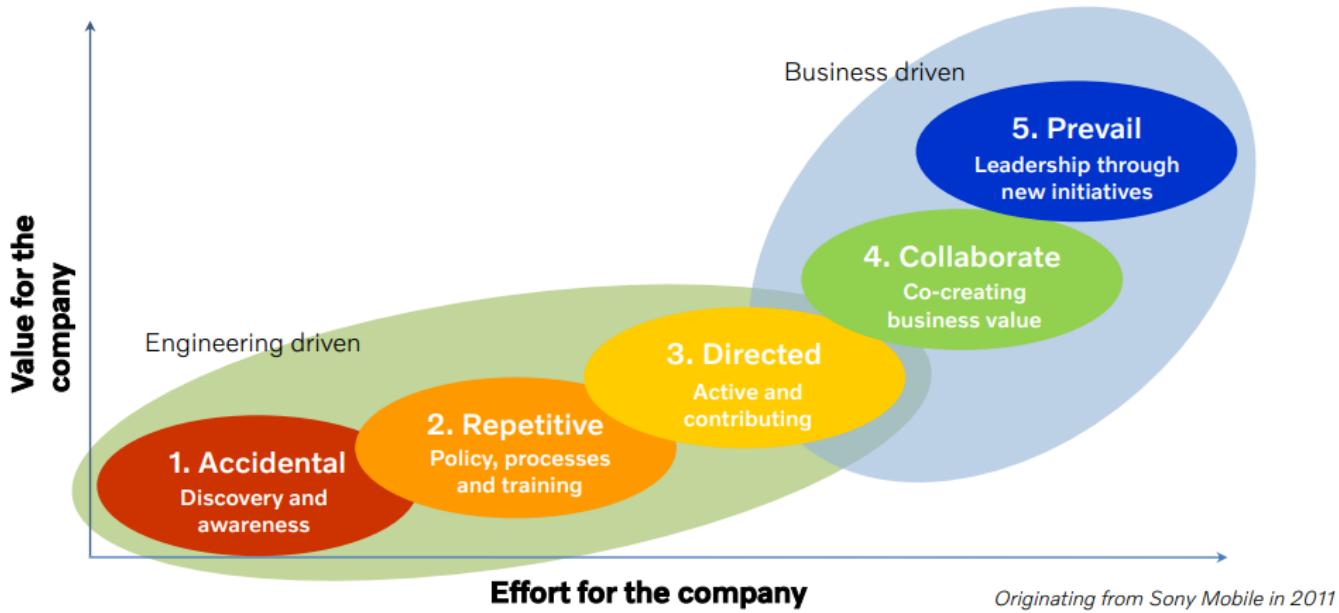
“An institutional organisational construct that supports and accelerates the consumption, creation, and application of open source software”



## OSPO Alliance

“A cross-functional team to help define and steer an organisation’s open source management strategy and organisational readiness”

# Helps mature the organizational readiness





<< Further reading [5]

# **Public Sector Open Source - same but different**



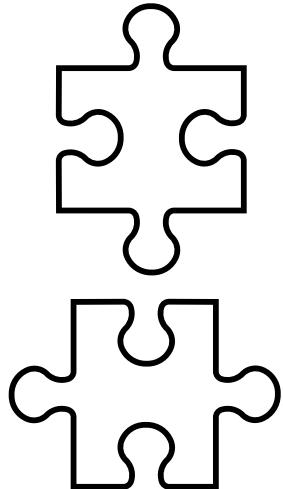
Photo by adonyig | <https://pixabay.com/photos/glass-globe-fot%C3%B3g%C3%B6mb-buda-castle-4112627/>

# **Vehicles for Cultural and Organisational change**



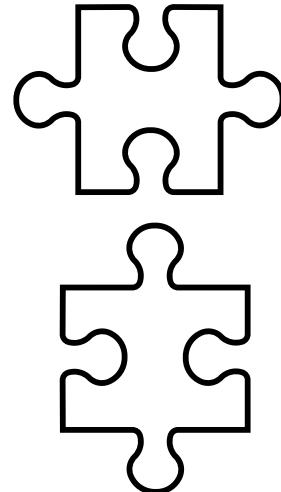
# **Interface and means of growing common capabilities**

National  
government  
OSPOs



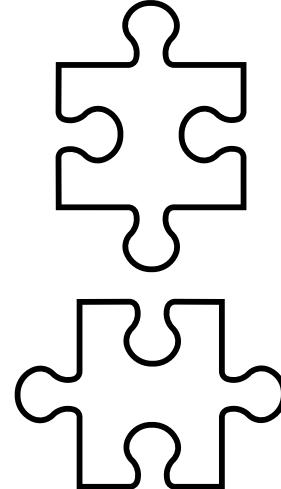
Association-  
based OSPOs

Regional  
government  
OSPOs



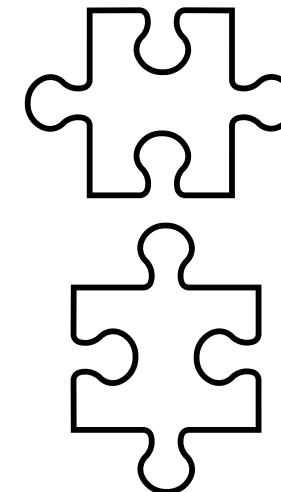
Academic  
OSPOs

Local  
government  
OSPOs



Trans-national  
OSPOs

Institution-  
centric OSPOs



Civil-society-  
based OSPOs



<< Further reading [3]

# Promotion and findability critical for enabling reuse



## Flexible Teamwork for the Public Sector

openDesk is the customisable office and collaboration suite designed specifically for your needs in public administration.

**Stay informed**



Launched in autumn 2024.



### Project management

Plan and manage projects efficiently with kanban boards, Gantt charts, and more.



### Task management

Track your tasks with ease and stay on top of milestones.



### Contacts

Manage your personal contact details or create shareable address books.



### Document management

Create and edit text, spreadsheets and presentations — on your own or collaboratively with others.



### Chat

Communicate with colleagues and workgroups in real time.

## The platform for Digital Sovereignty

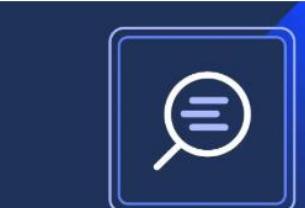
openCode brings open source to the German public sector. Together, we develop and share software that shapes our digital future in a self-determined way.



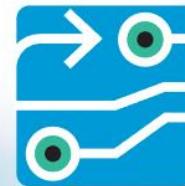
[About Open Source](#)

[Software Index](#)

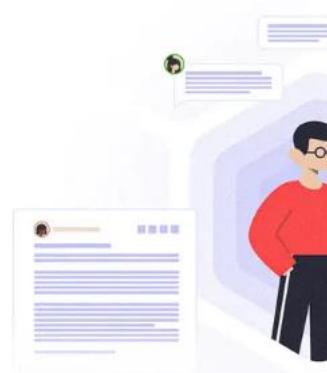
How would you like to u



The search bar



Die Einheitliche S



L'sove  
works

Create. Organize. Co  
source environment  
public sector and ope

### Vision und Umse

„GA-Lotse – Das Digitalisier  
Gesundheitsämtern folgt die  
Software die Abläufe in den  
optimieren.  
Mit der Softwareentwicklun  
effektive Datenverarbeitung  
Deutschland befähigen, für  
Anforderungen in der Zusar



Tchap



France Transfer



Grist



Message



<< Further reading [8]

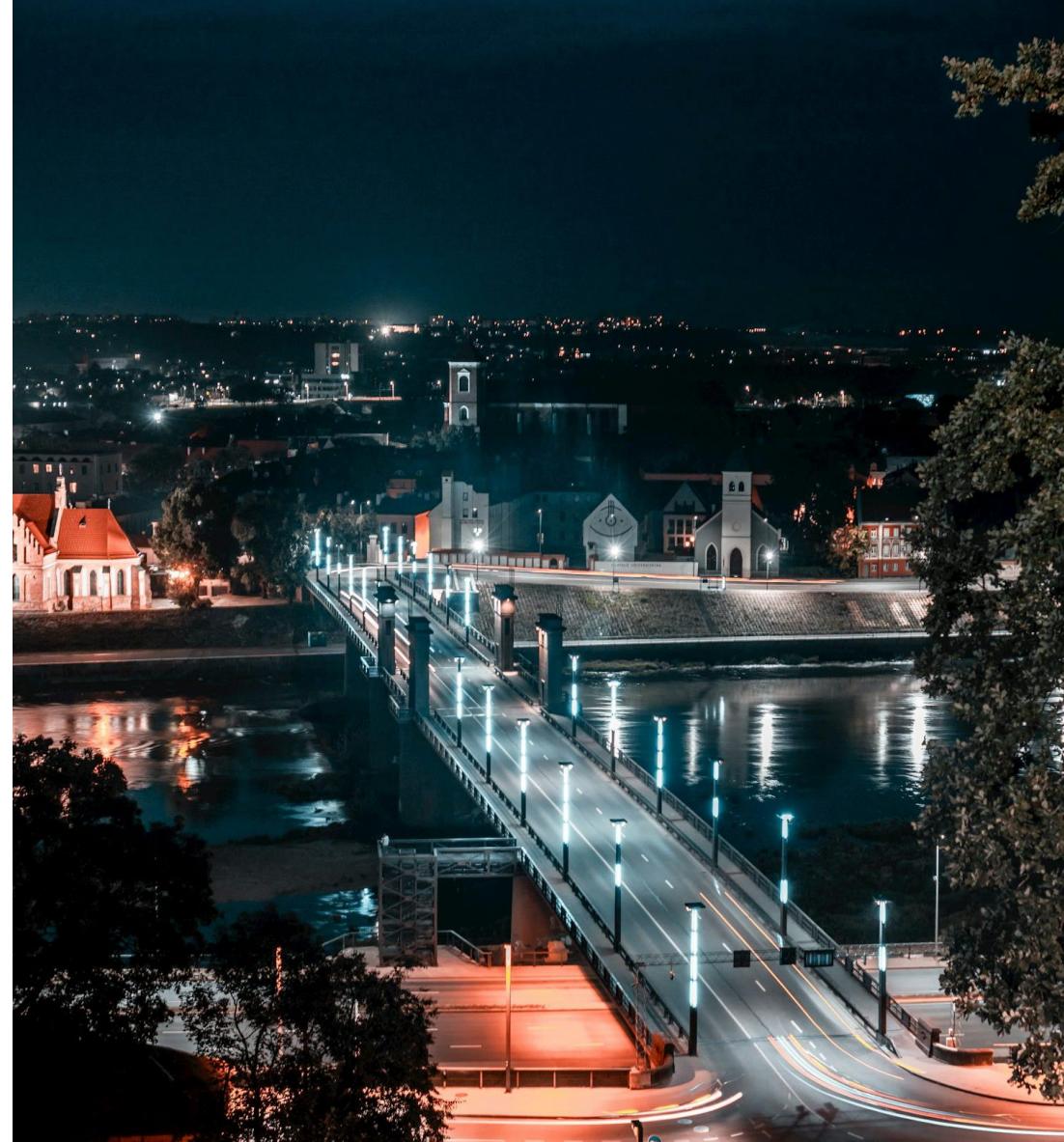
**Need for  
increased  
public  
recognition and  
awareness**



<< Further reading [1]

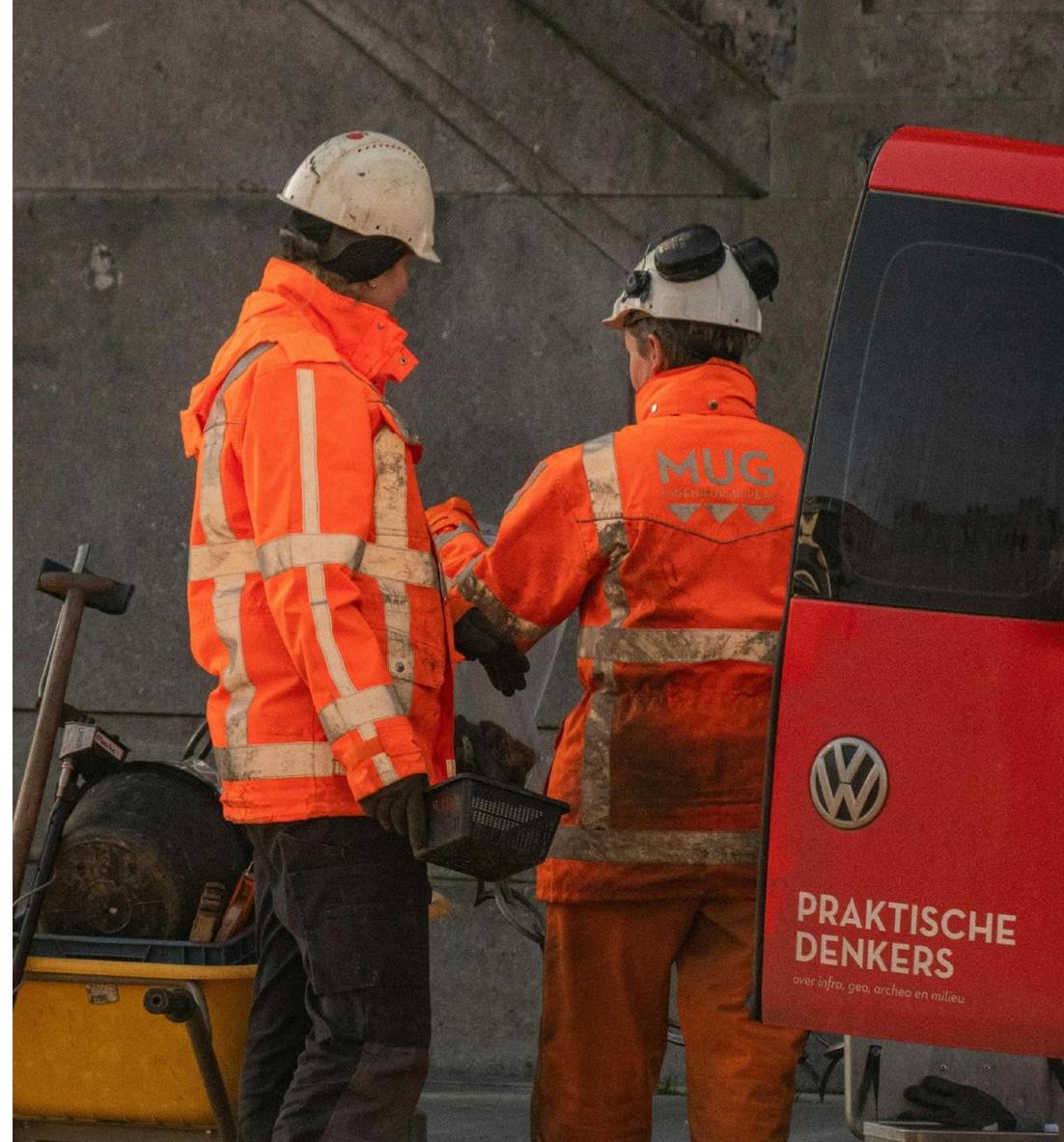


# **Robustness and security of common infrastructure critical**



# Sustainability = Collective responsibility

Need to  
de/centralise  
maintenance with  
a push & pull  
model

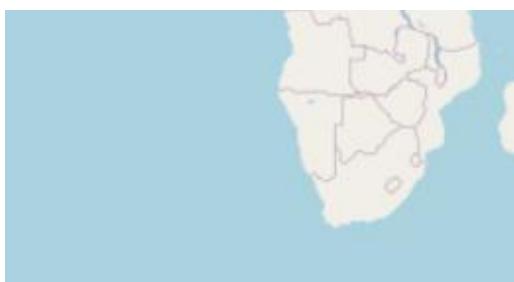


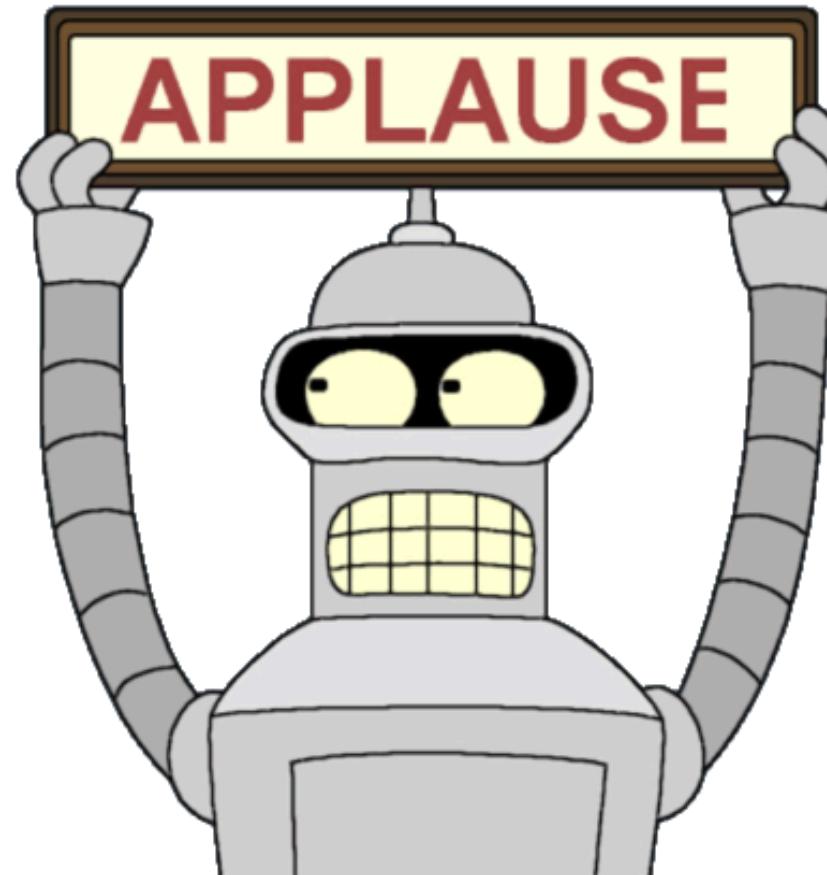
# Sustainable vendors = Sustainable software





**Open Strategic Autonomy requires  
Open Collaboration, Share/reuse, and growing  
Common capabilities**





# Further reading

- [1] <https://www.linaker.se/blog/building-sovereignty-the-open-way/>
- [2] <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2409.01118>
- [3] <https://www.linaker.se/blog/report-software-reuse-through-open-source-software-in-public-sector/>
- [4] <https://www.linaker.se/blog/public-sector-open-source-program-offices/>
- [5] <https://www.linaker.se/blog/public-sector-open-source-software-projects-how-is-development-organized/>
- [6] <https://www.linaker.se/blog/sustaining-maintenance-labor-for-open-source-software-projects-through-human-Infrastructure-Copy/>
- [7] <https://www.linaker.se/blog/health-check-ups-on-open-source-software-projects/>
- [8] <https://europeanopensource.academy/>