

Prototype for public interest infrastructure assessment framework

TASK

Write an outline describing how you would approach the task of building a prototype public interest infrastructure assessment framework. We do not expect you to spend more than two hours on it, and you should plan to send your outline back to IMS by COB. The outline should not be longer than 500 words.

BACKGROUND

By November IMS plans to develop a prototype assessment framework to help community media and alternative platforms assess their tech stack. The assessment framework should help community media and alternative platforms assess what tools and services will work best in their specific context, how to make trade-offs – for example, between efficiency and privacy – and put them in a position to make informed choices to ensure their digital operations align with – and don't undermine - their values.

The starting point for the assessment framework can be the values expressed in the following IMS definition of public interest infrastructure:

Public interest infrastructure is a set of digital tools that intentionally serves the public interest and digital spaces that operate with norms and affordances designed around a set of public interest values. They are explicitly designed to inform members of the public about the issues that shape their lives in ways which serve the public's rather than any political, commercial or factional interest.

Public interest infrastructures can be commercial, public service or community infrastructure. Public interest infrastructure encourages and informs public debate and dialogue across society, it enables journalists and others to hold those in power to account. Therefore, public interest infrastructures are built to be inclusive, diverse and non-discriminatory as well as open, transparent, accountable and user centric, and they give users full control over their personal data, their content and interactions.

Below are two examples of potential partners that should find the assessment framework helpful in terms of their own operations and in their ability to communicate their public interest value to donors:

- JamiiAfrica, Tanzania:
<https://goodcommons.world/casestudies/case-study-tanzanias-jamii africa-empowering-citizens-voices>
- CGNet Swara, India:
<https://goodcommons.world/casestudies/cgnet-ai-r-translating-tribal-voices-into-structured-audio-bulletins-and-datasets>

Drawing on your own expertise or online resources, your outline should describe in general terms how you would go about the creating the prototype. Consider what input would be needed from IMS staff and partners, and how you would approach any challenges you anticipate arising during the project.