

AUTONOMY

RI.
SE

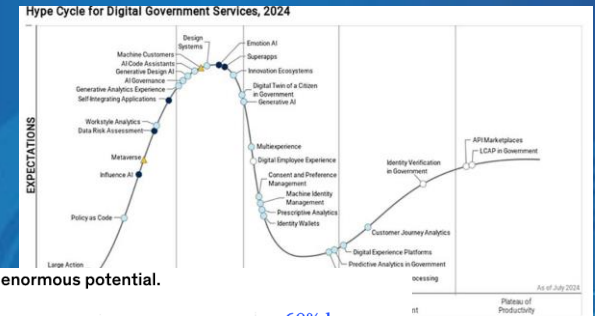
DEPENDENCY

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**



Fueled by geopolitical cracks and regionalisation



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

As the President of the United States, I will stand up to Countries that attack our incredible American Tech Companies. Digital Taxes, Digital Services Legislation, and Digital Markets Regulations are all designed to harm, or discriminate against, American Technology. They also, outrageously, give a complete pass to China's largest Tech Companies. This must end, and end NOW! With this TRUTH, I put all Countries with Digital Taxes, Legislation, Rules, or Regulations, on notice that unless these discriminatory actions are removed, I, as President of the United States, will impose substantial additional Tariffs on that Country's Exports to the U.S.A., and institute Export restrictions on our Highly Protected Technology and Chips. America, and American Technology Companies, are neither the "piggy bank" nor the "doormat" of the World any longer. Show respect to America and our amazing Tech Companies or, consider the consequences! Thank you for your attention to this matter.

DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

8.15k ReTruths 33.2k Likes

Aug 26, 2025, 2:31 AM

Europe's Digital Leaders Call for "Tech Sovereignty"

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

Dutch parliament calls for end to dependence on US software companies

By Tol
March

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

Big win: Germany, sovereign EU-

Digital Sovereignty, Security, and Digital Innovation in Germany



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

ARGUMENT

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

Europe Must Avoid Digital Colony

The EuroStack is the continent's last chance for tech

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.

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

ASTERES

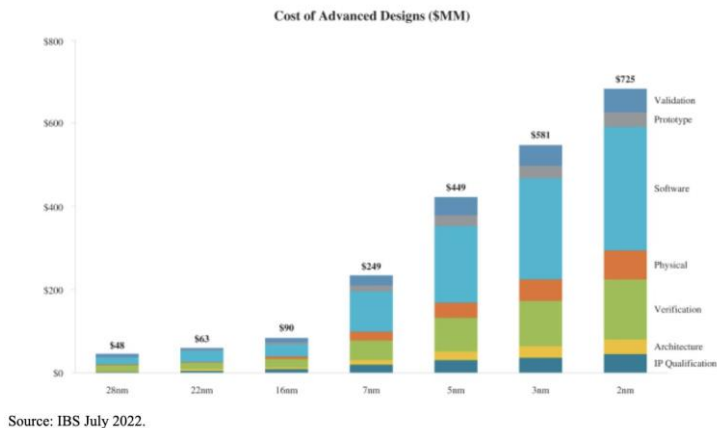
Fra Op

The IT
Zendi
Open

alternative swehr

work agreement with
n solutions" such as

Sovereignty is a full-stack problem



Hardware Software

Applications/Workload

Operating System

Kernel

Drivers

Firmware

Devices/Machines

Boards

Chips/Components/SOCs

ISA

Microarchitecture

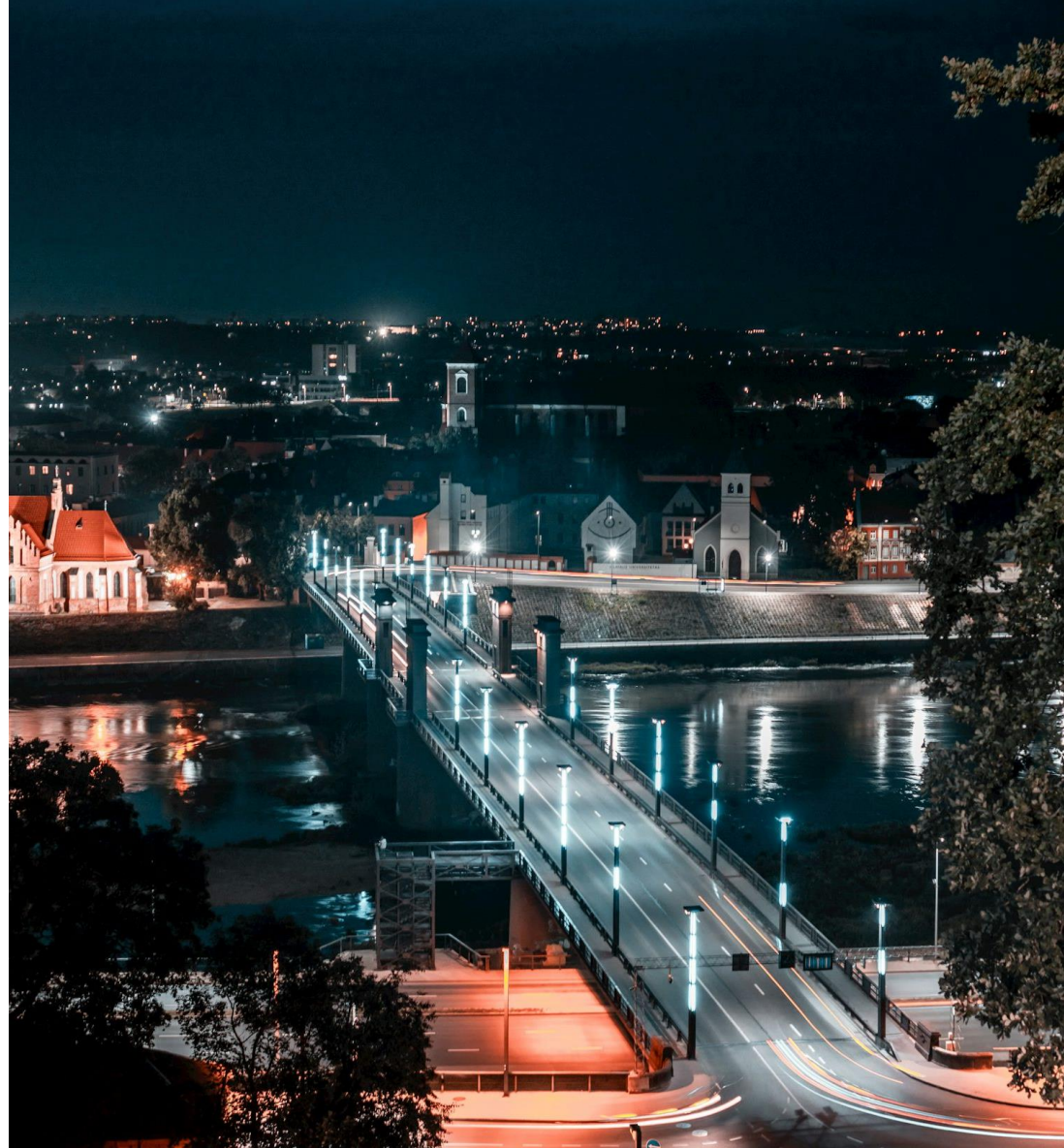
Tools, frameworks & infrastructure



<< Further reading [1]

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

Physical + Digital





<< Further reading [1]

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 institutionalised Comfortness



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**

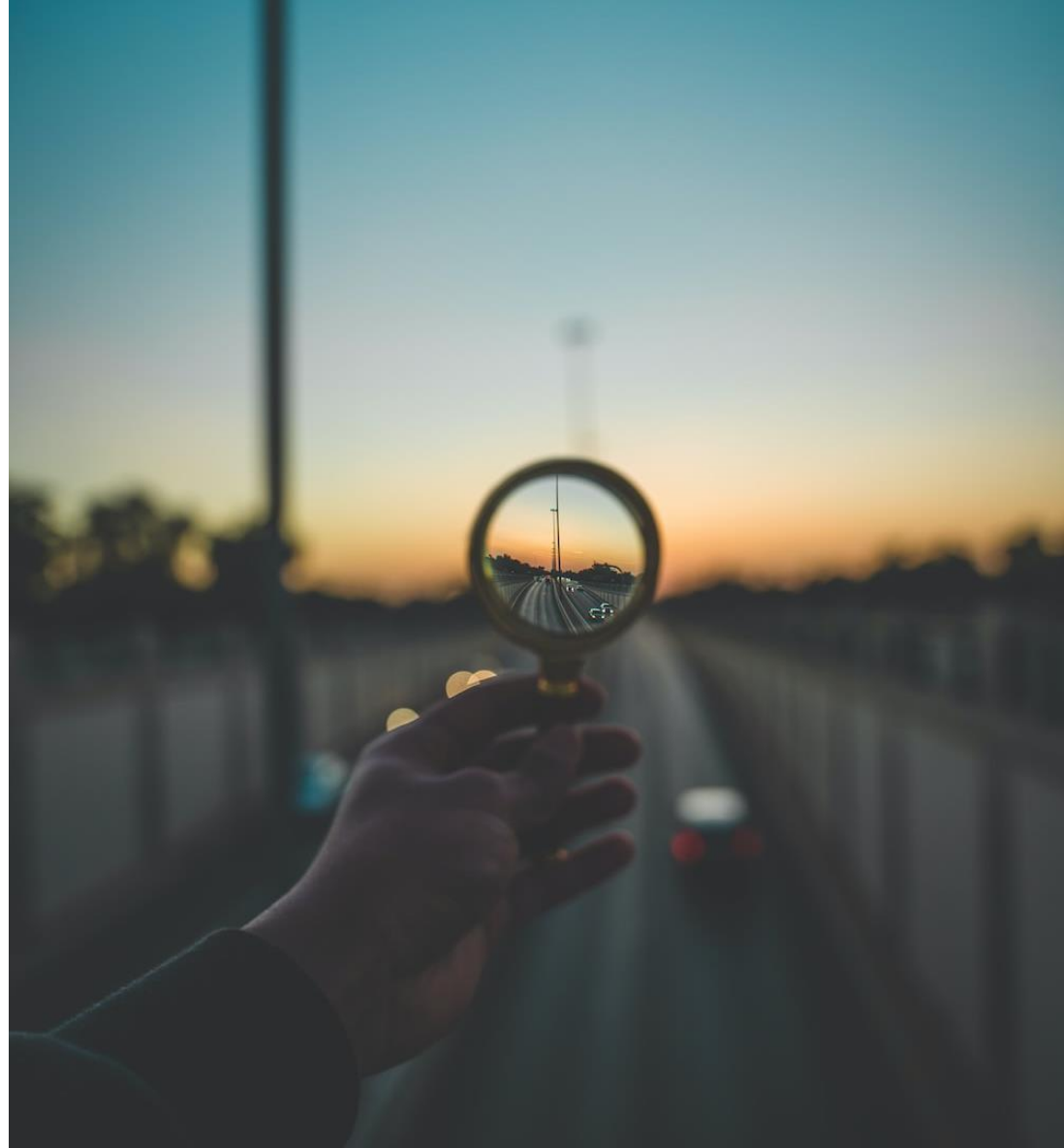
**{Software, Standards,
AI, Hardware...}**





<< Further reading [3]

Clear intent and direction needed from policy makers







<< Further reading [3]

Support structures needed to enable policy goals



Photo by Nguyễn Hiệp | <https://unsplash.com/photos/grayscale-photo-of-crane-near-building-mvYyx02rjk>

Enter <Open Source Program Offices>



TODO Group

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



OpenForum Europe

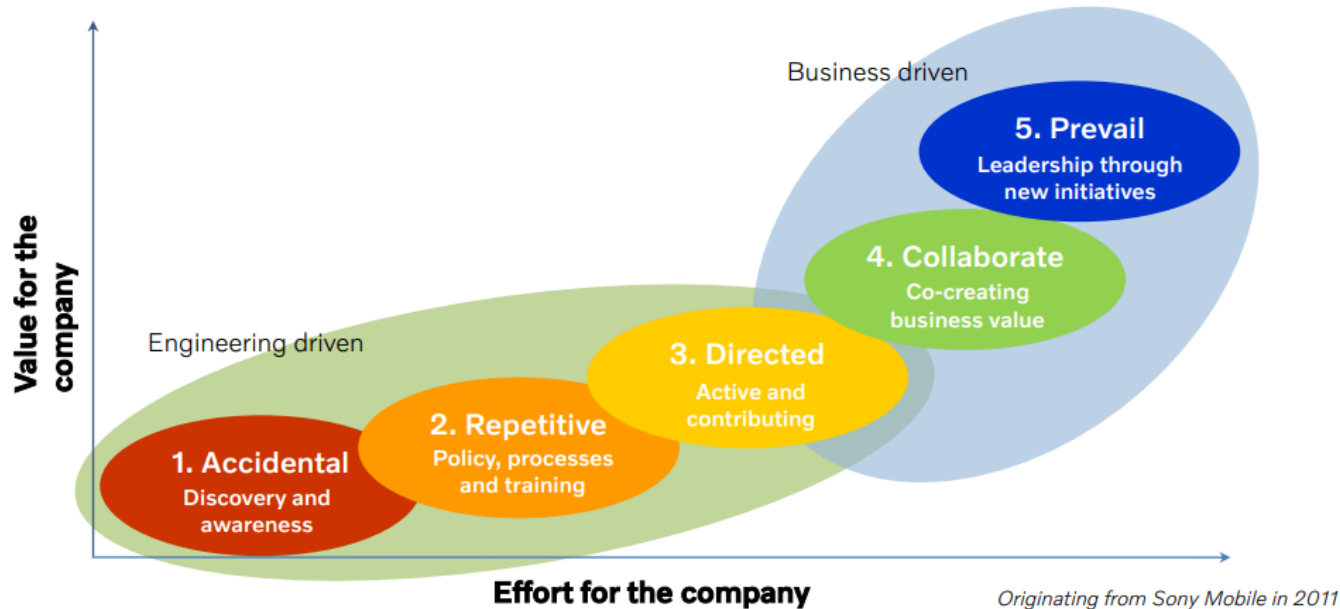
“An institutional organisational construct that supports and accelerates the consumption, creation, and application of open source software”



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

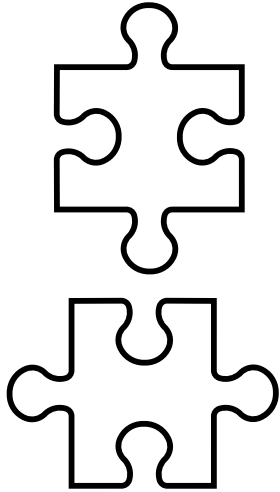


Vehicles for Cultural and Organisational change



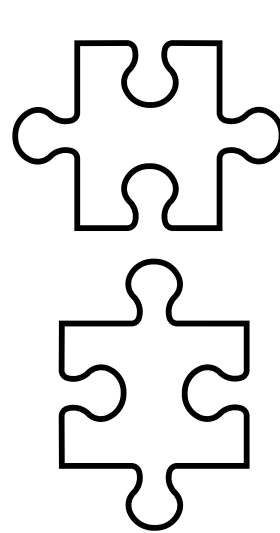
Interface and means of growing common capabilities

National
government
OSPOs



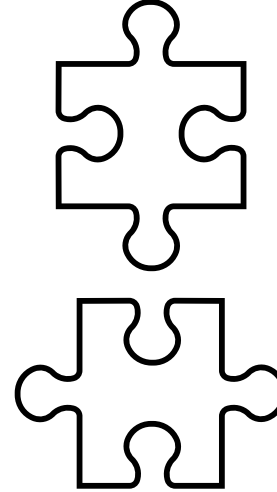
Association-
based OSPOs

Regional
government
OSPOs



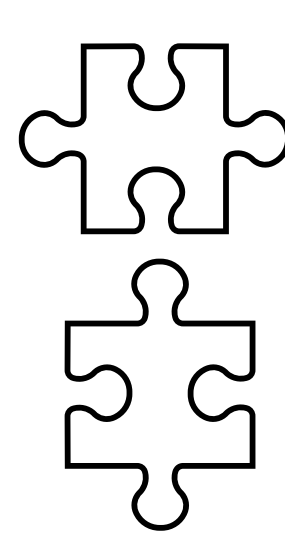
Academic
OSPOs

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 use



Die Einheitliche S

Vision und Umse

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



L'sove works

Create. Organize. Co
source environment
public sector and ope



<< Further reading [8]

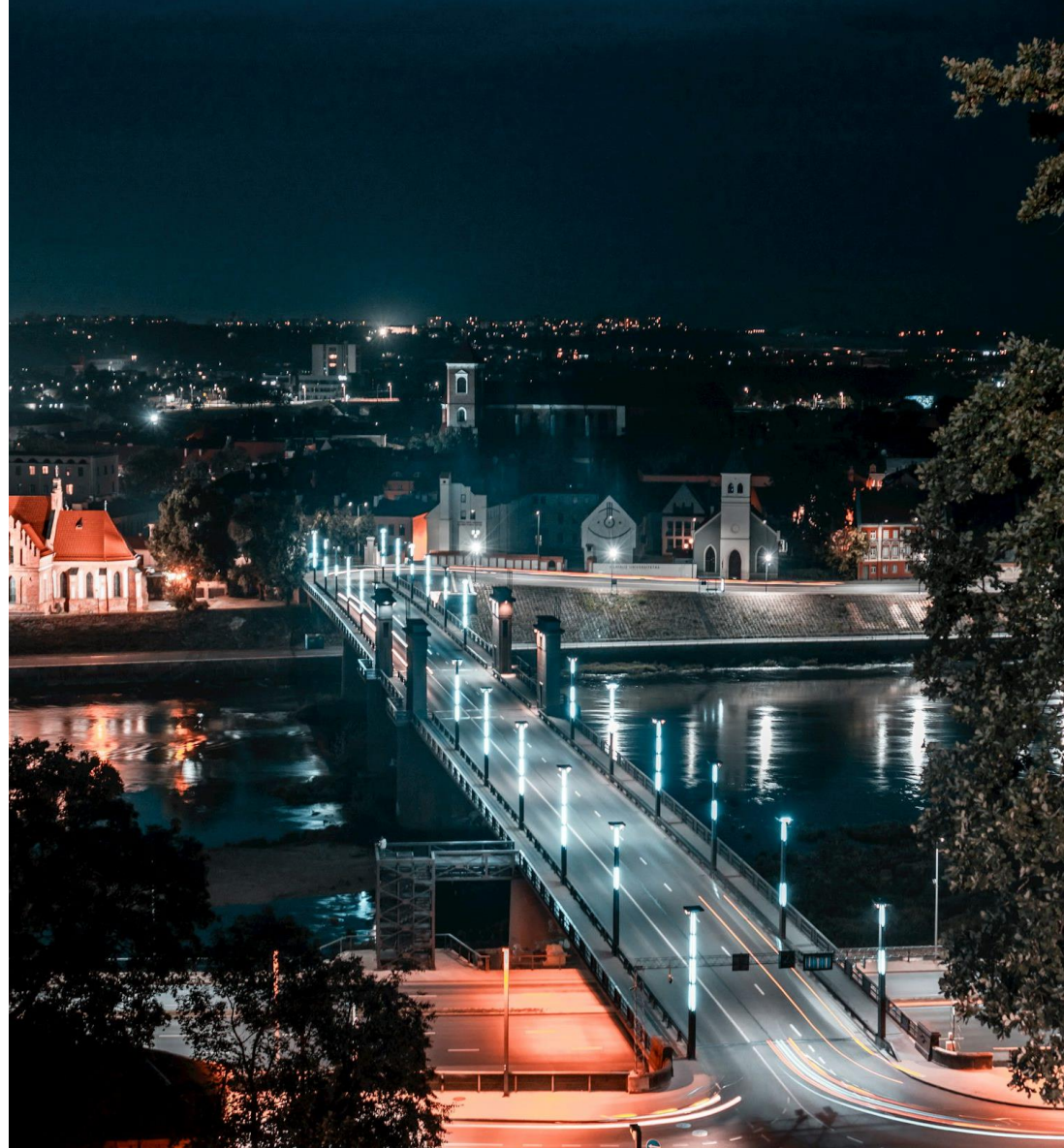
**Need for
increased
public
recognition and
awareness**





<< Further reading [1]

Robustness and security of common infrastructure critical

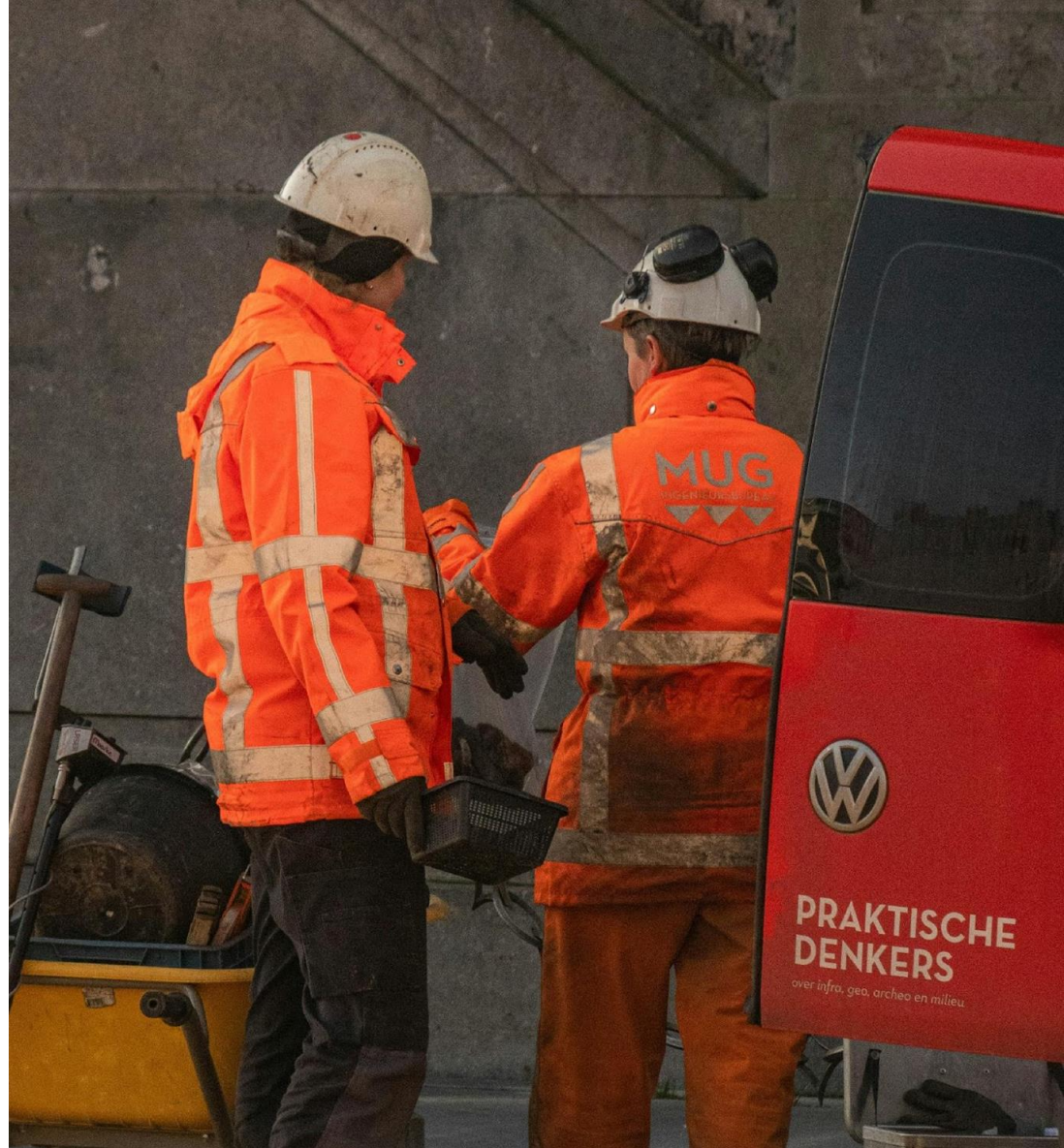




<< Further reading [7]

**Sustainability =
Collective
responsibility**

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



Sustainable vendors = Sustainable software

A complete digital ecosystem
made and supplied in Europe.

European industry big win: Germany, France both support sovereign EU-based tech infrastructure

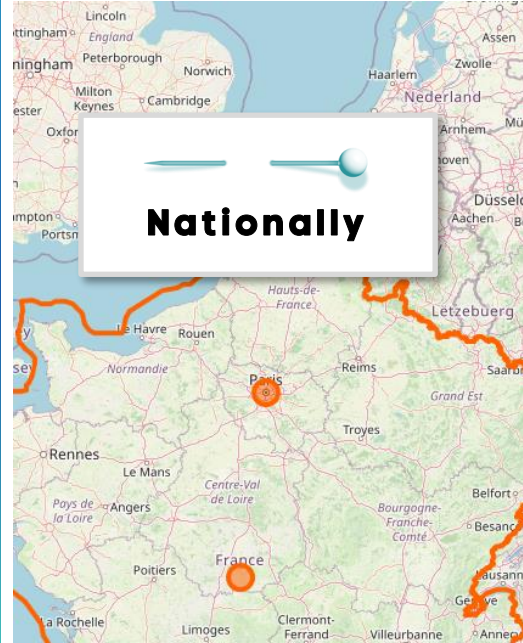
That was the easy part, now the real difficulties unfold.

Rival report to Knafo's on EU tech sovereignty: more content, more cautious

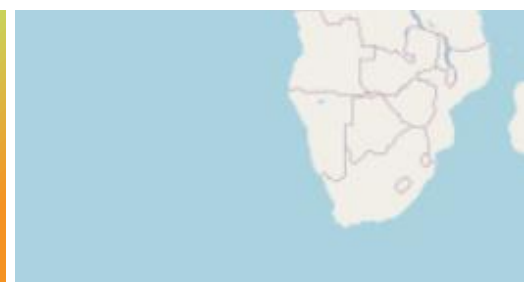
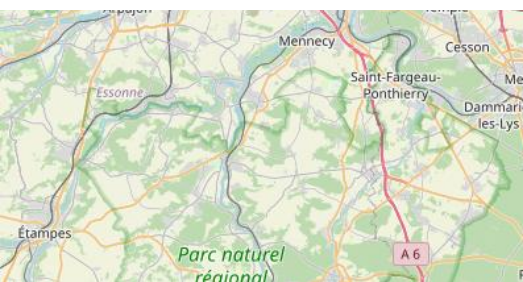
The recommendations in the working document are currently too cautious and will be made more ambitious, a source close to the matter told Euractiv.

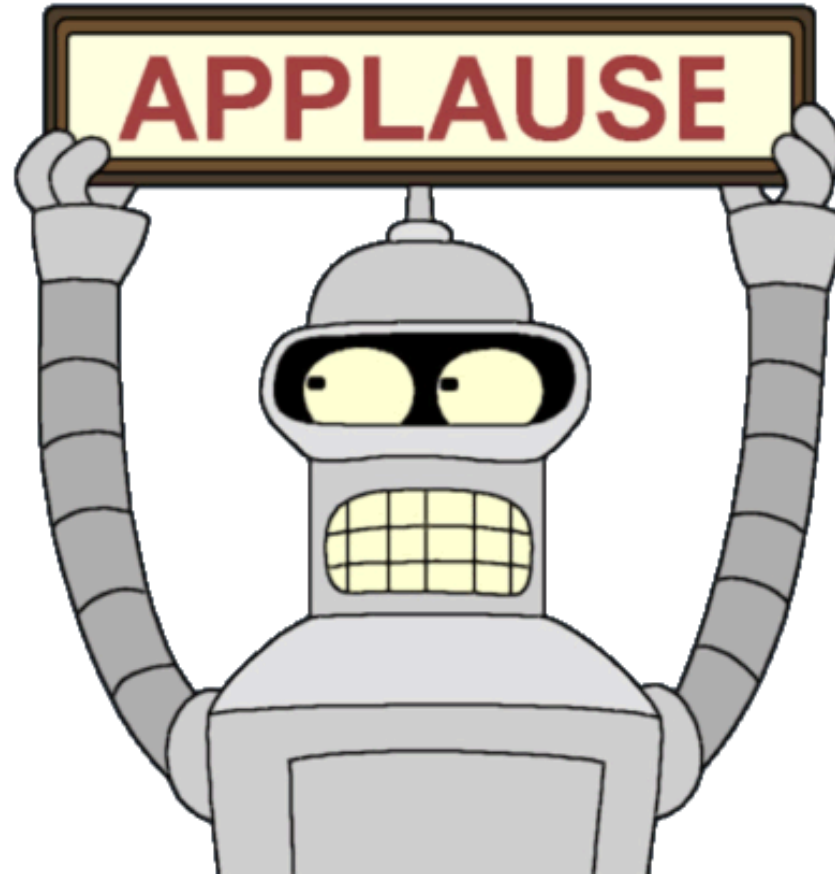
Von der Leyen expresses timid support for Eurostack tech sovereignty project

German MEP Tiemo Wölken called von der Leyen's comments an important signal, but not everyone is convinced.



**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/>