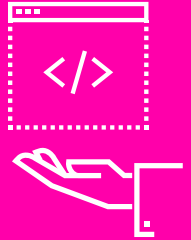# Open Source In Europe's Public Sector

In digital transformation efforts, open source software (OSS) **increases transparency, reduces development costs, and enhances software security.**

By increasing transparency, **open source public services foster open government, enhance accountability,** and **enable scrutiny** from the public.

Government organisations can nurture the OSS ecosystem by participating in a Governmental Advisory Council, providing funding, or contributing code to projects.
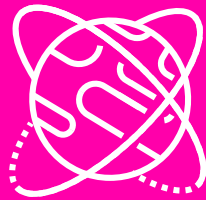
Challenge: **There is still limited awareness among key decision-makers about OSS's value proposition.**

OSS is a key enabler of **digital sovereignty,** as it facilitates greater control of IT systems and reduces vendor lock-in.
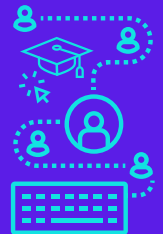
Open Source Programme Offices (OSPOs) and upstream contribution policies play a key role in facilitating contributions to the OSS ecosystem.

While championing digital sovereignty, **Europe should take an inclusive, global approach to OSS** that avoids regional fragmentation.

Outdated procurement processes, limited technical competences, and a lack of managerial buy-in are **preventing the public sector from realising the full potential of OSS.**

Greater cross-sector coordination and expertise exchange are needed to level up regional collaboration and supportive policymaking in Europe.

Municipalities are increasingly collaborating on the development, maintenance, and governance of shared OSS solutions for common business needs.

Expanding the number of regional and national OSPOs in Europe will help to streamline open source operations and amplify open source activities in the public sector.

Following in the footsteps of Germany's Sovereign Tech Fund, among others, governments should establish funding mechanisms to support the maintenance and sustainability of open source digital infrastructure.