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

Challenge: There is still limited awareness among key decision-makers about OSS's value proposition.

Outdated procurement processes, limited technical competences, and a lack of managerial buy-in are preventing the public sector from realizing the full potential of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

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.

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

Following 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.

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

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.