



Next Generation Internet (NGI) and the Digital commons

Webinar on Digital Commons and Digital Sovereignty

31 January 2023

What are digital commons?

“Digital commons are non-rivalrous and non-exclusive digital resources defined by shared production, maintenance and governance. Under the right conditions, digital commons contribute to the preservation of the collective control and valuation of data, and consequently to improve the security of digital tools and innovations“

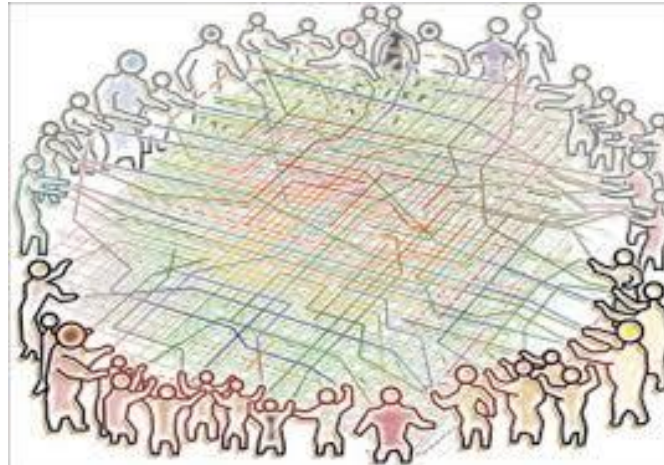
Examples include open source software, open hardware, open design, open standards (**internet commons**), open data.

Declaration by the Presidency of the Council of the European Union
calling for a European Initiative for Digital Commons

Digital Commons supporting Sovereignty, Trust and European values

Sovereignty narrative

- Permission-less innovation
- Autonomous use and operations
- Affordable systems
- No lock-in



Trust narrative

- Transparency
- No central control

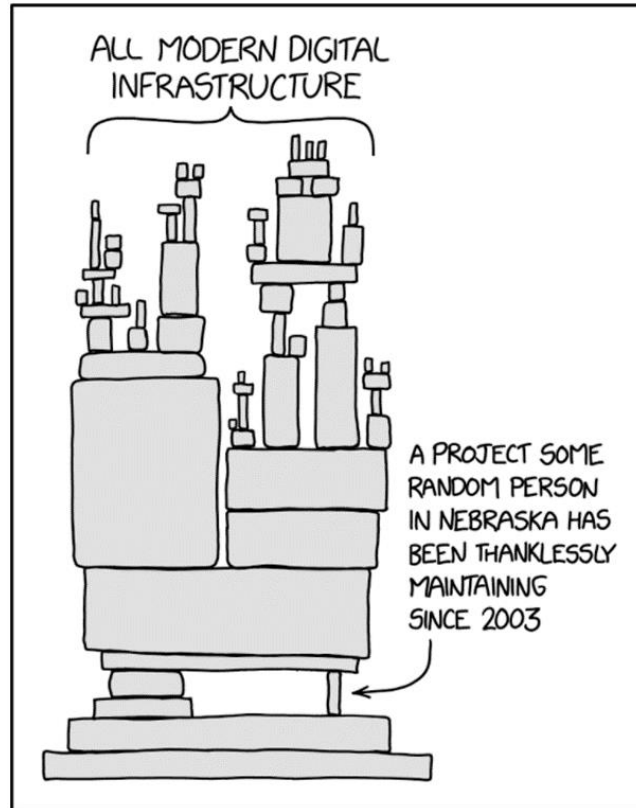
European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles

- Privacy protection
- User control and choice
- Portability
- Inclusion
- Decentralisation

Strategic perspective



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→ Pervasive

→ Critical

Today, the White House convened government and private sector stakeholders to discuss initiatives to improve the **security of open source** software and ways new collaboration could rapidly drive improvements. Software is ubiquitous across every sector of our economy and foundational to the products and services Americans use every day. Most

10-Point Open Source and Software Supply Chain Security Mobilization Plan Released with Initial Pledges Surpassing \$30M

WASHINGTON, DC – May 12, 2022 – The Linux Foundation and the Open Source Software Security Foundation (OpenSSF) brought together over 90 executives from 37 companies and government leaders from the NSC, ONCD, CISA, NIST, DOE, and OMB to reach a consensus on key actions to take to improve the resiliency and security of open source software.

Economic and geopolitical perspectives



The study predicts that an **increase of 10% in contributions** to Open Source Software code would annually generate an additional 0.4% to 0.6% GDP, as well as more than 600 additional ICT start-ups in the EU



An analysis of the United States, Chinese and European cases show that government involvement in open source is not only pragmatic; it is increasingly politicized, and serves to uphold governments' ambitions for national security, international influence, or digital sovereignty.

Digital Commons working team from EU Member States

- In 2022, under the French Presidency of the Union, a working team with representatives from Member States gathered and discussed the concepts, practices and plans related to digital commons
 - Ultimately 17 countries participated and endorsed the conclusions
- => The report was published and presented by the French Digital Ambassador at the Digital Assembly 2022

Towards a Sovereign Digital Infrastructures of Commons



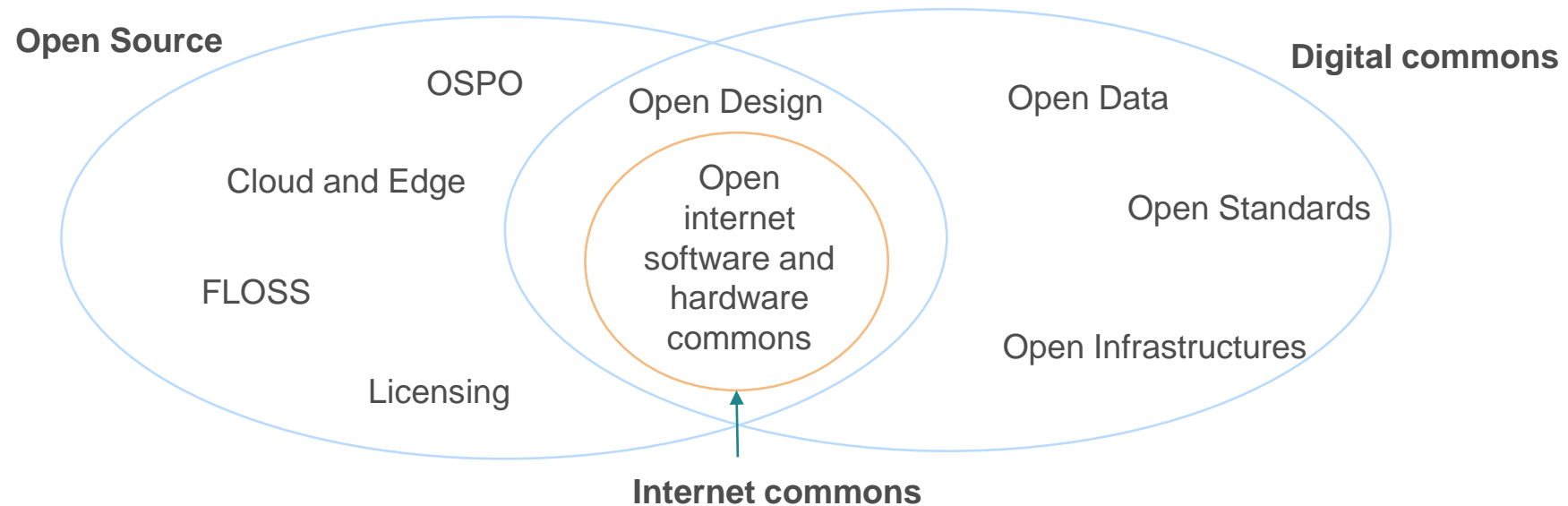
- A **one-stop** shop for commoners to easily find funding opportunities and assistance
- **Call for commons proposals:** a group of leading MS would collectively launch a call for proposals targeting strategic digital commons
- Establishing a **European foundation** for digital commons as a long-term action. Involve commoners as well as private sector.
 - > Consultation and stakeholder dialogue
- « **Digital commons first** » both in usage and creation

How NGI contributes to internet commons ?

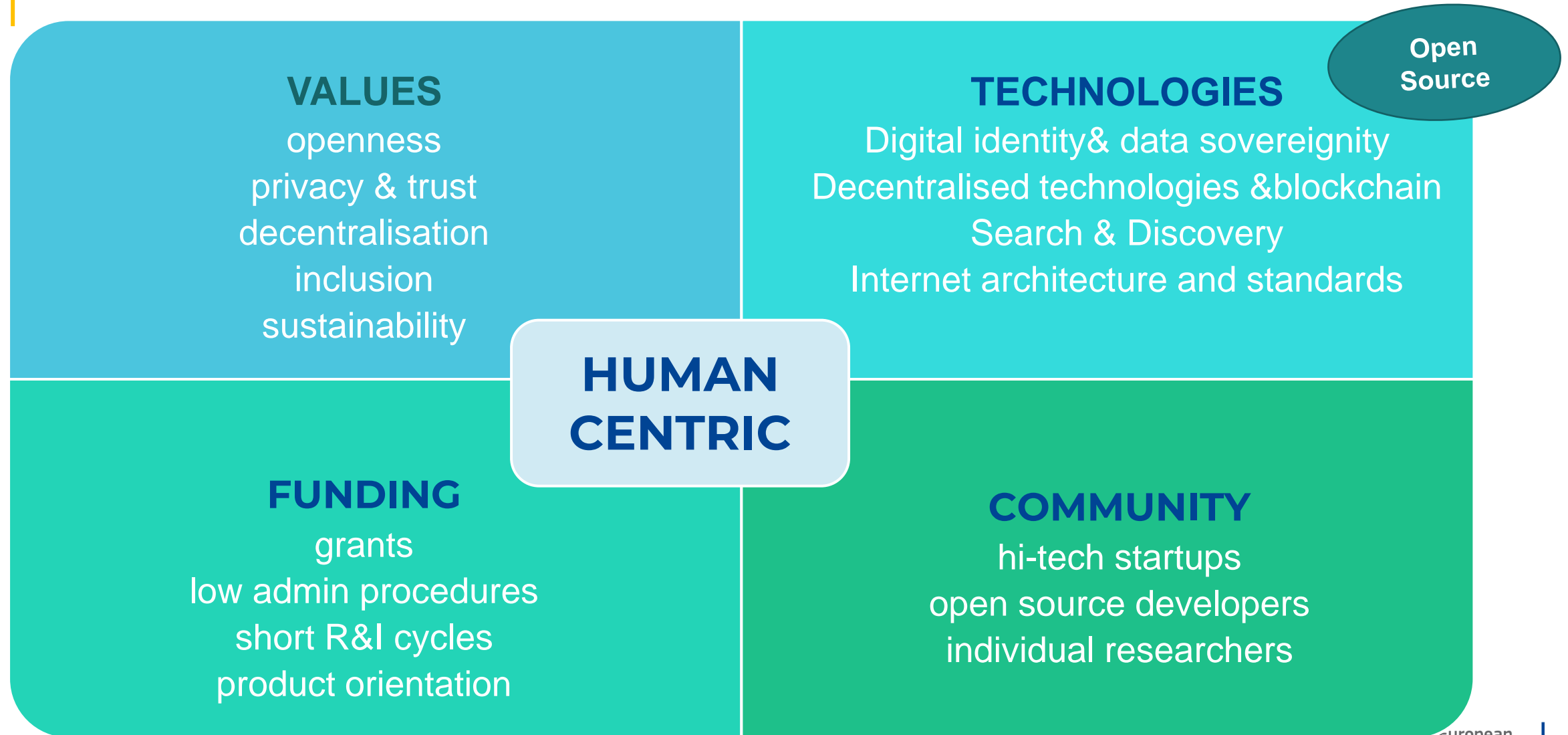
“The initiative would build on existing programs and initiatives that have proved efficient like the Next Generation Internet to fund commons and open-source technological components on strategic segments, both at the European and at the national level”

Declaration of the French presidency on a European initiative on digital commons

Internet commons vs digital commons vs open source



Next Generation Internet - main pillars



Next Generation Internet - current landscape

- 4+ years in operations
- **investment** under Horizon 2020 (more than **€80m** between 2018 and 2020) and renewed investment in Horizon Europe (**€56** for 2021-2022; **€ 40m** for 2023-2024)
- **700+ projects**
- 870+ third parties awarded; >>1000+ innovators engaged
- **83% new to EC funding**
- **80% open source**

A wide range of **topics**:

- privacy-enhancing technologies
- data governance
- data portability and services
- self-sovereign identity
- decentralised technologies including blockchain
- technologies improving search and discovery
- international collaboration

Translation into actions through EU funding

« From creation to sustainability of internet commons »

⇒ HORIZON-CL4-2023-HUMAN-01-11: **Next Generation Internet Fund (RIA)**
– 27M€

⇒ HORIZON-CL4-2023-HUMAN-01-13: **Next Generation Internet International Collaboration - USA (RIA)** – 4M€

« Piloting commons with verticals »

⇒ HORIZON-CL4-2023-HUMAN-01-12: **Pilots for the Next Generation Internet (IA)** – 14M€

Supporting the commons policy

⇒ HORIZON-CL4-2023-HUMAN-01-14: **Next Generation Internet Commons Policy (CSA)** – 2M€

Digital commons: a momentum

- « *If we want to take Digital Commons seriously at European level we shall think of its institutionalisation* » Ivan Bartoš, Deputy Prime Minister for Digitisation at the Tallin Digital Summit 2022
- Further discussions among Member States to institutionalise the topic
- National initiatives (e.g. German Sovereign Tech Fund) and EU initiatives (e.g. NGI)
- Like-minded global efforts

SOVEREIGN TECH FUND



Thank you



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