

27 Sept  
2023

# OSS strategies: Solutions for the Public Sector

## *Success stories and what has worked*

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Webinar #3. Last of the series.

interoperable  
europe

OSOR



# OSOR's tools to promote Open Source and inform its users:



## **Open Source News**

Weekly updated articles on the latest developments in the use of Open Source in public administration. OSOR also publishes a monthly newsletter.



## **Interactive Map**

Find the latest legal developments and initiatives around Open Source from all EU Member States and beyond.



## **Knowledge Centre**

Reports, guidelines, research papers, case studies and repositories useful for public administration—and for all users of Open Source.



## **Workshops, webinars, networking**

Today's webinar is part of a series of events to document the needs of the public sector, to share solutions, and to discuss how to make progress.

# Country Intelligence Reports and Factsheets

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01

## **Covering the Open Source situation in 45 countries**

Includes all EU Member States as well as third countries

02

## **Legal aspects and initiatives**

Reports on legal frameworks, Open Source actors and initiatives

03

## **Concise option**

Each report is also available in a simplified factsheet, gathering the most important information by country

# Advantages for government: technology

- Control of data, privacy
- Transparency of activities
- Digital sovereignty
- Security audits
- "Know your software" obligations
- Developing expertise

Participants reported that more documentation for these topics would be useful, but that, when understood, these were seen as motivating.

# Advantages for government: good governance

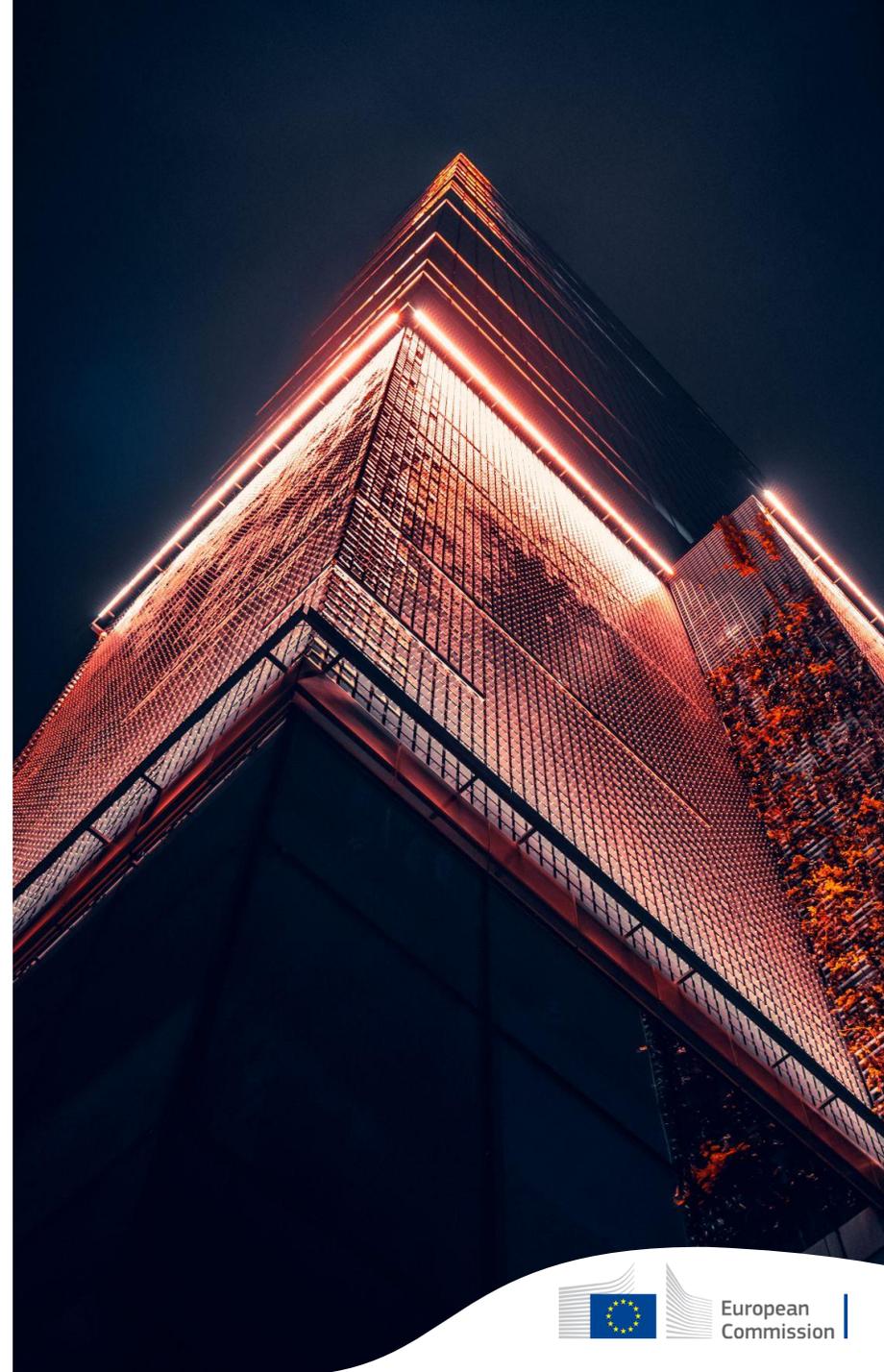
- Avoiding lock-in, keeping options open
- Reducing licence fees, sometimes
- Supporting local jobs
- Contributing to something that also benefits the citizens

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# Catalogues

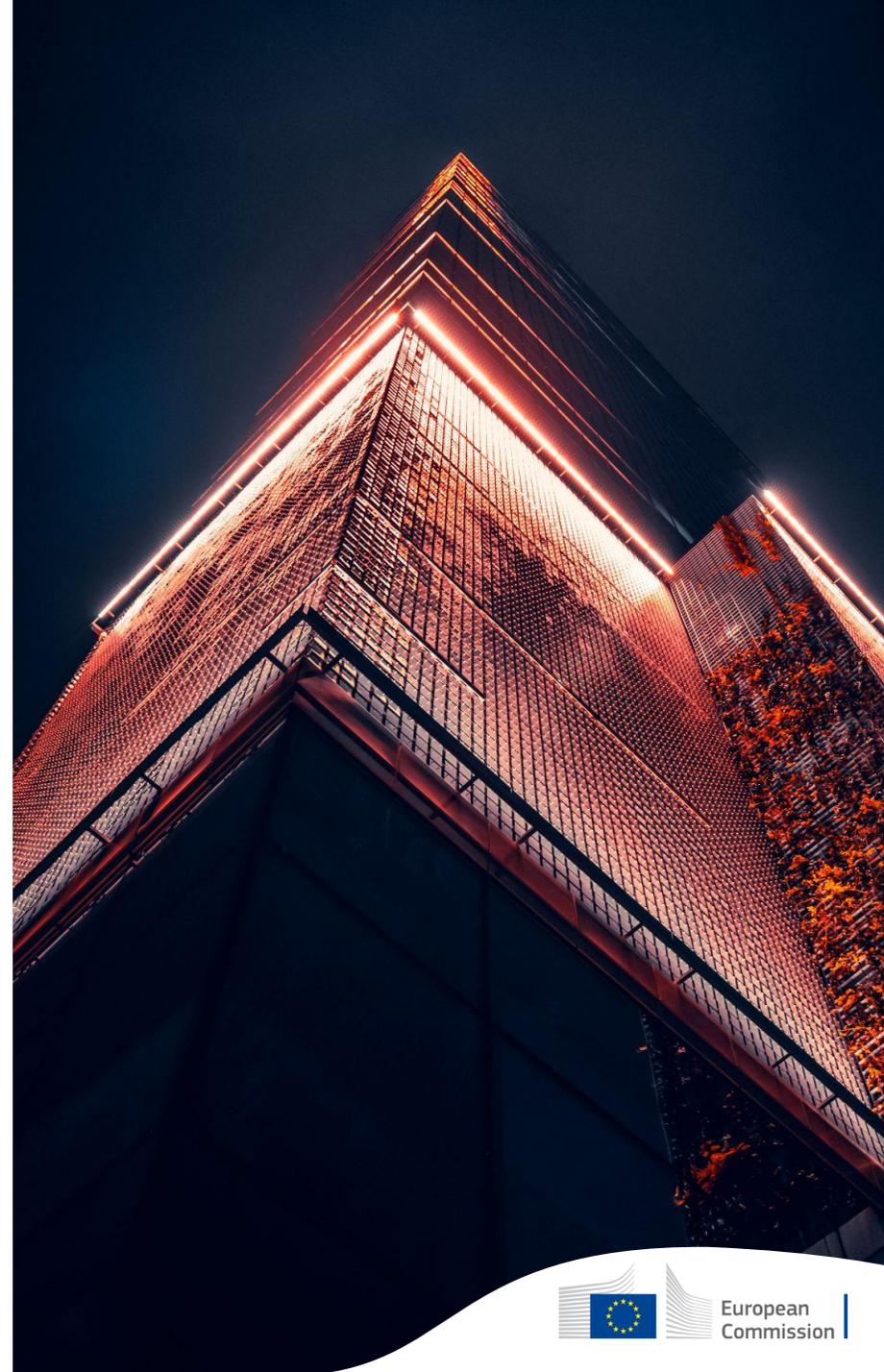
- France's SILL catalogue
- France's Comptoir du libre
- Developers Italia Software Catalogue
- Greece's wiki
- Luxembourg's Open Data Portal
- OS Geo's "choose a project"
- FSF's Directory
- F-Droid's package listing

Status: The catalogues available are already of a high level of utility, and participants are enthusiastic that more good work is being done in this area.



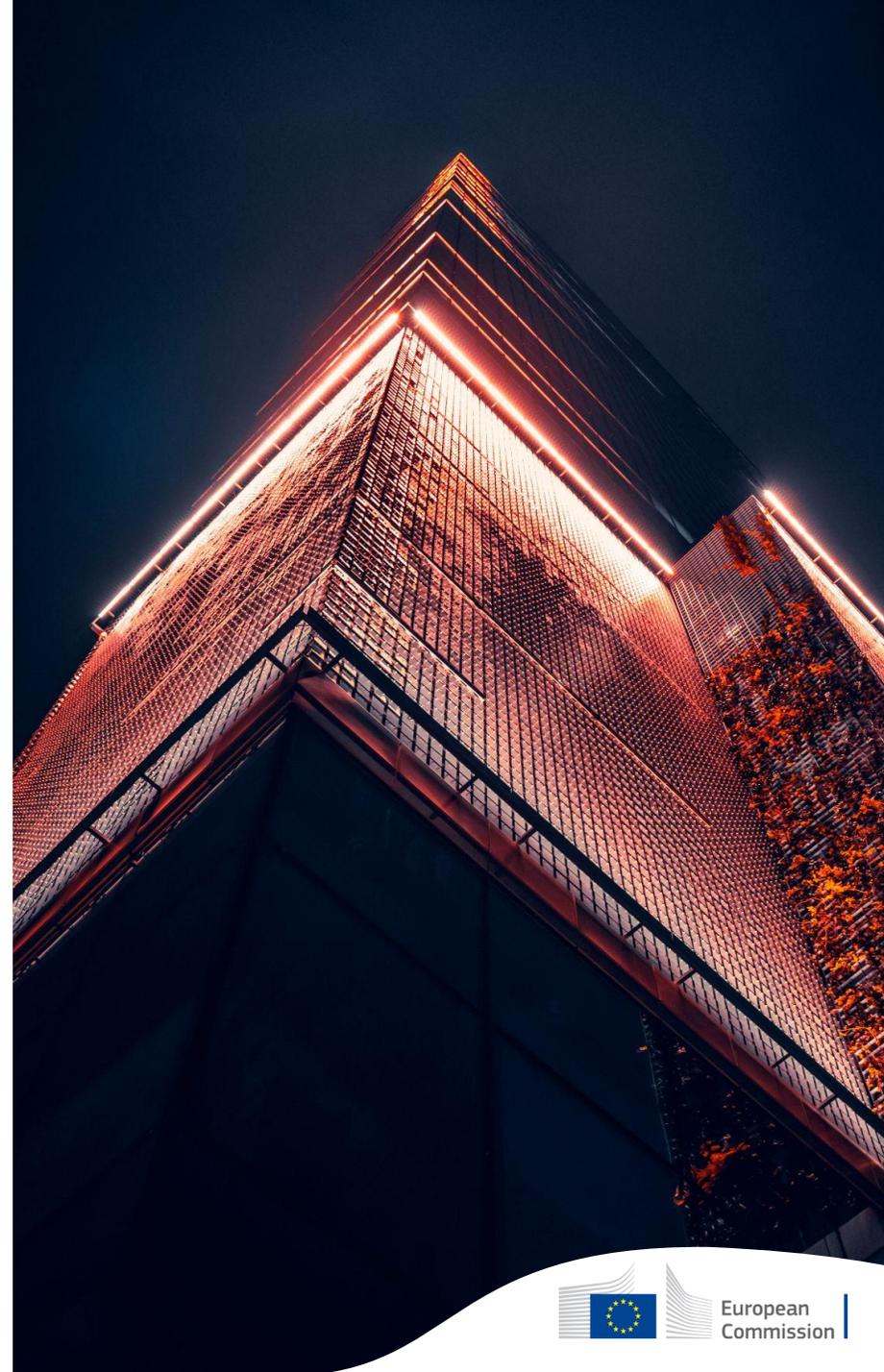
# Procurement guides

- DIGG's
- OSOR's (completed, pending)
- ...more



# Community involvement

- Decide when this is useful
- Be aware of development
- See what companies are involved
- Develop your expertise, to have the option of future involvement



# Community building: Why

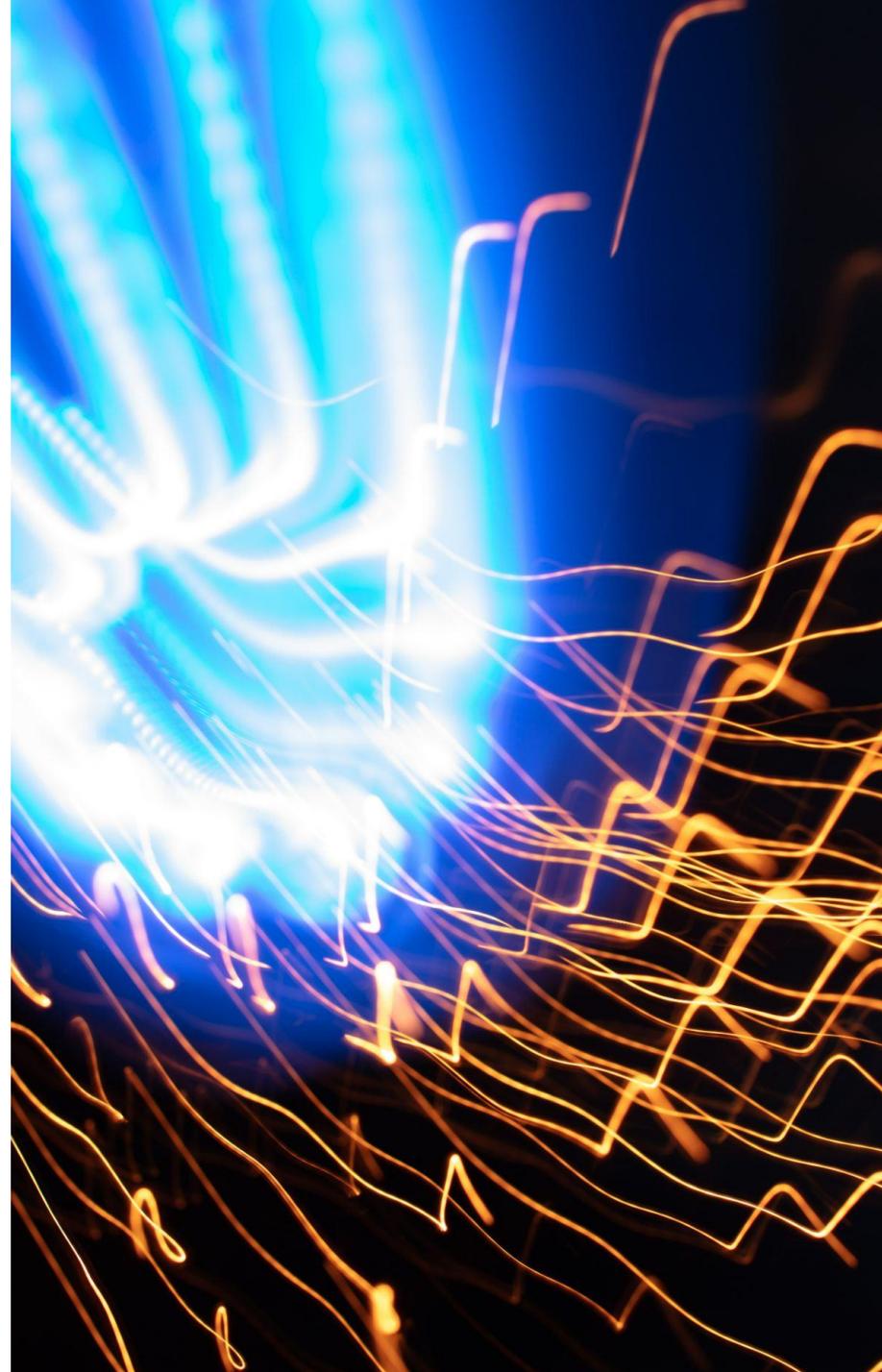
- Create resilience, including for the case where you pause your activity
- Share costs
- Get contributions
- Network with other entities, with other projects



Participants  
said...

# Community building: How

- Be polite to contributors
- Accept input
- Use common technology – version control, languages, build systems, dependencies
- Keep interface languages separate and translatable



## Differences of a public sector OSPO

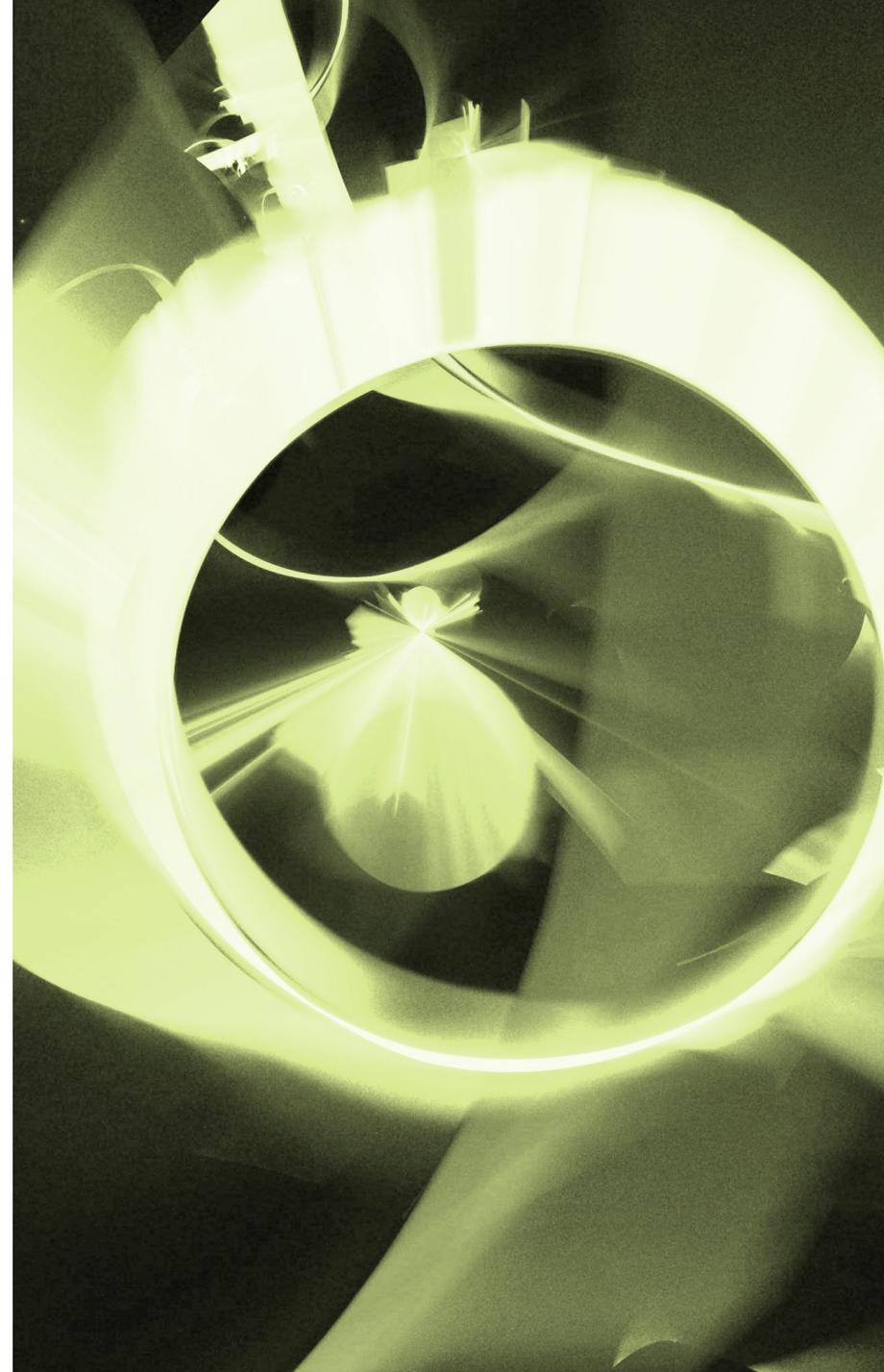
|   |  |
|---|--|
| Profit motive                             | Public approval motives  |
| Competition factors                       | Efficiency & effectiveness   |
| Show their value, take credit, keep users | Show good governance   |
| Need to stand out, focus on innovation    | Priority on stability, inclusion, availability                                   |
| Single hierarchy                          | Hierarchy of hierarchies   |
| Multiple legal jurisdictions              | Single legal jurisdiction,<br>but higher expectations to know and apply the laws |
| International                             | Single geographic area   |
| Competition law & cooperation             | Investments can't distort market   |
| Happy to be an OSPO                       | Sometimes concerned about expectations of fulfilling all OSPO tasks              |

# PA OSPO role #1: Procurement

- Training of procurement officers
- Catalogues
- Coordinated procurement of services
- Internal advocacy – the "why"

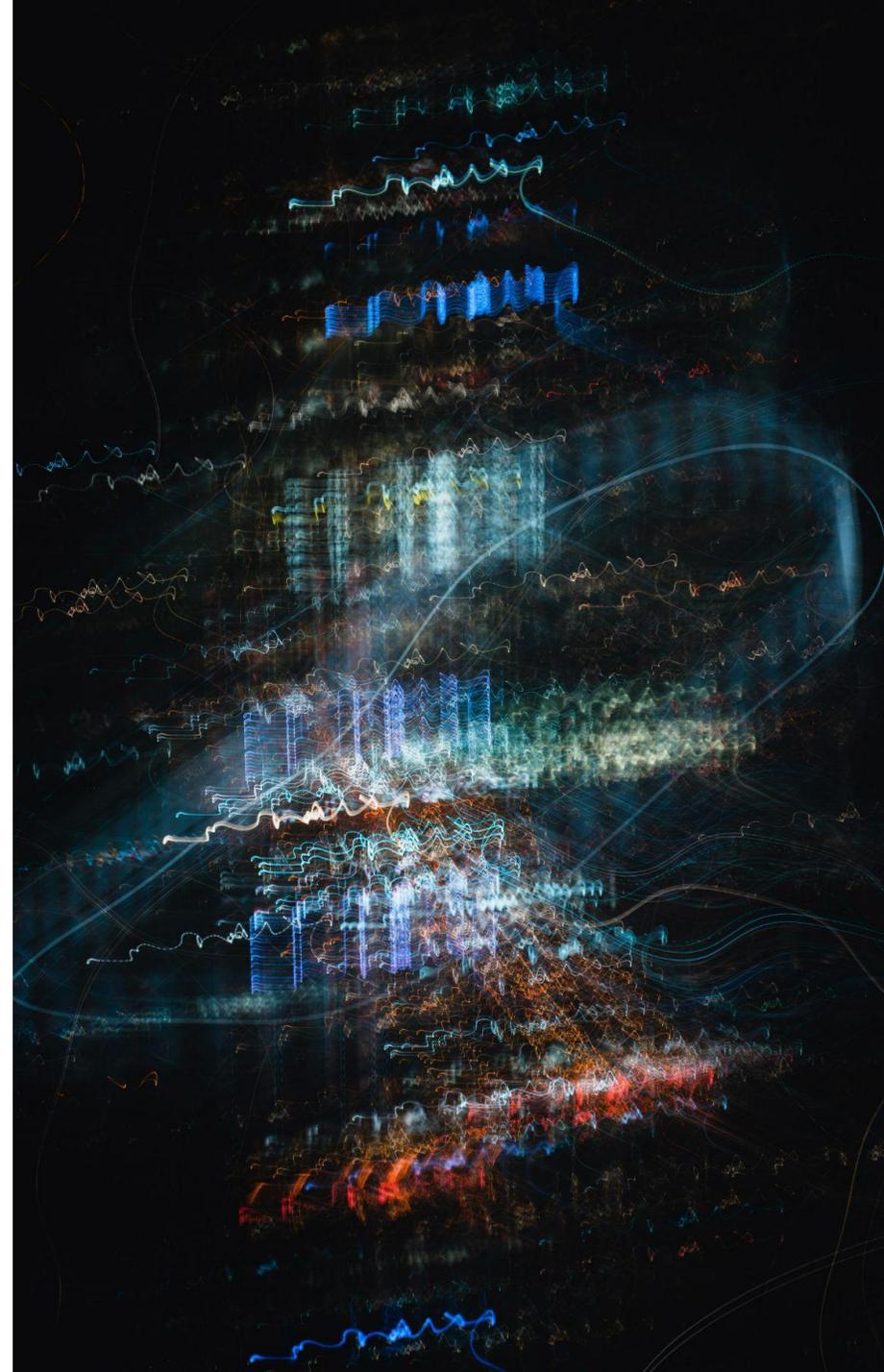
# PA OSPO role #2: Using FOSS

- Tech help for users encountering bugs
- Training for users – materials, documentation
- Informing HR, working on talent acquisition
- Community involvement – What benefits? How? worth it?
- Security audits



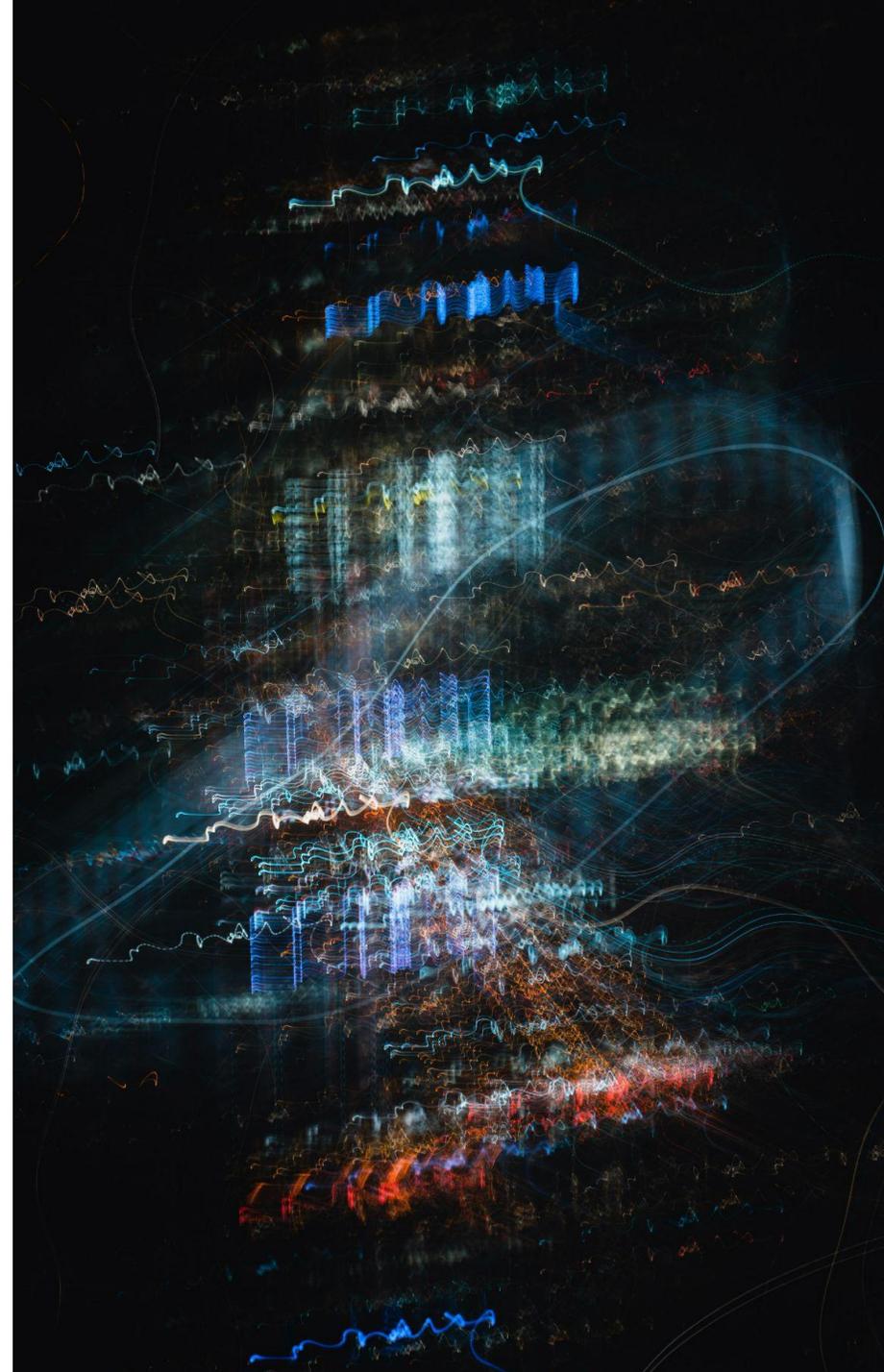
# PA OSPO role #3: Publishing

- Tech issues
- Legal issues – licences, authorship
- Community building & interaction – get the benefits available
- Help with setting policies, such as having a CLA or not or what's in the CLA
- How to make reuse possible (needs specific attention because it's not currently happening)



# PA OSPO role #4: Coordination

- Co-financing among administrations (dev, docs, training)
- Hub to bring people in contact, to share info



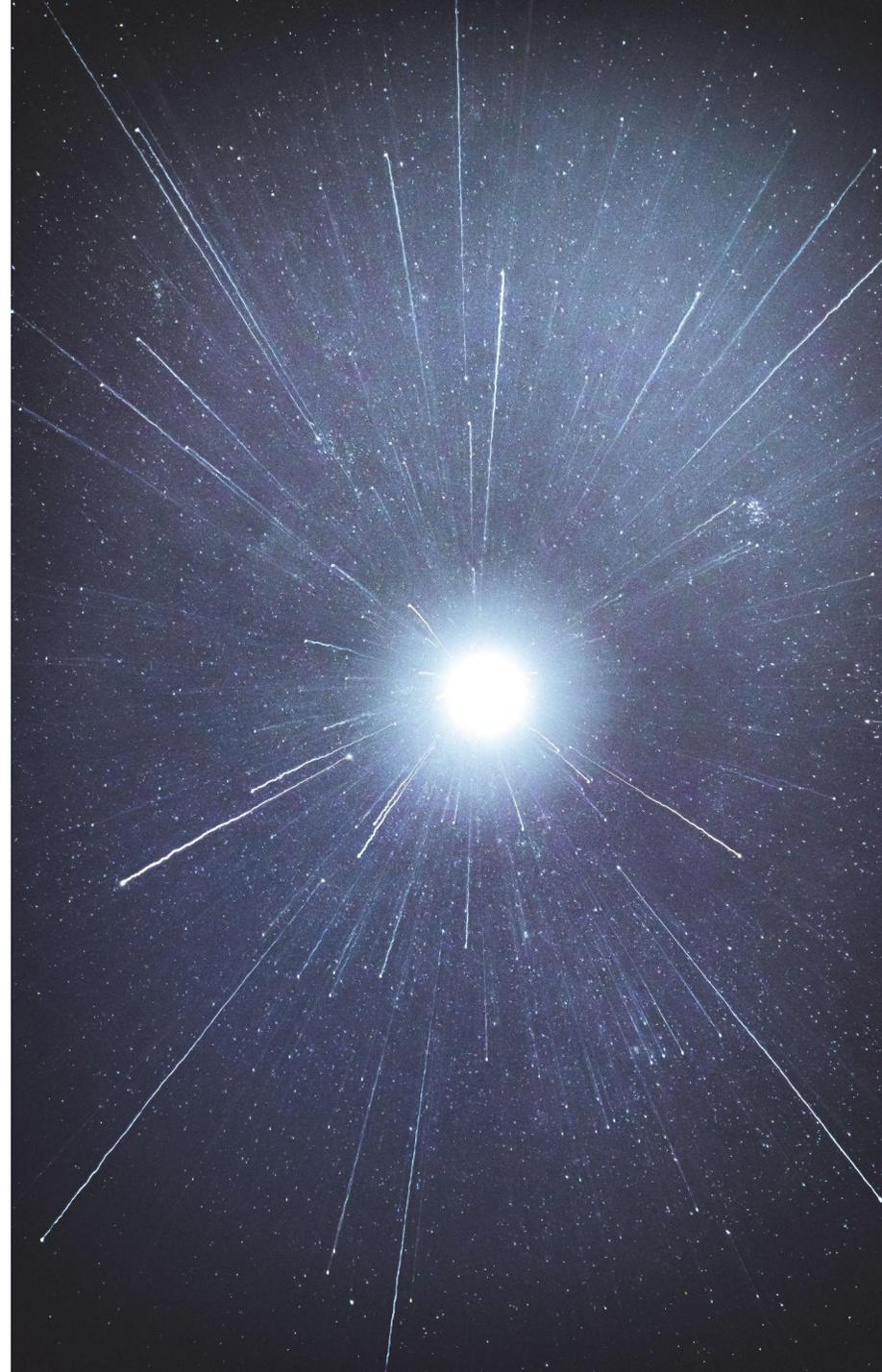
# PA OSPO role #5: Legislative input

- How FOSS is developed
- How new laws would help or hurt
- How to contact FOSS experts

Participants  
said...

# Success stories

- iMio
- Lutece
- Mancomún
- LocalGov
- Bratislava



1

We compiled details on what is needed

2

We brainstormed solutions

3

Implementers presented solutions that exist

These solutions are being compiled into a book which maps them to the problems described in the first workshop. The book will make the knowledge of experienced implementers available to others who are now encountering those same problems.





# Send us *your* input

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innovation ∞ govtech ∞ community

Stay in  
touch



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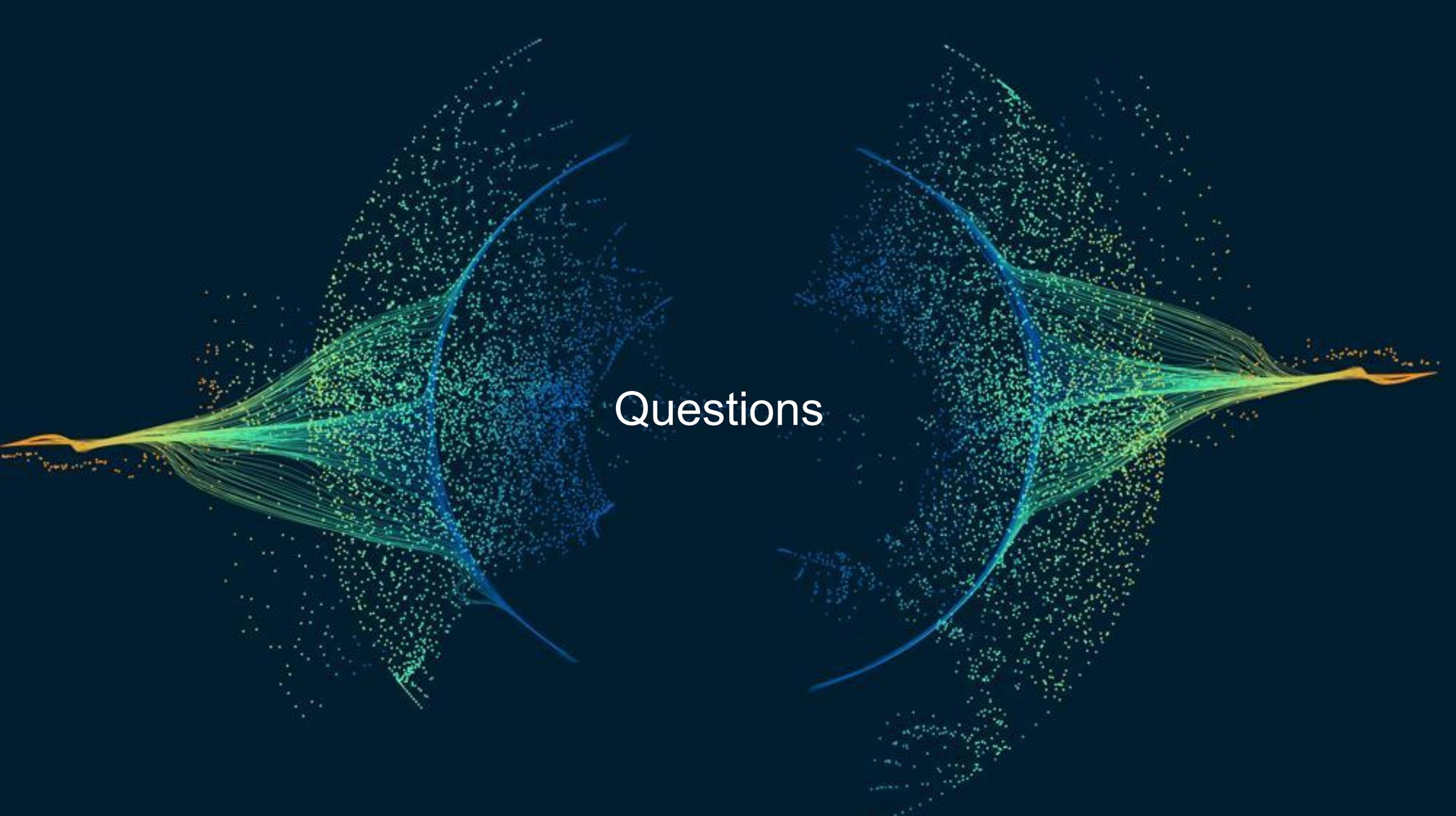
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open-source-observatory-osor](https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor)



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The image features a central white text label 'Questions' on a dark blue background. Surrounding the text is a complex network graph visualization. The graph consists of numerous nodes, represented by small dots, and edges, represented by thin lines. The nodes and edges are color-coded, with a gradient from blue to green to yellow. The overall structure is symmetrical and resembles a butterfly or a pair of wings, with a dense central region and more sparse, elongated regions extending outwards. The background is a solid dark blue, which makes the glowing nodes and edges stand out prominently.

Questions