



**Foundation for Public Code**

# Stewardship organizations and the public sector

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# Topics

1. What is a stewardship organization for the public sector?
2. Nine things we've learned
3. The future: stewardship organizations and OSPOs

1. What is a stewardship organization for the public sector?



# software + policy

produced by  
and for the public

= **public code**

What does a  
stewardship  
organization do?



## Open source foundations:

- provide infrastructure
- offer legal framework
- collect donations
- provide financial support
- promote OSS
- nurture the community
- provide training
- create new related projects
- guide how the software is developed to ensure a quality product
- host events

Source: [The Role of Foundations in Open Source Projects \(2020\)](#)



# The Foundation for Public Code

provides **tools and processes**  
that bring **people** in **institutions** together  
to **collaboratively** build and maintain  
**software as public infrastructure.**





## Codebases we work with

The Foundation for Public Code helps to effectively scale codebases. We do this by supporting ambitious communities with [codebase stewardship](#).

Codebases are organized by their [codebase maturity](#).

### Stage 1: Assessment

In this phase, codebase communities and the Foundation for Public Code decide if:

- the codebase is a good fit for Foundation for Public Code stewardship
- Foundation for Public Code stewardship will meet the community's goals and ambitions

#### Codebases currently in public assessment:

##### Digital Omgevingsbeleid

Explore all the spatial planning and environmental laws that apply to a location

[Overview](#)

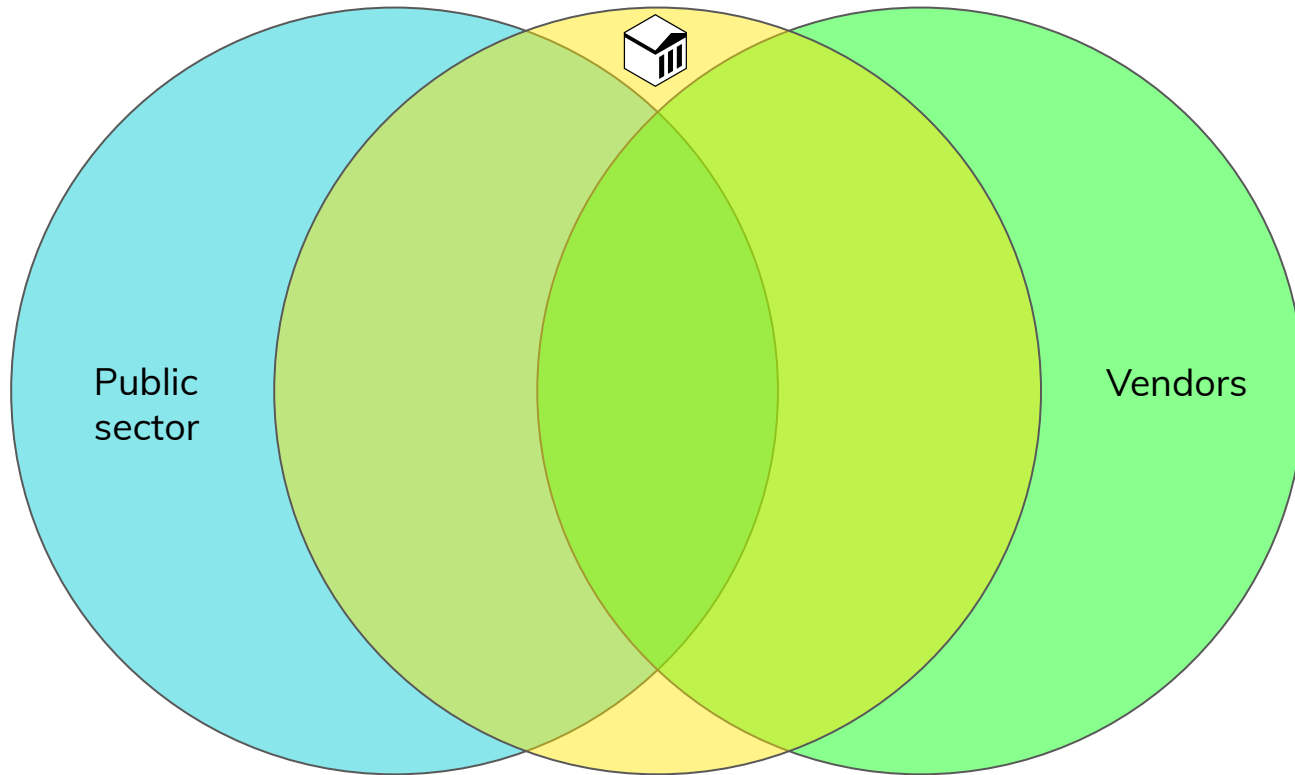


##### CircuLaw

A knowledge platform dedicated to enabling the transition to a circular economy by identifying opportunities in current law to support a circular future.

[Overview](#) [Visit project](#)

## What a community needs



# Codebase stewardship

- ▷ community development
- ▷ product management
- ▷ quality assurance
- ▷ support for success

# Codebase stewardship

- ▷ community
- ▷ community
- ▷ community
- ▷ community

# Other government experience

- ▷ open source leadership
- ▷ digital transformation
- ▷ procurement

# Resources

- ▷ Standard for Public Code
- ▷ Governance Game
- ▷ Let's Talk About Public Code  
podcast

Request for contribution  
**Standard for  
Public Code**

What public code is and

Policy makers

Management

Designers and developers

**Draft**  
Version 0.1.0, April 16th  
<https://standard.publiccode.net/>

Request for contributions  
**Standard for  
Public Code**

What public code is and how

Policy makers

Management

Designers and developers

**Draft**  
Version 0.1.1, May 9th 2019  
<https://standard.publiccode.net/>

Request for contribution  
**Standard for  
Public Code**

What public code is and

Policy makers

Management

Designers and developers

**Draft**  
Version 0.1.2, August 22nd 2019  
<https://standard.publiccode.net/>

Request for contributions  
**Standard for  
Public Code**

What public code is and how

Policy makers

Management

Designers and developers

**Draft**  
Version 0.1.3, October 8th 2019  
<https://standard.publiccode.net/>

Request for contributions  
**Standard for  
Public Code**

What public code is and how to implement it for:

Policy makers

Management

Designers and developers

**Draft**  
Version 0.1.4, December 1st 2019  
<https://standard.publiccode.net/>

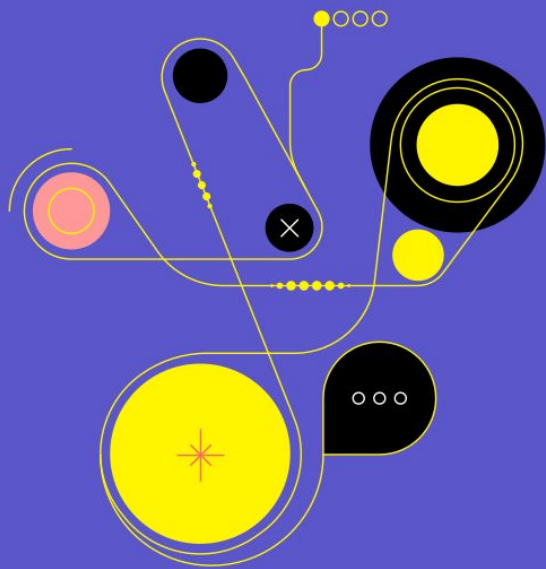
<https://standard.publiccode.net>

## 2. Nine things we've learned

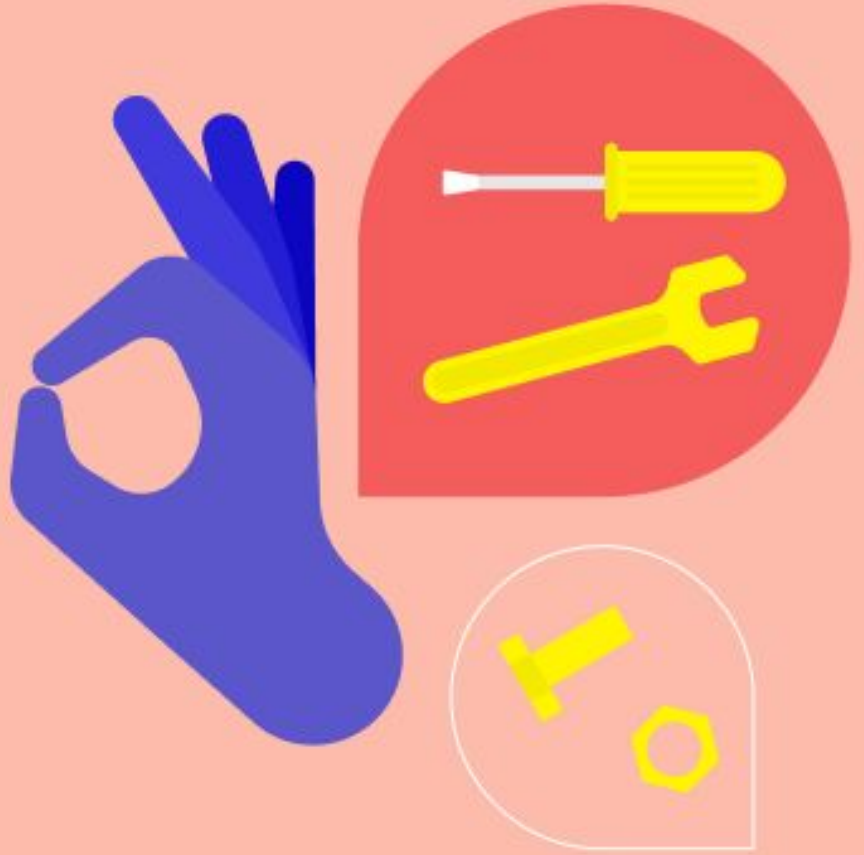




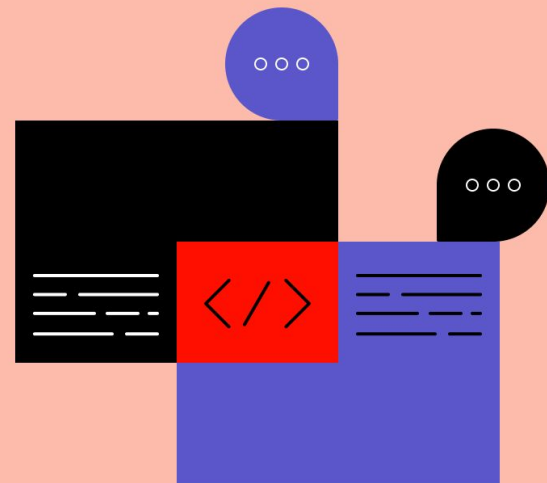
# 1. Everyone needs a sounding board.



2. Codebase stewards do a LOT of soft conflict resolution.



# 3. Build a common understanding and vocabulary.

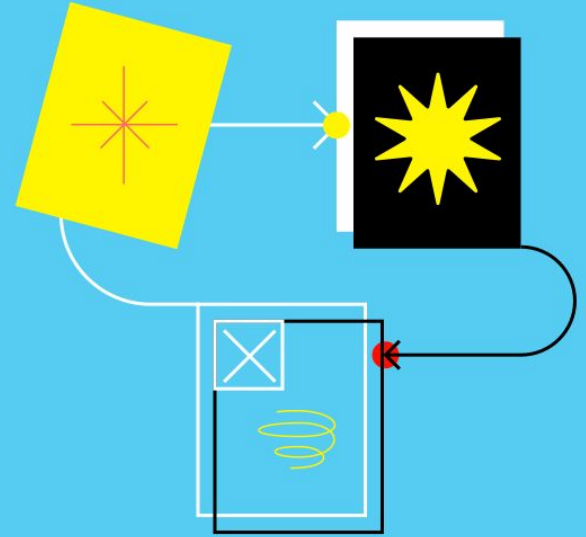


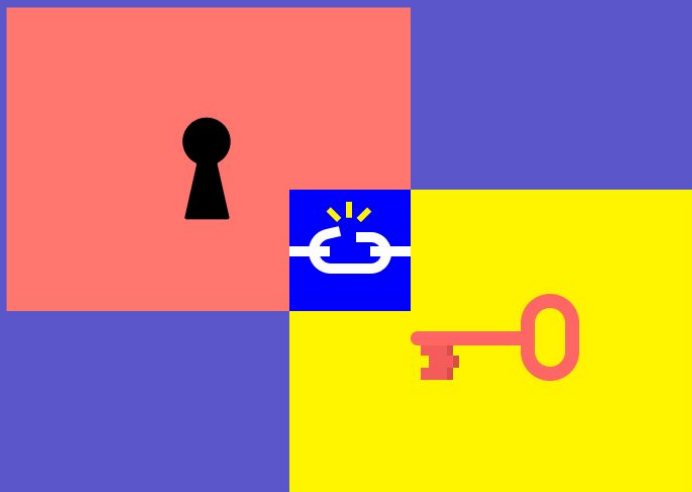
“It ought to be remembered that there is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things. Because the innovator has for enemies all those who have done well under the old conditions, and lukewarm defenders in those who may do well under the new. This coolness arises partly from fear of the opponents, who have the laws on their side, and partly from the incredulity of men, who do not readily believe in new things until they have had a long experience of them.”

— Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*



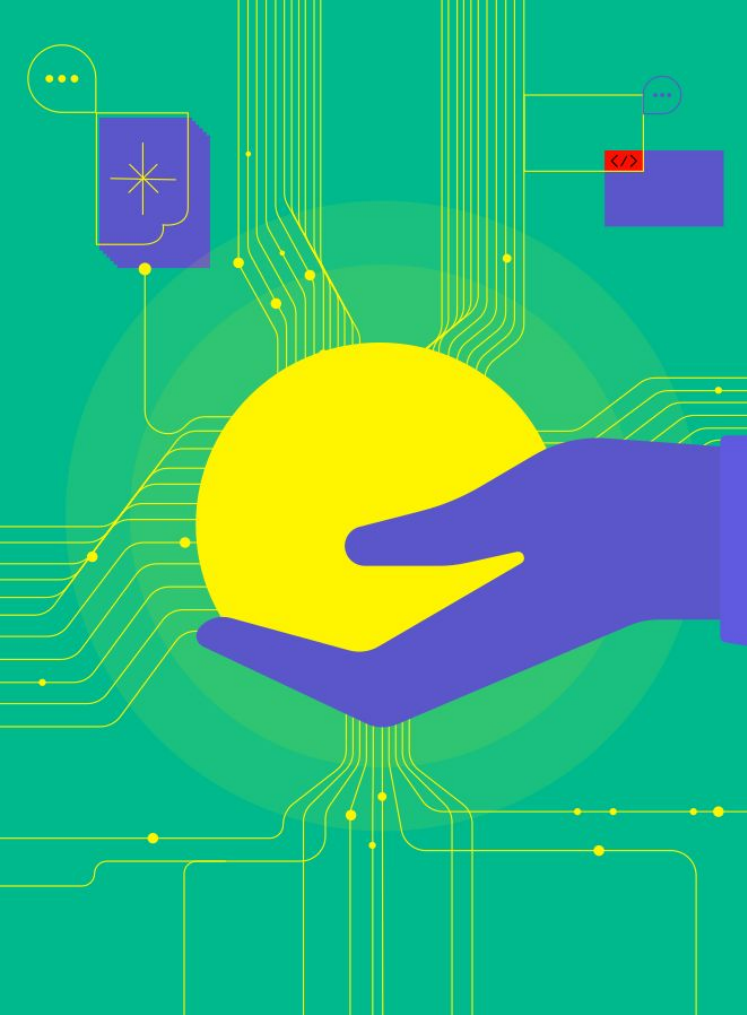
4. Build on any perceived benefit, then document others as they come up.





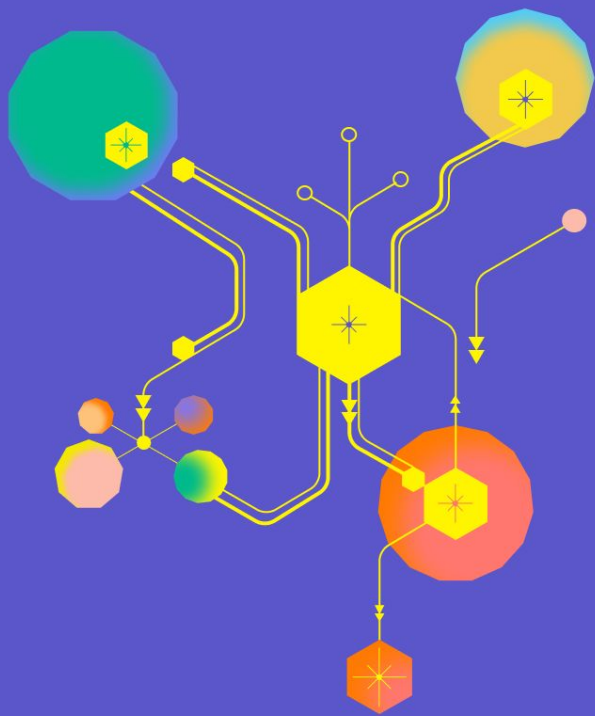
5. Talk  
about  
budgeting  
for change.





6. You need support and budget from a boss (any boss).





7. No one knows how to make an OSS project sustainable when it starts.



8. Use the Standard for Public Code to get resources and budget.

**M** Management: what you need to do

This section tries to specifically speak to management by offering concrete actions they can perform in their role.

Management is responsible for on-time project delivery, stakeholder management and continued delivery of the service. For this they are wholly reliant on both policy makers as well as developers and designers. They need to create the right culture, line up the right resources and provide the right structures to deliver great services.

**D** Developers and designers: what you

This section tries to specifically speak to developers and



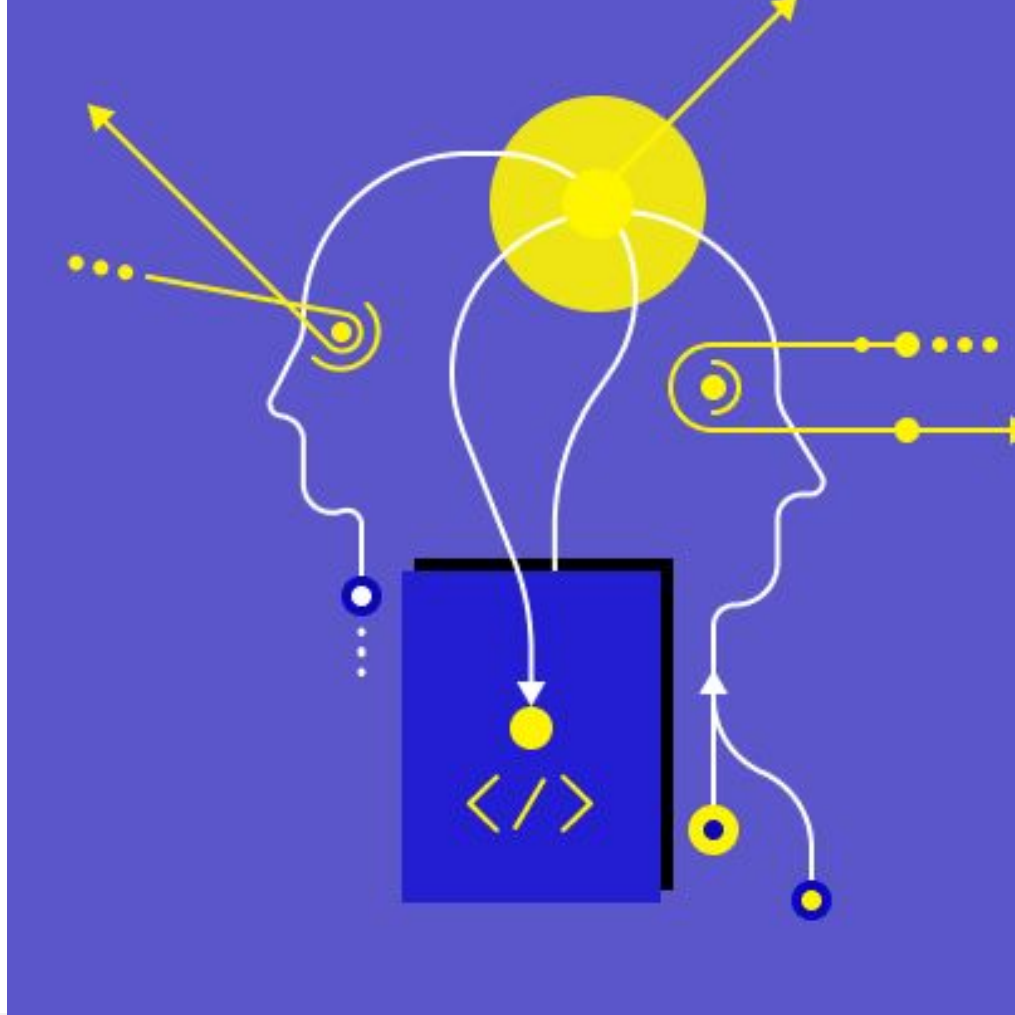
# 9. Use the Governance Game to explore governance options

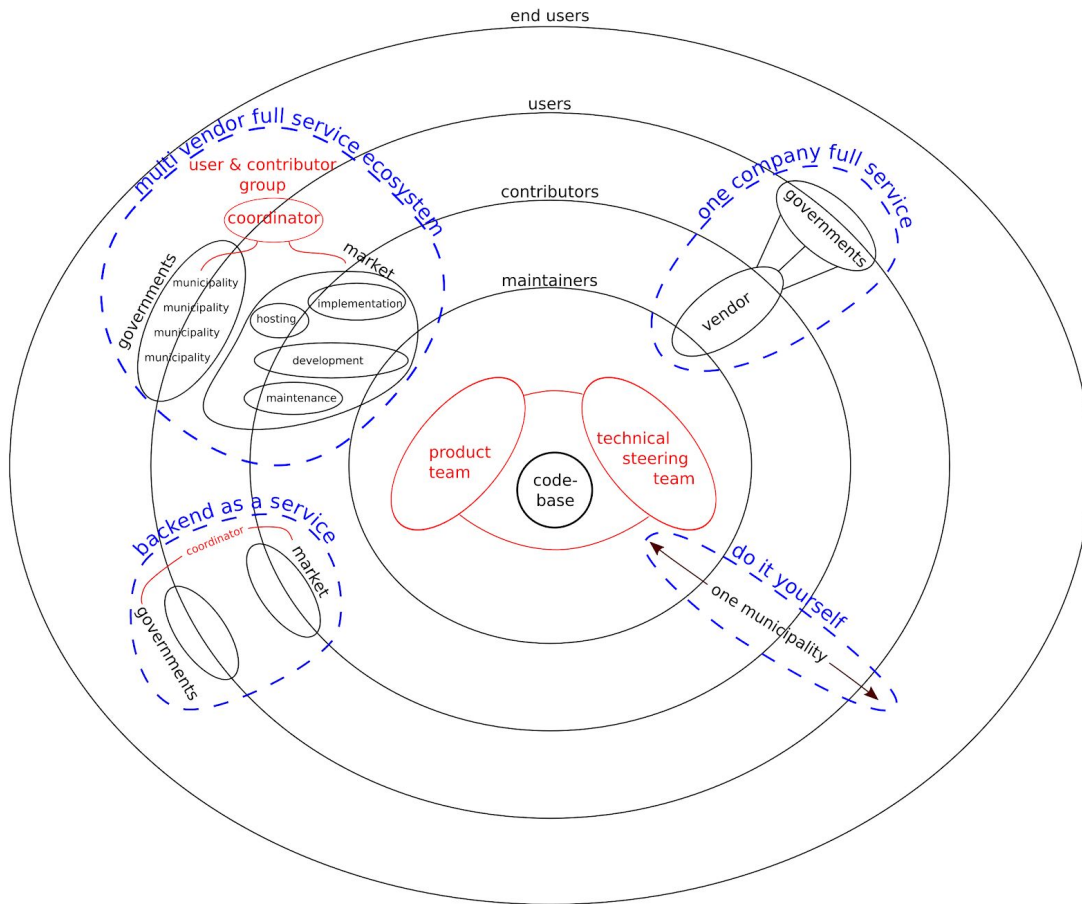


# 3. The future: Stewardship organizations and OSPOs



Stewardship organizations and OSPOs have different focuses.





# Future of public sector stewardship organizations

- ▷ Generic template for spawning new hosting orgs
- ▷ Governance process code
- ▷ Specialized fiscal hosts

What else would be  
useful for you?





# Thanks



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