



Foundation for Public Code

Wouldn't it be good if there was a standard for public code?

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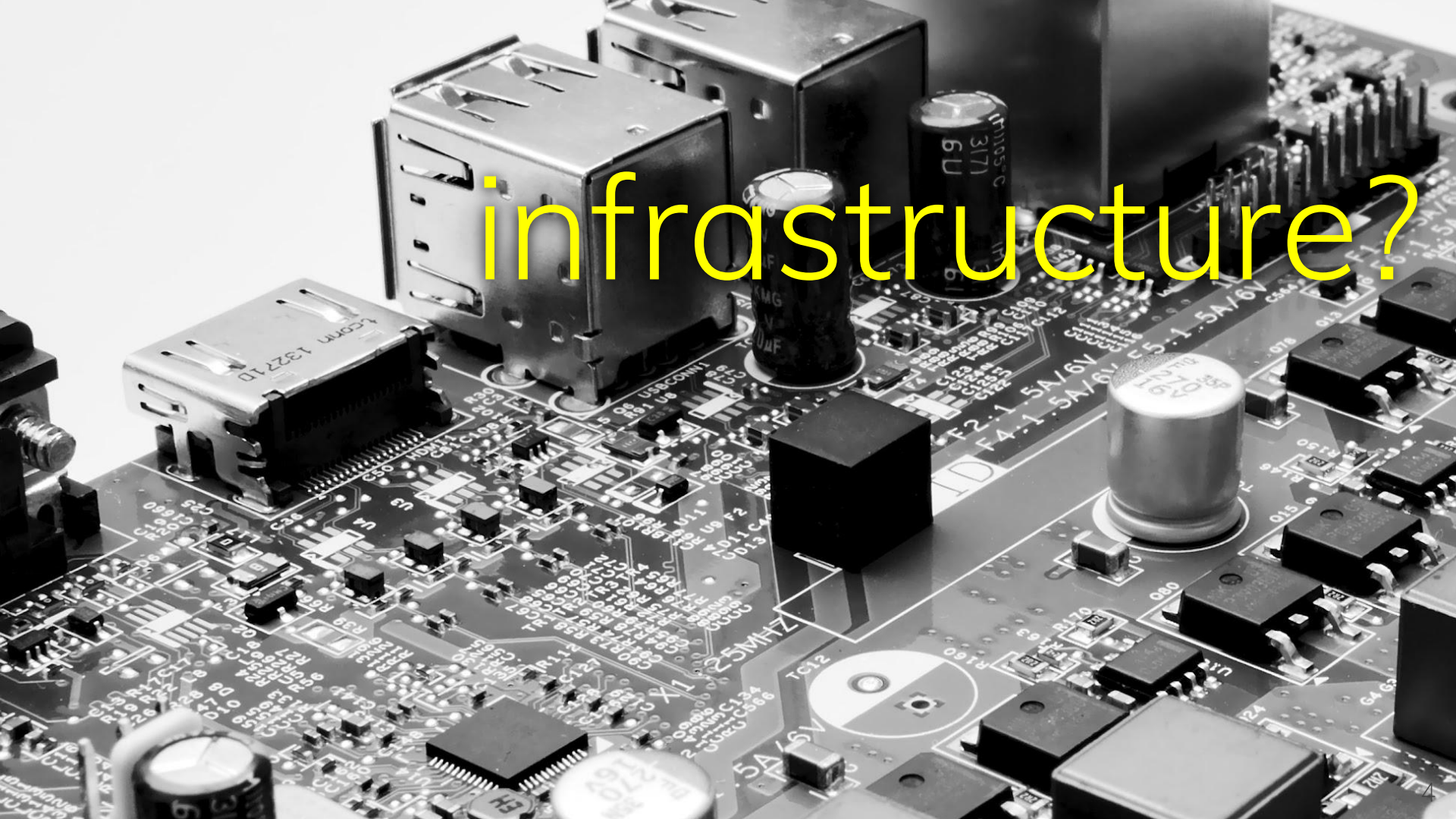
FrOsCon 2023

<https://files.publiccode.net/nextcloud/index.php/s/froscon2023>



rapid technological acceleration





infrastructure?



cities turn
technology into
infrastructure

Cities work to transform
technology into infrastructure
through iterative generation of
policy, or ‘civic code’.





Policy defines the
possibility space of society.

Are we really
still **FIGHTING**
for this Shit?
Unbelievable.







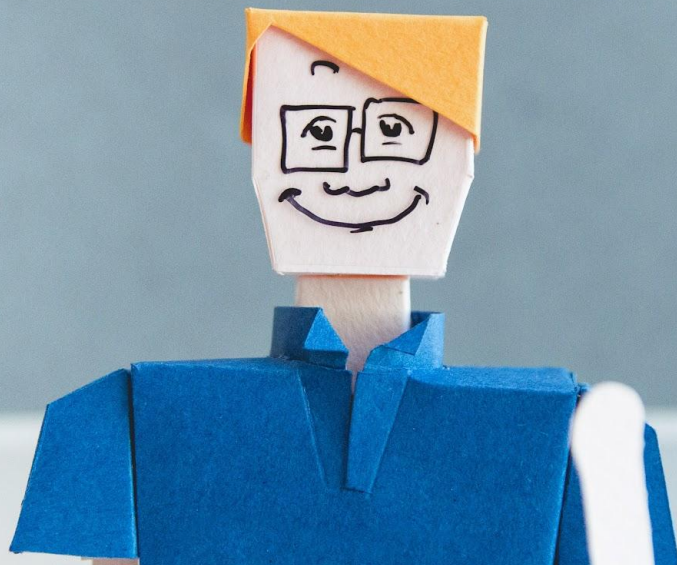


A 1

national express

151

```
<?php echo  
"Hello World!"  
?>
```



policy

digital society?

software



policy

digital society?

software

uninformed and vague



proprietary and closed



policy

digital society?

software



uninformed and vague

We believe software that runs our society can no longer be:

- ▷ hidden in **proprietary codebases**
- ▷ producing data not owned by the public
- ▷ licensed at ever-increasing cost from outside companies

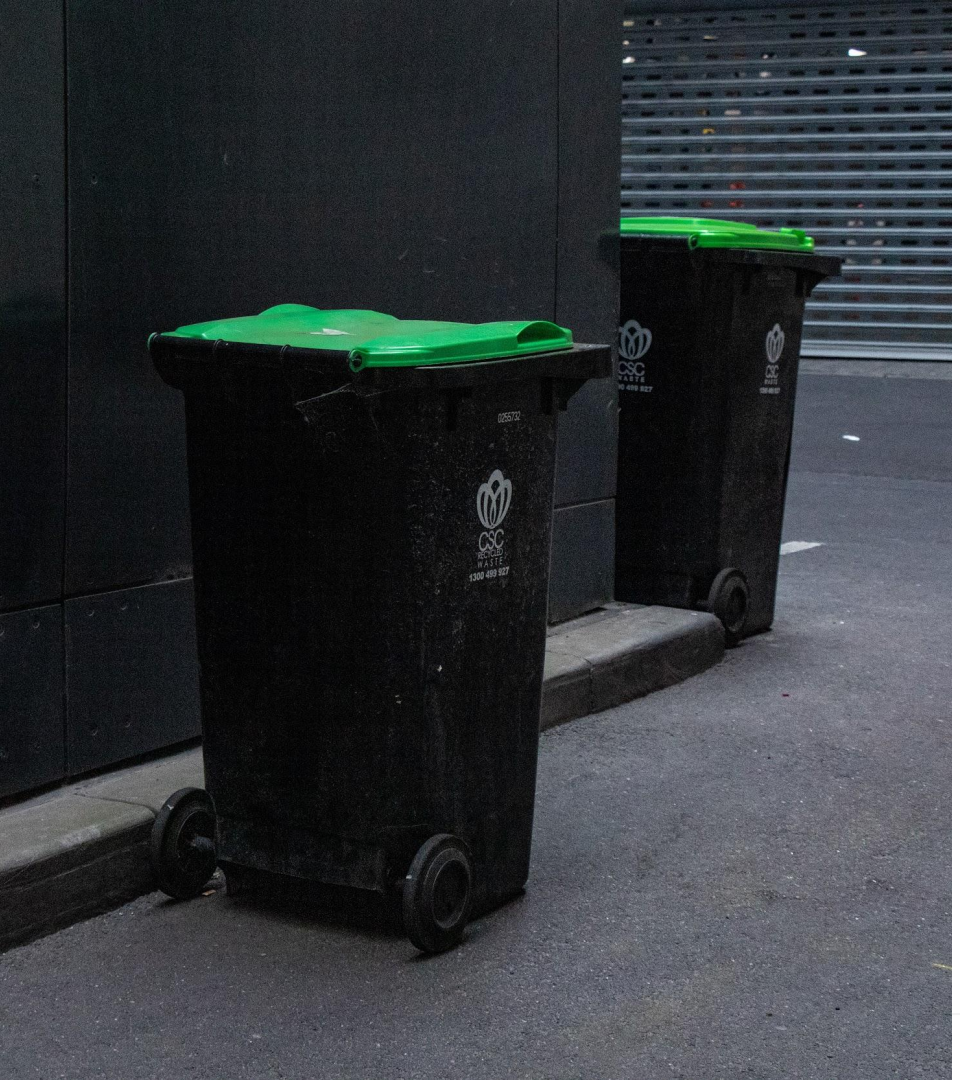
governments need
technological sovereignty



An aerial photograph of a paved plaza with several people walking. Their shadows are cast long and dark on the ground, indicating a low sun position. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

Public software must
reflect the values of
the society it serves





Forward thinking cities are already
building **public digital**
infrastructure for themselves



software + policy

produced by
and for the public

= **public code**



A green, slightly curved sign with the word "OPEN" in white, serif font. The sign is mounted on a dark wooden door with a diagonal brace. Two metal clips hold the sign in place. Two light-colored wooden strips are attached to the top and bottom of the sign.

OPEN



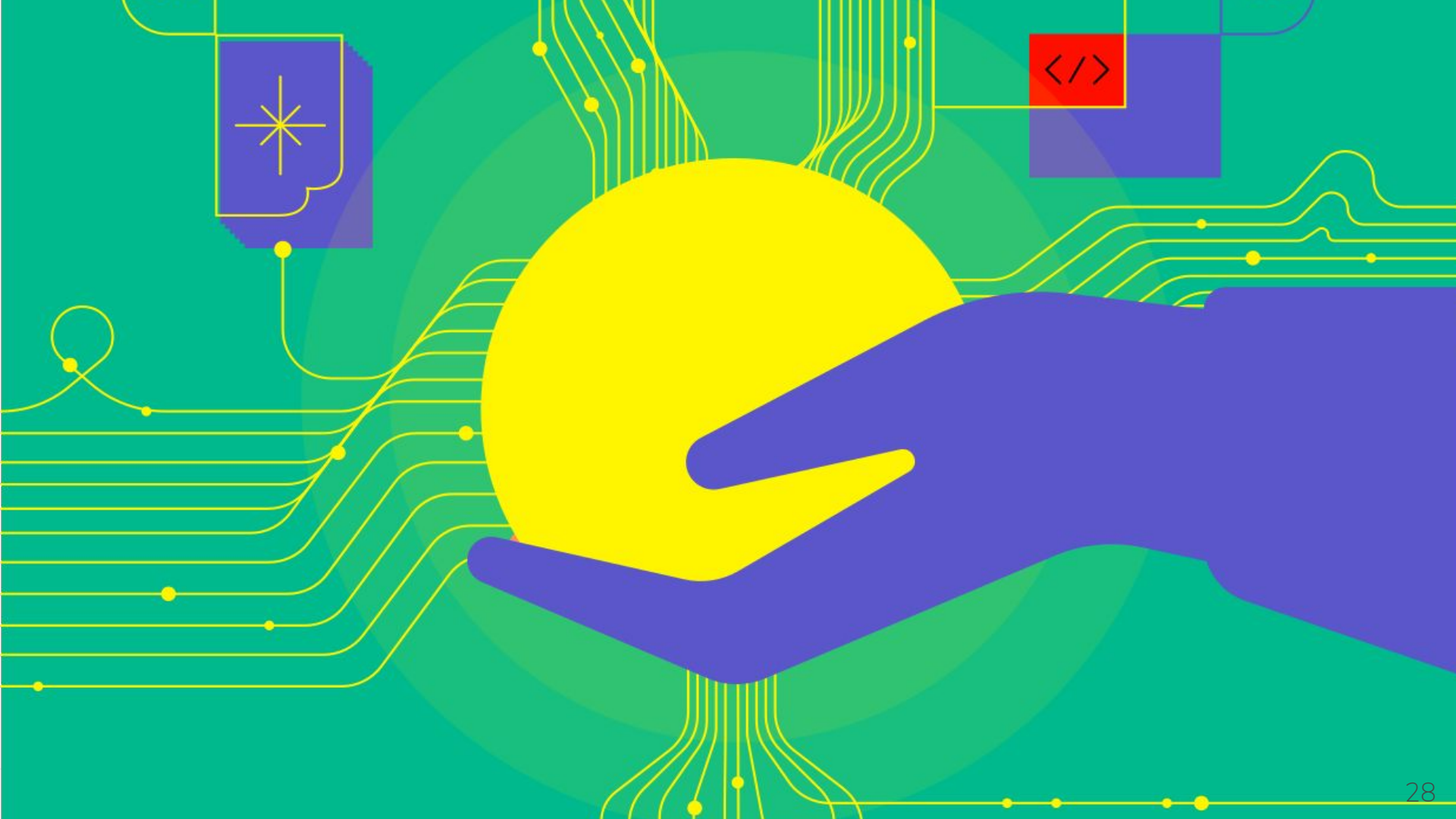
software has 'terroir'

A close-up photograph showing two hands holding a rustic, reddish-brown ceramic bowl filled with fresh cherry tomatoes. The tomatoes are mostly bright red, with one green one on the left. The hand on the right is wearing a light-colored, textured work glove with blue polka dots. The background is a soft-focus green field. The word "sharing" is written in a white, sans-serif font across the center of the bowl.

sharing

Cities need to develop open,
adaptive and **reusable**
public codebases
together as part of their
core civic functions.





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 h

- 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>

Open standard



16 criteria

Code in the open

Bundle policy and source code

Create reusable and portable code

Welcome contributors

Make contributing easy

Maintain version control

Require review of contributions

Document your objectives

Document the code

Use plain English

Use open standards

Use continuous integration

Publish with an open license

Make the codebase findable

Use a coherent style

Document codebase maturity



Requirements

- Software source code **MUST** be licensed under an OSI-approved or FSF Free/Libre license.
- All source code files in the codebase **SHOULD** include a copyright notice and a license header that are machine-readable.
- Having multiple licenses for different types of code and documentation is **OPTIONAL**.
- Following nomenclature in [IETF RFC 2119](https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt)

What you need to do

- Policy makers
- Management
- Developers and designers

Buy-in from one is not enough

- Policy makers
- Management
- Developers and designers

We work with stakeholders at each **level** and each **collaborator** to gain alignment.

1. Make it theoretically possible to join you

Code in the open

Create reusable and portable code

Publish with an open license

Use open standards

Make the codebase findable



2. Tell the world how you would like to collaborate

Welcome contributors
Make contributing easy



3. Explain details about the codebase

Document your objectives
Document the code
Use plain English
Document codebase maturity
Bundle policy and source code



4. Create a process that supports collaboration

Maintain version control
Require review of contribution
Use continuous integration
Use a coherent style



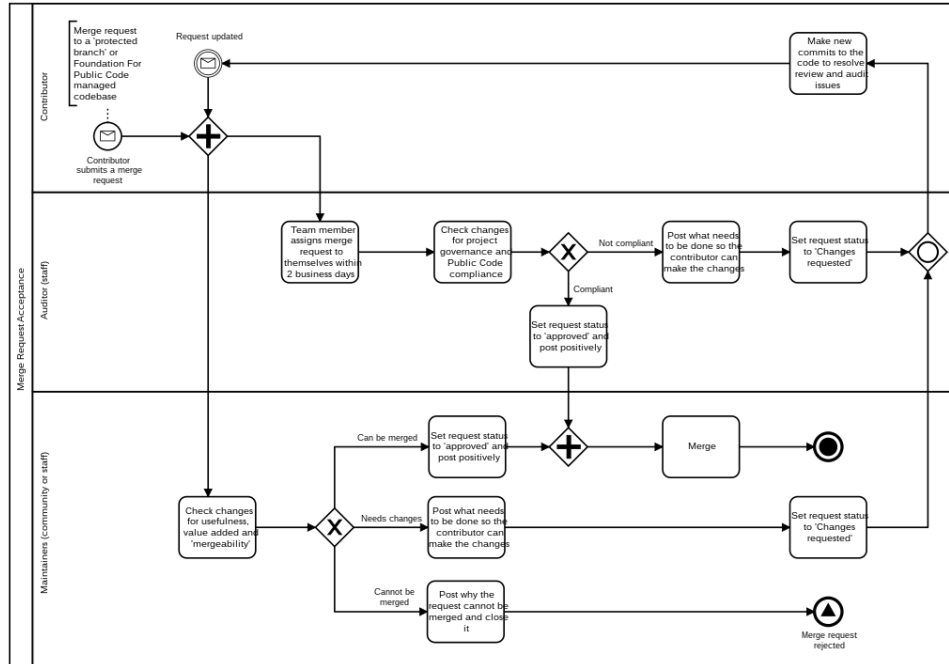
Compliance and certification

- Open standard - anyone can start using it
- Review template is available
- Foundation for Public Code certify reviews
- standard-compliant.publiccode.net - contains a list of all compliant codebases and which release was reviewed (also includes a list of all codebases with a public commitment to adhere to the standard)

Standard for Public Code 0.7.1 compliant `ad188224f0`



Continuous certification



Example of criteria evaluation

Requirement	meets	links and notes
All code and documentation MUST be licensed such that it may be freely reusable, changeable and redistributable.	yes	Mozilla license
Software source code MUST be licensed under an OSI-approved or FSF Free/Libre license .	yes	MPL-2.0
All code MUST be published with a license file.	yes	LICENSE
Contributors MUST NOT be required to transfer copyright of their contributions to the codebase.	yes	
All source code files in the codebase SHOULD include a copyright notice and a license header that are machine-readable.	yes	checked with CI: signals#764
Having multiple licenses for different types of code and documentation is OPTIONAL.		

[From the Signalen assessment.](#)



Example of criteria evaluation

Requirement	meets	links and notes
The codebase MUST be developed to be reusable in different contexts.	yes	signalen.org
The codebase MUST be independent from any secret, undisclosed, proprietary or non-open licensed code or services for execution and understanding.	yes	
The codebase SHOULD be in use by multiple parties.	yes	
The roadmap SHOULD be influenced by the needs of multiple parties.	yes	product steering
Configuration SHOULD be used to make code adapt to context specific needs.	yes	
The codebase SHOULD be localizable.		
Code and its documentation SHOULD NOT contain situation-specific information.	partial	The software is easily configurable, the default configuration is Amsterdam-specific.
Codebase modules SHOULD be documented in such a way as to enable reuse in codebases in other contexts.		

Quick self evaluation

- To see if you're ready for a full assessment
- 10 yes/no questions
- <https://publiccodenet.github.io/assessment-eligibility>



Importance of commitment

Public commitment from participating organizations is needed to:

- build trust
- ensure sustainability
- enable governance
- set expectations for contributions

Standard for Public Code **commitment**



Community implementation guide

<https://publiccode.net.github.io/community-implementation-guide-standard/>

- Examples
- Good practices
- Tools
- Templates
- Further reading

Community translations

<https://publiccodenet.github.io/community-translations-standard/>

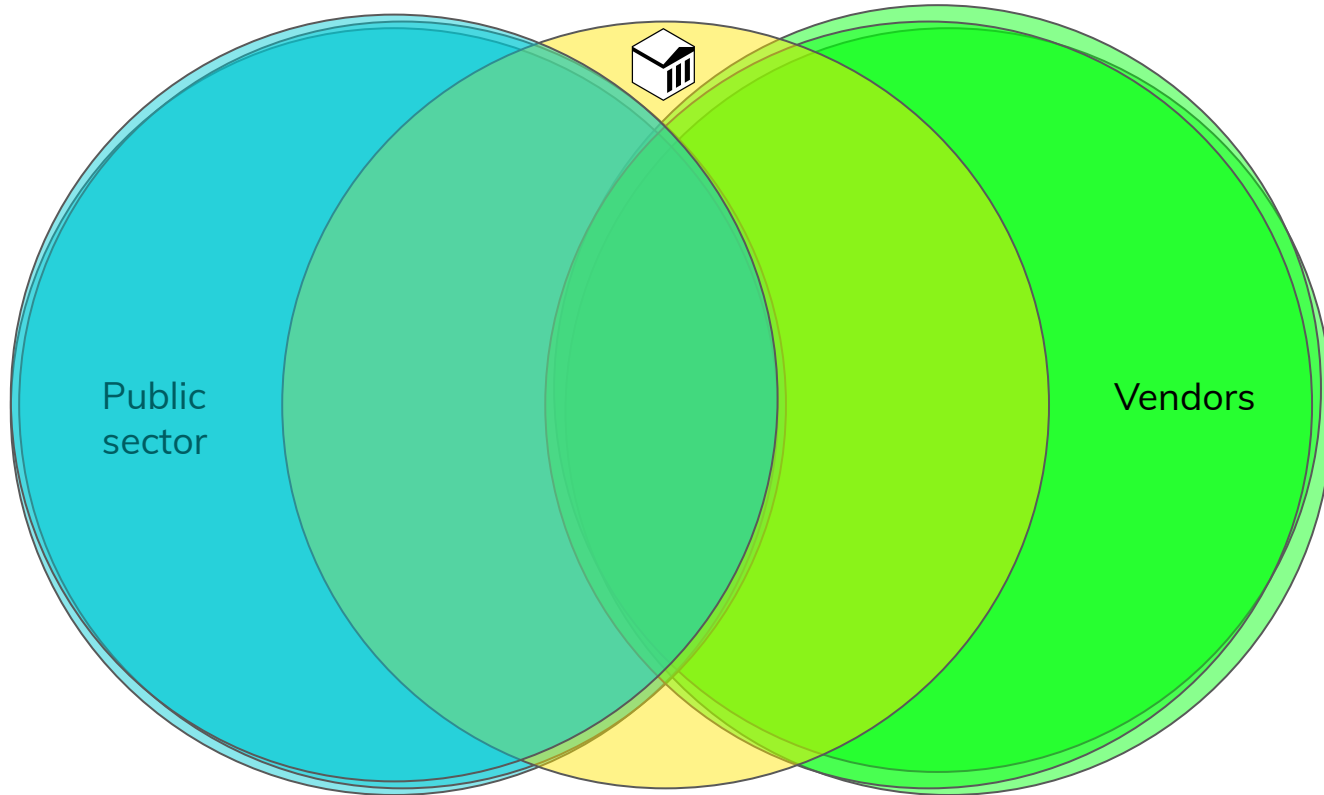
- Spanish
- Danish in review
- Traditional Chinese almost done
- Swedish and Finnish just started
- German?

The Foundation for Public Code

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



What a community needs



Codebase stewardship





Thanks! 🙏

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