



# Open Strategic Autonomy

Ensuring Europe's Access to Key Enabling Technologies,  
Reducing Dependencies and Growing Capabilities

Sivan Pätsch



# 1

## Digitally Sovereign and Open

The Dance of Dependencies and Capabilities

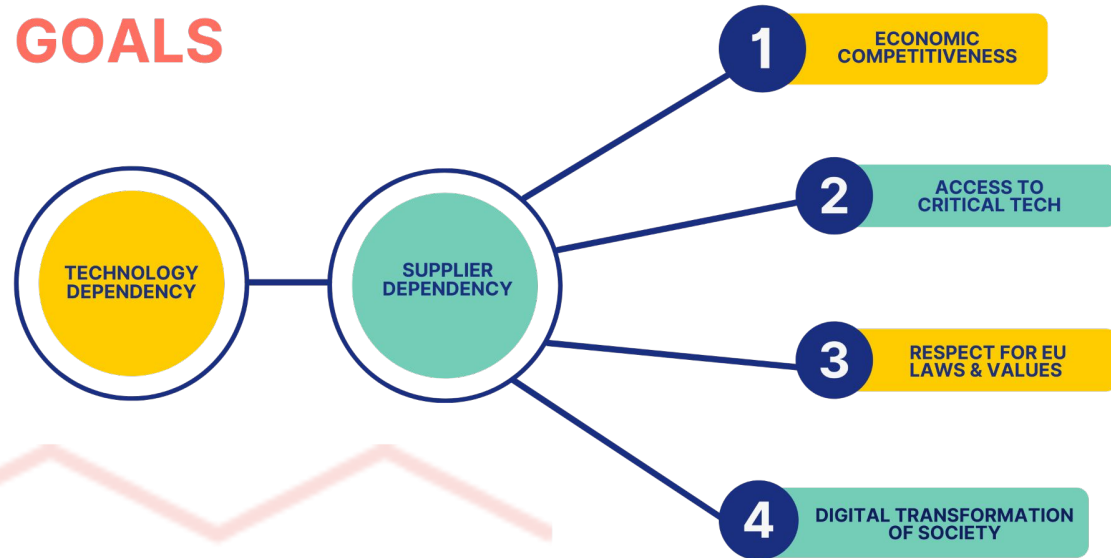
# Interviewees

- Basem Vaseghi, Daimler TSS
- Bernhard Hecker, SUSE
- Charlotte Thornby, Oracle
- Gael Blondelle, Eclipse Foundation
- James Lovegrove, Red Hat
- Keith Bergelt, Open Invention Network
- Oliver Fendt, Siemens
- Peter Ganten, Univention & OSBA
- Peter Giese, SAP
- Rafael Laguna, SPRIND
- Simon Marsol, Sopra Steria
- Timo Väliharju, COSS
- Vittorio Bertola, Open-Xchange

“Once you realise [what COVID has changed], you also look at the tools you are using and you realise that you don’t have that much control over what those tools actually do. Then the topic of digital sovereignty has become a personal and a business issue. The definition of digital sovereignty is now at the heart of policymakers.”

*Rafael Laguna de la Vera, SPRIND*

# DEPENDENCIES RISK POLICY GOALS



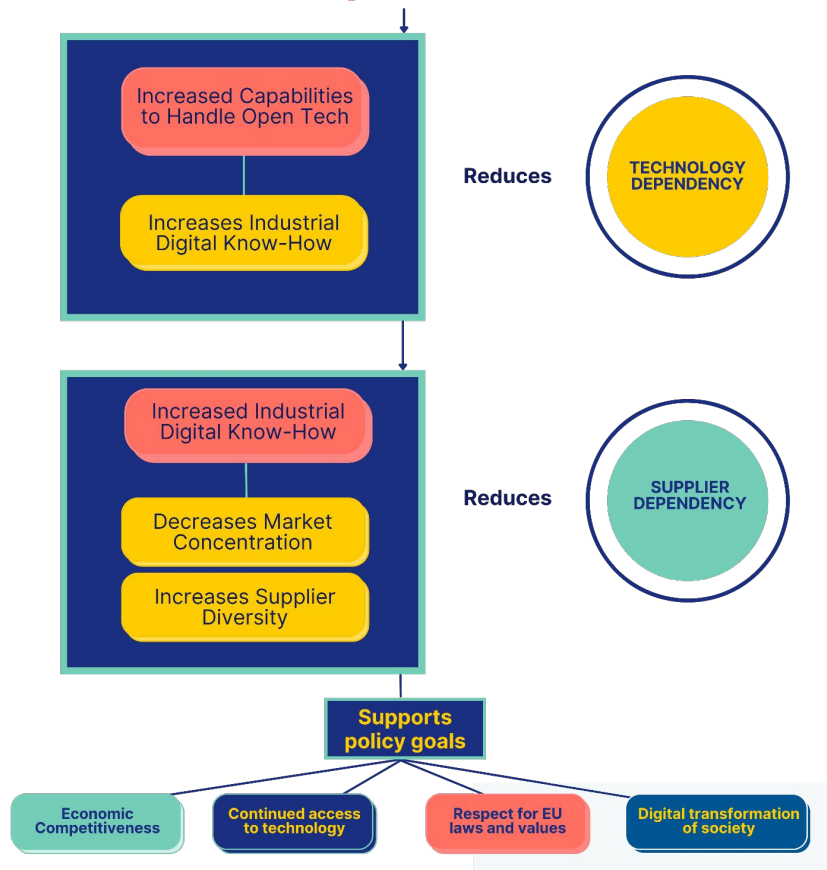
“A very important point here is that digital sovereignty does not mean protectionism or autarky or something like this. I don’t think there is a conflict between trade with other countries and other regions and Digital Sovereignty. But we need a level playing field for trade and to negotiate the rules under which we trade.”

*Peter Ganten, OSBA*

“The term ‘strategic autonomy’ [...] refers to the EU’s ability to chart its own course in line with its interests and values. This does not mean going it alone, but rather accepting and managing our interdependence in the best possible way. The addition of ‘openness’ shows that the EU will be open to trade and will promote stable rules in order to be strong economically and have geopolitical influence.“

*European Commission*

# Strategic Engagement in Open Tech



“The entire society is dependent on ICT: work, private life etc. No company or country can afford to be deprived of access to technologies. Open Technologies will not exclude others. The point is not depriving others of their sovereignty, but assuring yours.”

*Vittorio Bertola, Open-Xchange*

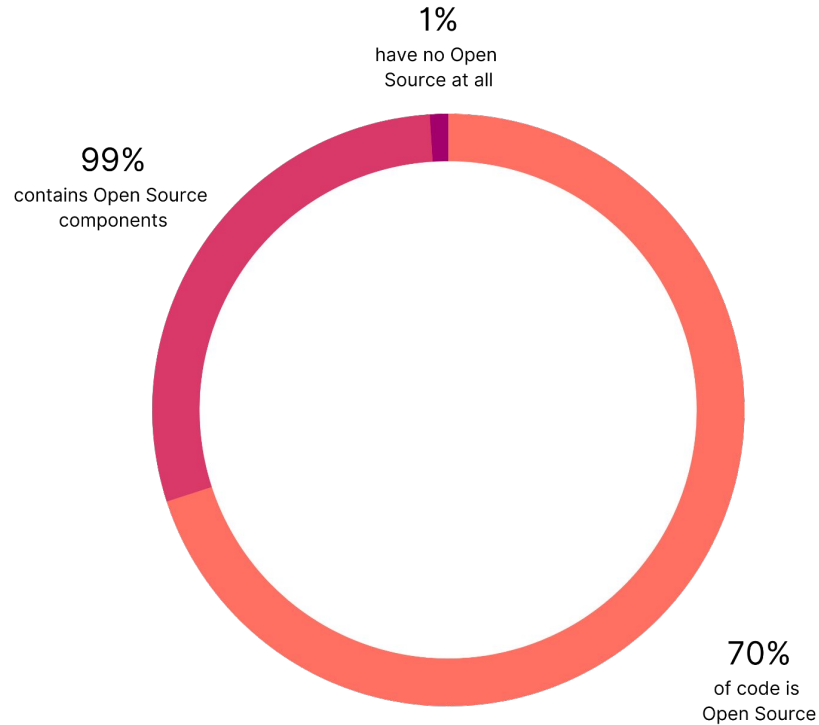
# 2

## The World Runs on Open Tech

Why Europe is Well-Placed to Leverage Open Tech Strategically

# SOFTWARE TODAY

Source: Synopsys

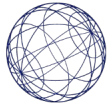


“Open Technologies follow a principle that we invented when we invented science. That’s the way science works. You just publish the way you did the experiment and what the outcome was so that everyone can repeat it. That’s what open source software does for software. It’s a highly efficient approach to innovation. Full control over the destiny of your systems”

*Rafael Laguna de la Vera, SPRIND*

# Complexity of the MODERN SOFTWARE STACK

Capabilities needed to develop a typical industrial application:  
**Predictive maintenance**



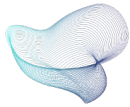
Cloud  
Application



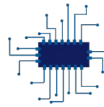
Cyber  
Security



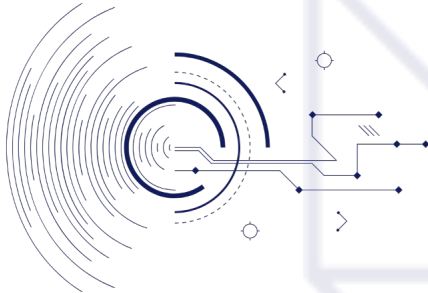
AI Tech  
& Models



User  
Interface



Cloud  
Infrastructure



**High Level of Complexity**

**Base Technologies and  
Capabilities Needed**



OpenForum  
Europe

“The days of building proprietary IT infrastructure, software, automation, are far gone. The complexity of IT necessitates a large workforce which we think no single organisation can bring to the table alone”

*Basem Vaseghi, Daimler TSS*

“By definition open technologies are not controlled by anyone. Due to that you have an assurance that -- you’re not just a user. Nobody will be able to take the technologies away from you.”

*Vittorio Bertola, Open-Xchange*

“If you want to build solutions that can be used by billions of users, you don’t want to negotiate licence terms for the next billion of users. That’s one of the reasons why AWS, Google etc. they’re all built on top of OSS, because they need to scale.”

*Peter Ganten, OSBA*

“Imagine you have three organisations who want to collaborate. What are the options of setting up a collaboration? They can create a joint venture, which means two years of having lawyers sitting around the table to work out the setup of the joint venture and that’s very expensive. Or they decide to set up an Open Source collaboration, and they can inherit from Open Source best practises and legal framework: this way this can be operational in 3-6 months.”

*Gael Blondelle, Eclipse Foundation*

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## How Europe can Leverage Open Technologies

Define Requirements, Build Capabilities, Stay Open, Invest

# Support the switch to a new, leadership-driven open and collaborative culture

“You need to open yourself up to showing the results of the work to the world, which is not easy, especially if you are not used to it. You really have to build this into all processes, into everything. Make it open, discuss it open, release it open. Learn to have conflicts in the open. This has to go into the DNA of the company. People first think they need to own the product and extract from it. Then people realise Open Tech is about the experience of having developed or worked on something and being able to continue developing something into more.”

*Timo Väliharju, COSS*

# Support the development of a framework for European OSPOs

“This is exactly where the EU can shine: Working in the open on supporting a standard program for a legal framework that the industry can refer to. What are the IP policies when collaborating e.g. with an American company on certain technologies? How do I tax my collaboration when I’m working with someone else? What are the employment regulations if my employees are contributing in the evenings? Simple questions, but important”

*Basem Vaseghi, Daimler TSS*

# Affirm the Open Source Definition

“Without this single, standard definition of "open source," software development as we know it would not be possible. There is no trust in a world where anyone can invent their own definition for open source, and without trust there is no community, no collaboration, and no innovation.”

*Open Source Initiative*

# Take OSS leadership: Reuse and co-develop where possible, redevelop only when needed

“You have different groups collaborating to develop a technology stack that they all want to use. As collaborators you have the opportunity to steer this technology based on your needs. You can steer these critical technologies towards your own requirements. If you want to steer and invest in open technologies you have to take an active role. This also means not limiting participants to certain geographic borders.”

*Basem Vaseghi, Daimler TSS*

# Public funding: Prioritise buying products over funding research

“EU companies compared to Big Tech are tiny. So we need to somehow use such interventions to create these markets for them to grow and become significant players, and that goes back to what we said: using buying power and also funding money to bring certain OS projects to a level where they’re competitive. Whenever there is a market failure - we see it now where the EU digital industries cannot develop or scale because they cannot compete with what’s on the outside - we need intervention.”

*Rafael Laguna de la Vera, SPRIND*

# Use Open Standards

“It is easier to modernize your IT system if it is based on open standards solutions as you can mix and match for the optimal customer solution”

*Charlotte Thorny, Oracle*

# Set requirements, not exclusion

“No country or organization in the world is big enough to keep up with the edge of technological development in every field. Pursuing technological autarky is a recipe for falling behind”

*Mike Linksvayer, GitHub*

# Be in it for the long run, strategic autonomy can't be gained overnight

“It's like clean energy: This really started to work when the industry understood that governments really mean it not for the next two years but also for the next thirty years.”

*Peter Ganten, OSBA*



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[sivan@openforumeurope.org](mailto:sivan@openforumeurope.org)



# Thank you.

Sivan Pätsch