Openness
Pillar for digital sovereignty

Digitization and "data driven economy" will heavily impact social and economic welfare.
Value chains and market rules are changing.
Data, networks and algorithms are drivers for digitization.
Machine power and digital platforms are their enablers.

Digitization of business processes has created a global economic area operating according to rules of the "big internet players". Only a few, very large, globally operating companies so far have been successful in a digital, internationally interconnected world. These dominating companies also store most of the global data, the raw material for digital business models and training of artificial intelligences. The amount of data will continue to grow with increased use of digital services and maturity of new technologies.

Information technology is no longer just a tool for optimization and automation.
Information technology is prerequsite for implementation of political and economic strategies.

Europe however is only playing a minor role in the digital world.
None of the relevant global Internet players is based in Europe.
Dependency, especially to US based IT providers and Chinese based production, successively has increased.
This competitive disadvantage, acceptable in the past, is becoming a considerable threat to sovereignty of citizens, states and companies as digitization gains strategic importance.

Europe and Austria both are facing the challenge of reachieving freedom of action for citizens, states and companies without detaching from global markets.

OSSBIG reaches for the goal to strengthen Austria as business location and to increase regional added value.

We contribute to the creation and preservation of digital sovereignty through the OSSBIG principles:

- "OPENNESS": dissemination of Open Source principles to top decision-makers in business, society and politics
- "COLLABORATION": promotion of cooperation between private and public large-scale users in the fields of innovation and digitization
- "EMPOWERMENT": increase of local digital literacy
- "TRUSTWORTHINESS": trust in data and its origin, in technology and organisations

OSSBIG defines sovereignty as ability to act.

A prerequisite for ability to act is,
- ability to know and see possible options,
- ability to evaluate and understand them,
- ability to select from these options
- ability to implement them.

"OPENNESS" is an important contributor for creating necessary visibility and transparency,
"EMPOWERMENT" of actors is a contributor for ability to evaluate options.
"COLLABORATION" provides breadth, strength and collective competence.
"TRUSTWORTHINESS" - trust is a prerequisite for making and implementing decisions.
Trust requires traceability and explainability as well as secure framework conditions.
Openness and transparency as well as strengthening of communities have the power to ensure these prerequisites.

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MEASURES & REQUIREMENTS

Solutions which guarantee a high degree of digital sovereignty and are comparable in terms of functionality, cost and implementation effort should generally be preferred in order to benefit from the strategic advantage of digital sovereignty.
Public and private organisations should take into account the extent to which a solution enables digital sovereignty and include appropriate criteria in their purchase decision.

ROLE MODEL OF THE STATE

- Foundation of a "Council for the Preservation of Digital Sovereignty" as an advisory body for the Federal Government with participation of all relevant stakeholders
- Preference for open source software when implementing digital infrastructure and digitising administration ("public source")
- Preference for public-private partnership models when implementing digital infrastructure and digitising administration
- Open access to data produced using taxpayers' money
- Return of a "dividend" to the community when data produced with tax money is monetised
- Consequent usage and training of Open Source in educational institutions
- Preference for European digitization initiatives over national ones

OPENNESS - Open Data
- Clear and fair rules on access and use of data
- "Open Data License" along the lines of Open Source Software ("if new data is obtained from Open Data, it should also be open")
- support for European initiatives which create transparent, interoperable, openly accessible data pools

OPENNESS - Open Algorithm
- Open Source First Principle

TRUSTWORTHINESS
- "openness by design" and "privacy by default”
- Implementation of European digital trust infrastructure for data which guarantees transparency, verifiable data quality and data sovereignty
- Pay particular attention to citizens' concerns and expectations, especially in the area of health data

COLLABORATION
- Open standards based on European values and rules
- Transparent and balanced composition of international standardization bodies
- Ensuring interoperability of data across Europe
- usage of digitization opportunities for cross-sectoral cooperation

EMPOWERMENT
- Preference for solutions which support building of regional competence
- Rights, tools and competences for citizens to have full control over their personal data
- Strengthening of digital literacy and digital competences of citizens and decision-makers in government and business