

A guide to unlocking
the potential of DPGs

Digital Public Goods Decoded

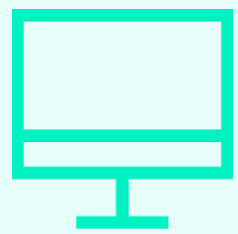
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Digital public goods (DPGs) are open technology solutions

Countries can freely adopt DPGs to accelerate digital transformation, improve residents' lives, and drive economic growth.

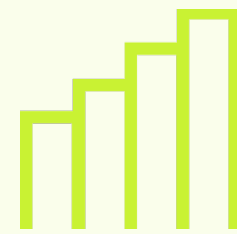
DPGs are:



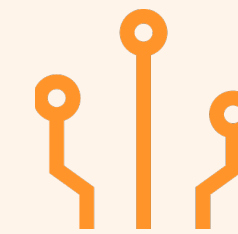
Open-source software



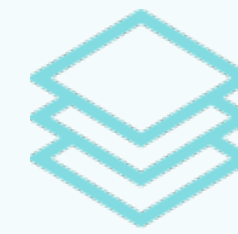
Open standard



Open datasets



Open AI systems



Open content collections

They adhere to the

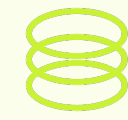
[DPG standard](#)

At a glance



Countries and territories
are using DPGs

198



Number of DPGs
available globally

160+



Increase in
the number
of DPGs since
February 2022

19%



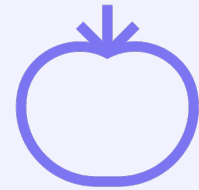
Countries DPGs
have been developed in

126

There are currently over 160 DPGs in use around the world that help to solve a wide range of issues



Greater financial inclusion



Enhanced food security



Faster crisis response



Improved healthcare management systems



Better public services

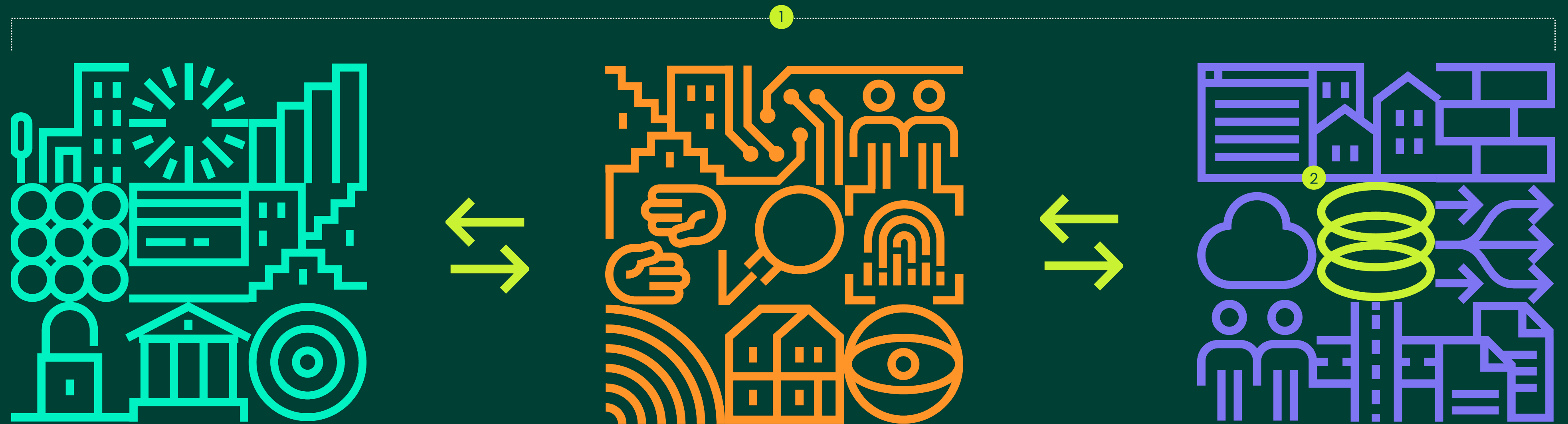


Thriving private sector

Countries can use DPGs to build components of safe, inclusive, and interoperable digital public infrastructure, laying the foundations for sustainable development

① DPI – composed of core components, such as payment systems, secure data exchange, and digital ID – enables countries to deliver essential services and create economic opportunity across many sectors.

② While DPI constitutes the underlying digital systems essential for modern governance and economic activity, DPGs provide crucial components to construct and optimize these systems.



There are many benefits to adopting DPGs...

1



Open-source and accessible, meaning that any country can freely adopt and adapt them for their specific needs.

2



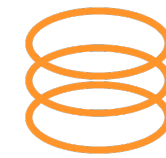
Give countries greater control over how they build and enhance their digital public infrastructure.

3



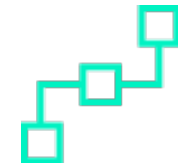
Customizable, enabling countries to create more inclusive digital solutions tailored to their local context.

4



Often cheaper and faster to implement than proprietary solutions, allowing countries to avoid vendor lock-in and high costs associated with proprietary software licenses and updates.

5



Catalyze local tech ecosystems, leading to economic growth, job creation, and multi-stakeholder collaboration on tech development.

...and they are designed to be secure



DPGs are open-source, which means they can be independently reviewed by third parties. This enhances security around the use of DPGs.



Technical communities help to identify and address any issues with DPGs at an early stage.



This can create a culture of continuous improvement and trust around DPGs.

X-Road®

The DPG X-Road is developed and managed by the Nordic Institute for Interoperability Solutions (NIIS), a non-profit established in 2017 by the governments of Estonia, Finland, and Iceland.

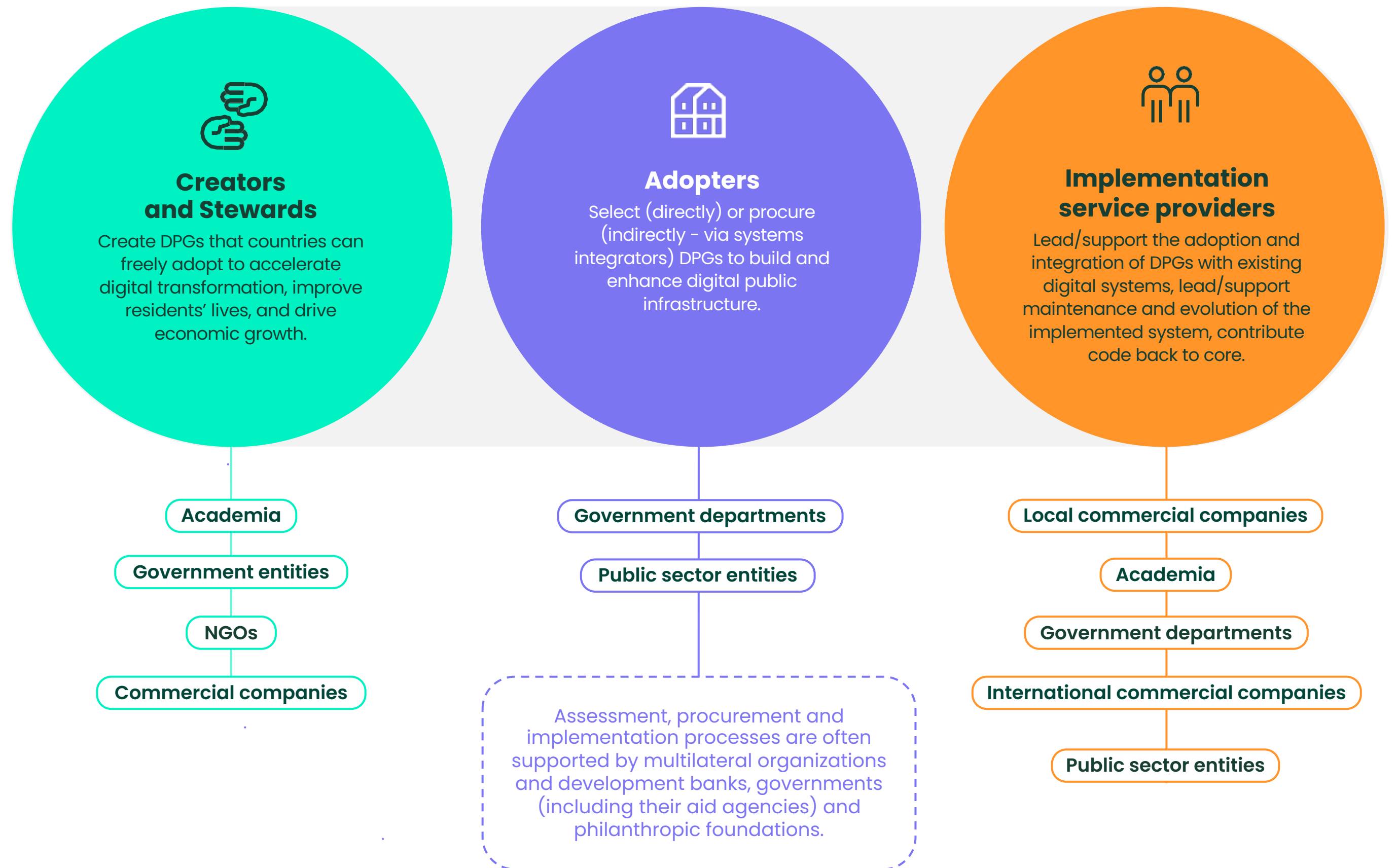
The NIIS development model has enhanced the credibility of X-Road and made it more attractive to other countries who are considering their own e-Government infrastructure components.

 **Learn more:** x-road.global

Digital public goods ecosystem

Stakeholders supporting the creation and implementation of DPGs for digital public infrastructure.

Funders provide grants and concessional financing to support different phases of DPG creation, procurement, and implementation, focused on the needs of countries that receive international development assistance.

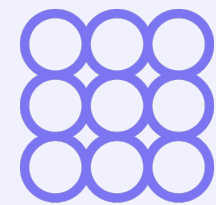


There are several actions governments can take to support their adoption of DPGs



Update digital policies and procurement processes to support DPG adoption

Reframing RFPs and tenders to include open-source technologies will help ensure DPGs are considered in procurement processes.



Seek technical assistance on how to adopt DPGs

Engage local tech communities who can support on DPG adoption and implementation.



Learn from other countries

Given DPGs can be adapted to fit different contexts and use cases, countries can learn from best practice and don't have to start from scratch.

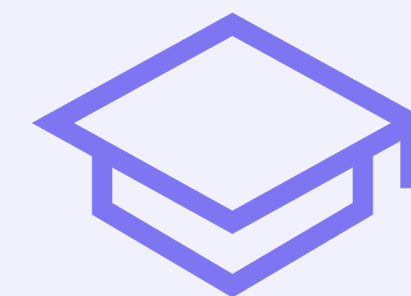
Looking ahead, DPGs can enable countries to leapfrog conventional development paths and drive progress on the SDGs



1

DPGs support marginalized and vulnerable communities

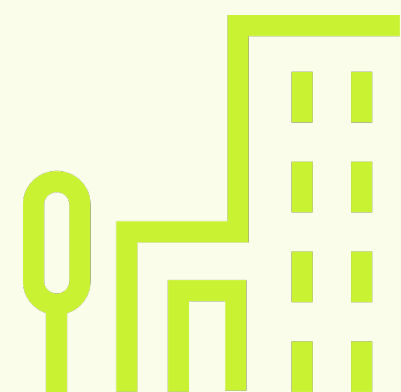
OpenG2P facilitates large-scale digital government to person cash transfers, enabling governments and humanitarian organizations to deliver critical social benefits directly to those who need them.



2

Adopting DPGs in digital education has the potential to transform learning in low- and middle- income countries

The freely accessible e-learning platform NotesMaster provides access to quality lessons in 31 countries, authored by local teachers and based around the local curriculum.



3

DPGs are integral to achieving financial inclusion in Africa, and the ambition for every country on the continent to deploy an instant, inclusive payment system by 2030

If countries on the African continent remain on the same trajectory in terms of payments technology adoption, there is a risk of leaving behind the 350m unbanked adults, most of whom are excluded from the formal economy.



4

DPGs will be critical to helping countries mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change

PRISM (Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring) is a DPG that assesses the potential risk and impact of extreme weather events on the most vulnerable communities, helping them to design risk reduction activities and target disaster responses.



5

DPGs have an important role to play in increasing cross-border cooperation and unlocking economic potential for entire regions

As Africa moves closer towards becoming a single market, DPGs can help to build a frictionless, pan-African payment system that boosts cross-border trade for all.

For more information, visit digitalpublicgoods.net/dpgs-decoded

