

# Four recommendations to help countries leverage the potential of digital public goods to build safe, inclusive, and interoperable digital public infrastructure



## 1. Incorporate open-source in national digital strategies and procurement policies



### Why?

Before initiating a procurement process, countries should assess whether their technology needs could be met by available open-source solutions, including DPGs.

Such an “open-source first” approach can bring more flexibility and agility into public digitalization processes, as it is possible to test and pilot open-source solutions before making decisions on what solutions and services should eventually be procured. If a public agency determines that a DPG or other open-source solution can be configured to meet its needs, it may choose to do a smaller procurement of services, or a procurement may not be needed at all if the agency has sufficient implementation and maintenance capabilities in house.

## 2. Use open-source to build an internal culture of ownership and operational capabilities



### Why?

Adopting, implementing and maintaining DPGs and other open-source solutions can help build necessary capacities, skills and agency for managing and evolving a country’s digital public infrastructure in the long-term.

Building such in-house capabilities enhances digital sovereignty by enabling government agencies to better understand and define their relevant technology needs so that different systems’ components interoperate, and long-term vendor lock-ins are avoided. This can also help governments to be proactive and innovative when new challenges and needs arise.

## 3. Engage stakeholders to improve the DPG implementation process and strengthen public trust



### Why?

Since DPGs are open-source, they can allow for public scrutiny and for direct engagement with the code, including public debate on how the solution should be configured to be inclusive and to meet other contextual needs. This can be crucial for implementing digital public infrastructure that is trusted and used by the public.

This also stands in marked contrast to proprietary solutions where there is usually no such opportunity to “look under the hood” of the technology and engage with it. Such stakeholder engagement can also help identify local vendors or system integrators who can support the implementation and maintenance of DPGs.

## 4. Reap the benefits of using DPGs by gaining shared learnings and innovations from other implementing countries



### Why?

When countries implement DPGs to build their digital public infrastructure, they can also discover joint solutions to shared implementation challenges.

They can share local adaptations with the stakeholder responsible for maintaining the DPG and with each other. This can help countries shorten their learning and adoption paths while maintaining their digital sovereignty.