



OPEN SOURCE POLITICS **FACT SHEET 3**

Promoting online participatory democracy by developing and deploying open source tools in France

**Open
Source
Politics**



PRESENTATION

Open Source Politics is a company operating in the Social and Solidarity Economy sector. It develops free and open-source digital platforms and leads collective intelligence workshops to support public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders engaged in participatory initiatives.

The organization has an innovative digital outreach component that allows it to reach out to audiences and ensure the inclusiveness of its work.



The Open Source Politics team is **composed of committed professionals**. It includes consultants, developers, data engineers, and other experts dedicated to promoting the digital commons.

The company's core values encompass participatory **democracy, the use of free and open source software, collective intelligence, commitment to the social and solidarity economy, and inclusive digital technology**. These principles guide their actions to **strengthen citizen participation** and **transparency** in various sectors of society. Reaching out to all audiences by providing tools accessible to all and supporting local stakeholders to better engage with those most excluded from digital technology.



OPEN SOURCE POLITICS

IN A FEW WORDS

Open Source Politics is a company in the field of Social and Solidarity Economy that develops free and open source digital platforms and leads collective intelligence workshops to support public, private and associative actors engaged in participatory and inclusive approaches.

IN A FEW NUMBERS

Millions of citizens engaged through its platforms

3 flagship solutions

+20 experts

“We are a team that cares about common interests.”

Open Source Politics offers three open source solutions to strengthen citizen participation and democratic governance:

- **Decidim:** A citizen participation platform for organizing consultations, participatory budgets, and online debates.
- **Grist:** A data management and visualization tool facilitating the analysis of information from participatory processes.
- **Rudi:** A platform promoting the secure sharing of local data for greater transparency and collaboration.

These solutions aim to promote open and participatory digital governance by prioritizing digital technology as a forum for consultation.

Open Source Politics' expertise lies primarily in Decidim, a collaboratively developed platform that allows for the structuring of citizen participation processes such as public consultations, participatory budgets, debates, and online deliberative assemblies. Drawing on an ethical and transparent approach, Open Source Politics advocates for a digital transformation that serves democracy, emphasizing data sovereignty and citizen involvement in decision-making.

All citizens are included, even those most removed from digital technology, as Open Source Politics offers a rapid response kit that brings together various documents and materials to help digital mediation professionals support these audiences. This kit aims to facilitate access to participatory platforms by providing resources tailored to the needs of those less familiar with digital tools.



OBSTACLES AND SOLUTIONS

Open Source Politics faces several challenges, including the adoption of open source tools, citizen mobilization, interoperability with existing systems, funding, and compliance with data regulations. To address these challenges, the company focuses on **supporting and training organizations**, developing awareness-raising strategies to encourage citizen participation, and developing interoperable APIs and solutions. To ensure its sustainability, it diversifies its revenue sources and promotes the sharing of developments with other open source software stakeholders. Finally, it places major **importance on security and data protection** by guaranteeing hosting that complies with European standards.

Furthermore, users can **register for meetings on the platforms without having to create an account. This aims to reduce barriers** to participation while collecting essential information from participants (name and email address).

These solutions help **strengthen the transparency and effectiveness of participatory tools** while supporting an **ethical** digital transition.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Open Source Politics relies on a **network of partnerships and collaborations** to strengthen the impact of its solutions. By working with local authorities, public institutions, and civil society organizations, the company **co-develops participatory approaches** tailored to the needs of local stakeholders. It also collaborates with open source communities, particularly around the Decidim, Grist, and Rudi solutions, to share developments and ensure the continuous improvement of its tools. Furthermore, alliances with companies specializing in **sovereign hosting and cybersecurity** ensure compliance **with data protection** standards.

These synergies allow Open Source Politics to broaden its scope and promote more open and democratic digital governance.

http://

Want to know more?

<https://opensourcepolitics.eu/>



RESULTS AND IMPACTS

Since its inception, Open Source Politics has **helped transform citizen participation by deploying digital platforms** used by numerous communities, public institutions, and organizations.

Thanks to its open source tools, it has facilitated thousands of consultations, participatory budgets, and deliberative processes, involving millions of citizens in France and internationally. Its commitment to transparent and inclusive governance has **strengthened trust in participatory approaches** and enabled greater consideration of citizen contributions in political decisions. Furthermore, its commitment to compatible tools and independent digital technology has encouraged the **adoption of ethical solutions that respect personal data**, thus contributing to the **development of responsible digital technology that is accessible to all**.

LESSONS LEARNED AND ADVICE

The Open Source Politics experience highlights several essential lessons for the success of a digital participation project. First, **accessibility and transparency are key** to promoting tool adoption and building user trust. It is also crucial to involve stakeholders from the design stage of platforms to ensure their relevance and effectiveness. Second, **collaboration with public, private, and non-profit stakeholders allows for the pooling of resources** and ensures the sustainability of initiatives. Furthermore, choosing open source software offers greater flexibility and guarantees control over data, but requires support to be fully leveraged. Finally, it is important to plan mobilization and training strategies to encourage the active participation of citizens and organizations. These lessons show that the success of a digital participation project **relies on a collaborative approach, open governance, and a constant commitment to innovation and digital ethics**.

VISION OF THE FUTURE

Open Source Politics aims to continue developing ethical and inclusive digital solutions to strengthen participatory democracy. The project also focuses on collective intelligence and technological innovation, particularly by exploring the potential of artificial intelligence to enhance citizen participation. At the same time, it intends to strengthen its commitment to digital sovereignty by promoting infrastructures that respect personal data.

