



1
June
2023



Legislation Editing Open Software – an open-source journey

Mind the Open Source Gap - Series 2

interoperable
europe

1

LEOS



Short introduction

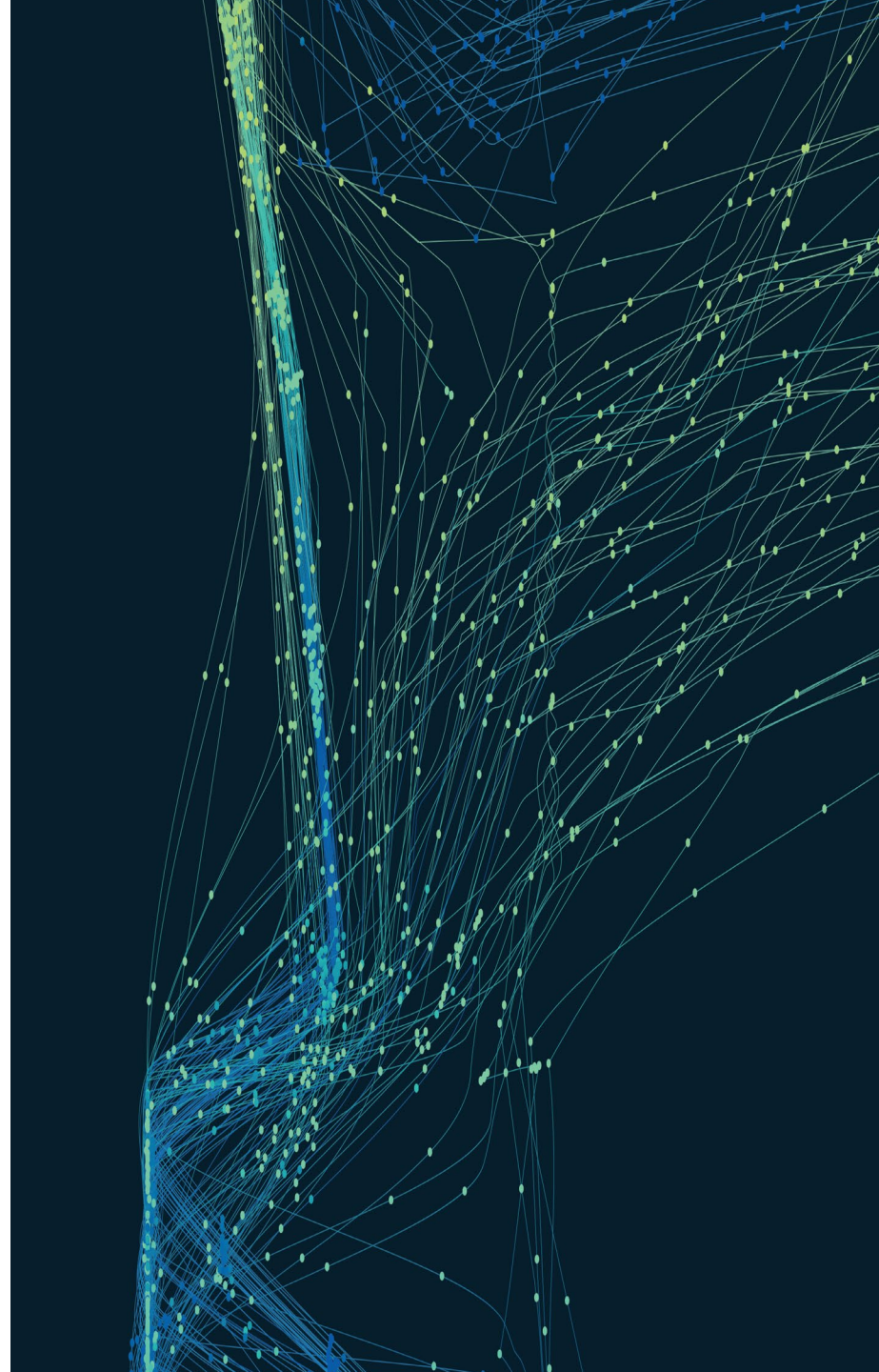


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The LEOS journey



The LEOS open-source journey

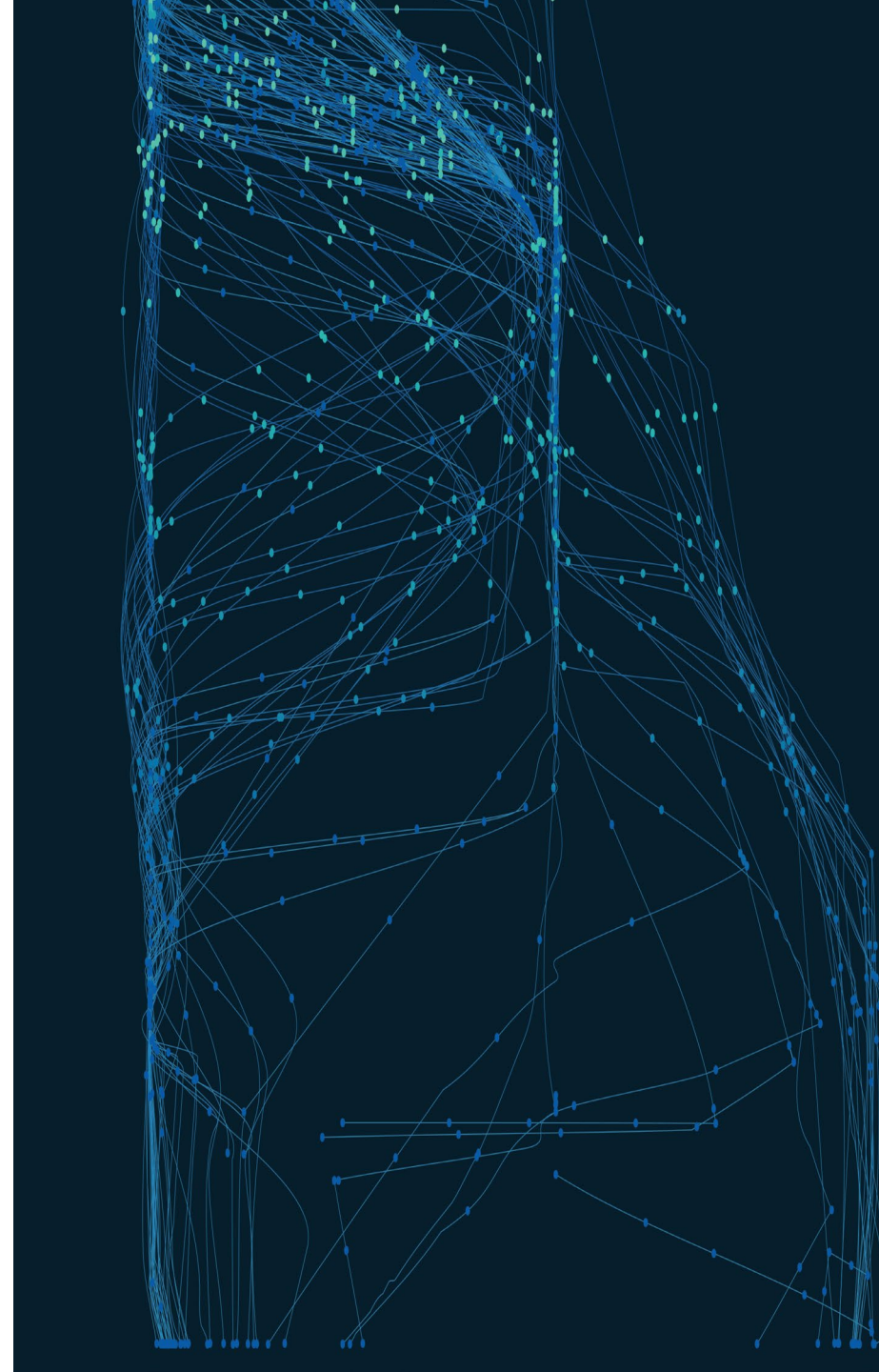


3

Conclusions



Lessons learnt, and what are the next steps





LEOS

A short introduction to

Legislation **E**ditng **O**pen **S**oftware

Challenges in drafting of legislation

- Complex process
- Lots of stakeholders
- Multiple versions circulating
- Collaboration via various tools and practices
(different throughout institutions)
- Styles and formats not always respecting legislative drafting rules
- Limited tools for re-use of texts



Legislation Editing Open Software

- Open-source software that is available for free under [European Union Public Licence](#).
- We foster the uptake of the solution, by providing supporting services to users e.g. training service, workshops etc.
- We support the growth of the open source community built around LEOS.

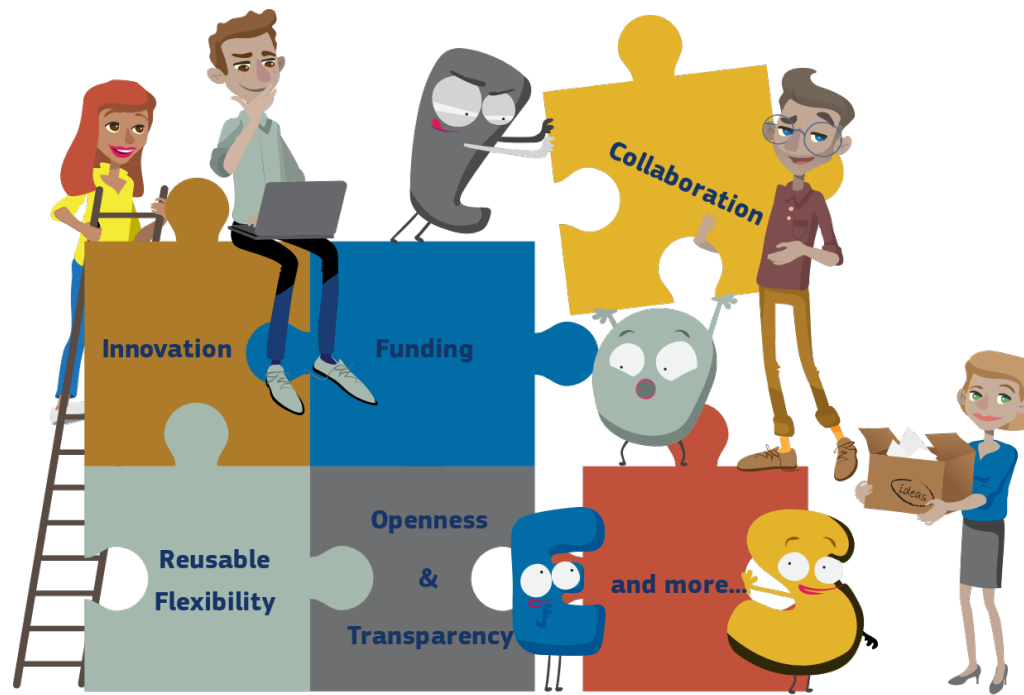


EU funding programmes, the starting point

LEOS was born and evolved under EU funding programmes.

Digital Europe Programme - designed to bridge the gap between digital technology research and market deployment. Benefits Europe's citizens and businesses, especially SMEs.

ISA and ISA² Programme - supported the development of digital solutions that enable public administrations, businesses and citizens in Europe to benefit from interoperable cross-border and cross-sector public services.





The LEOS journey

The LEOS open-source journey



Community management

2018 - 2019

Set-up & launch

Research, design and set up the community environment.

2020

Build

- Attract new members, increase the knowledge base, share success stories.
- The pandemic slowed us down a bit.

2021

Build

- LEOS ambassadors.
- Improve community tools.

2022 - ongoing

Evolve

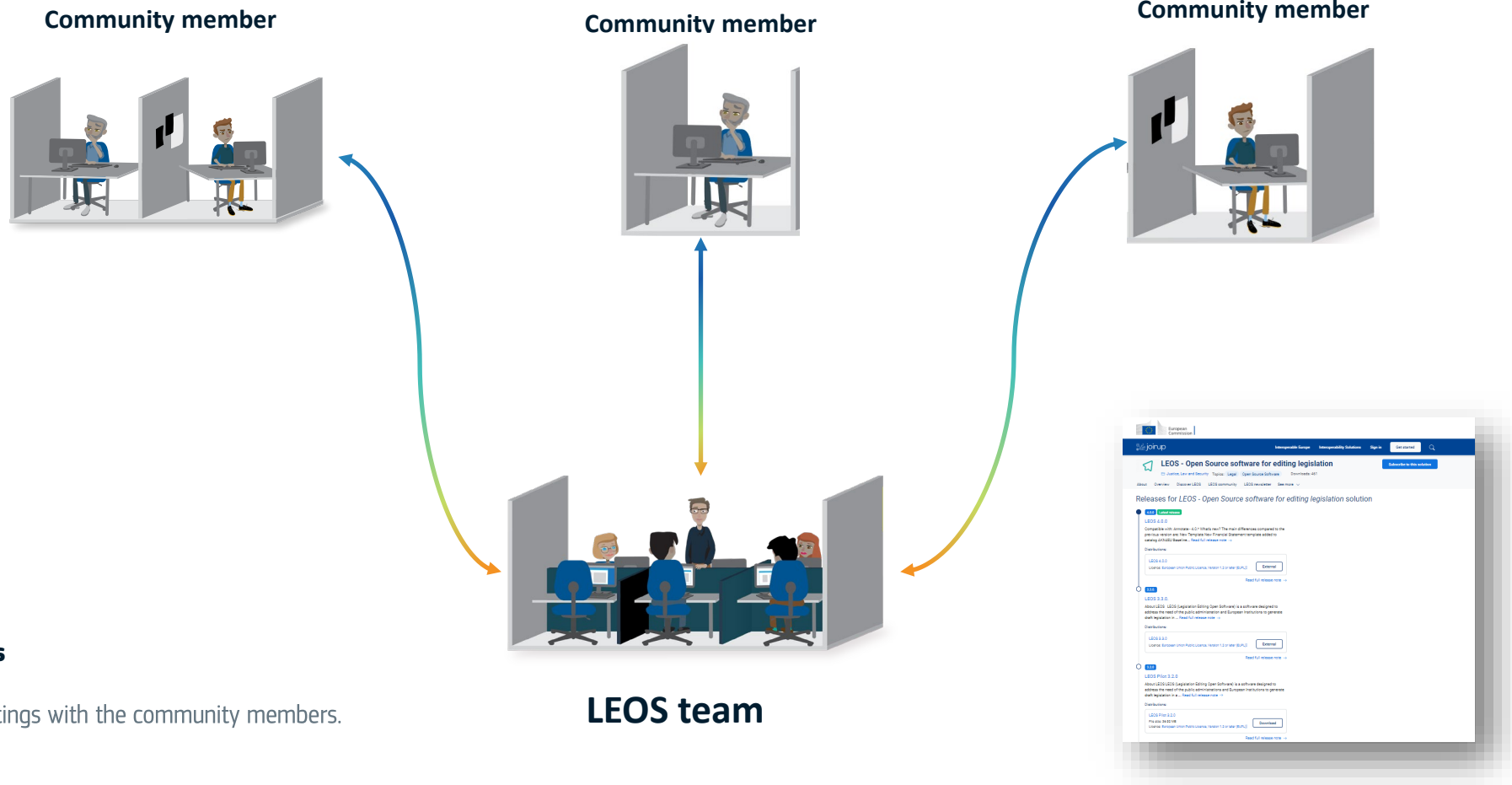
- Migrate to code.europa.eu
- Onboarding of new members supported by existing ones.
- Continuous improvements.

ADHOC

KICK-OFF

MATURITY

Kick-off



Bilateral meetings

Investment in bilateral meetings with the community members.

A few community webinars.

Release on Joinup as .zip.

Challenges

- Diversity (multidisciplinary teams) while working on the first viable product.
- Each of the domains specialists have their own methods, frameworks, vision and technical language.
- Because of this diversity, there is an important risk of misunderstanding of the scope and aim of the project.



What is required

- Clearly and jointly **define the vision** and the concrete aim of the project, which will avoid loss of focus from the goal.
- Use **clear** and **jargon-free terms**.
- Give **short live presentations** on how key elements in the scope of the project work in order to concretely present his/her needs and constraints.



During the development phase, defining and serving priorities are the most difficult tasks, since each specialist family is likely to express its needs according to its own vision.

AGILE

Timing

Consider which elements impact the users and when.

Involve the right people at the right time.

Specialised meetings

Convene only the relevant team members.

Increases efficiency and the feeling of being relevant in a meeting.

Objectives and constraints

For each discipline, identify what are the mandatory objectives and critical constraints.

Kick-off

Maturity

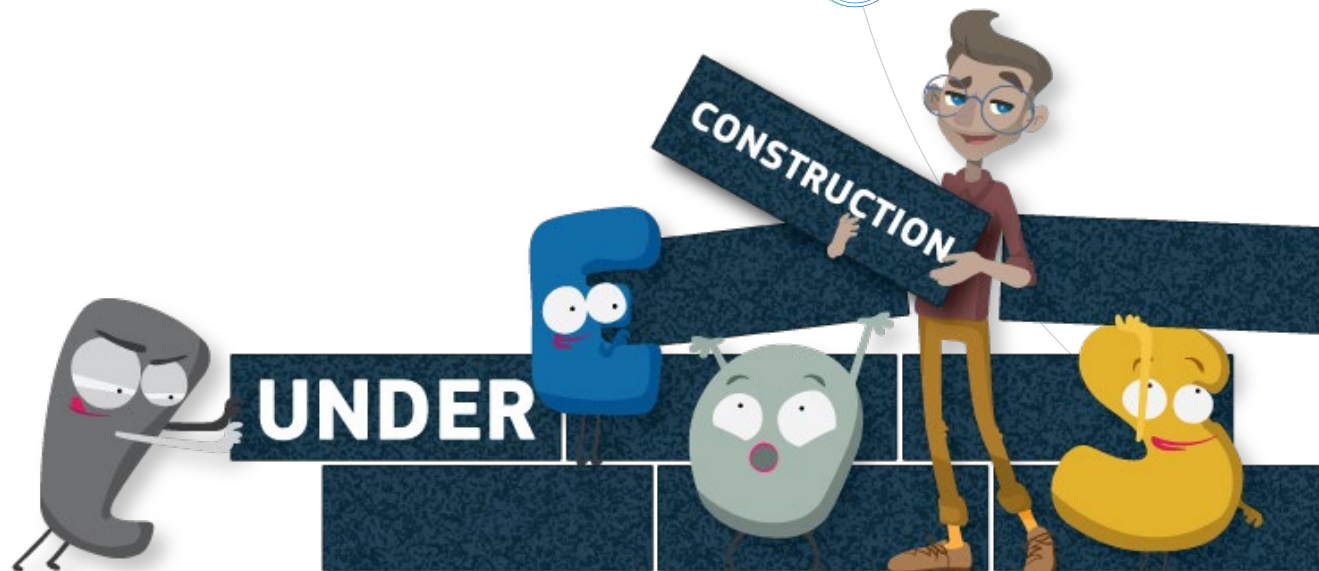
Community management strategy

Define onboarding journey

Service offering

Community platform

Community management deliverables



Kick-off

Maturity

User from Spain: LEOS will help us make the drafting of legal texts more efficient



Interview with Carlos Fernandez, Project Manager at Ministry of the Presidency, Relations with the Parliament and Democratic Memory, Spain

LEOS is a software tool helping those involved in drafting legislation, which is usually a complex process requiring efficient online collaboration. Comments, suggestions, version control, co-edition, everything is possible with LEOS. The software was released as open source and has developed a growing community around. One of the active community members and a user of LEOS is Carlos Fernandez from the Spanish Ministry of the Presidency, Relations with the Parliament and Democratic Memory.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and the ministry?

My institution is, among other things, responsible for the quality of drafting legal texts generated by Spanish government and relations with the Parliament and the Senate. In our department, we manage all information systems used to fulfil these responsibilities, and LEOS will help us make the drafting of legal texts more efficient.

As a project manager of LEOS in Spain, I am responsible for the organisation of the necessary resources. I ensure that everybody involved in the project can contribute with their specific skills to define and develop the requirements for LEOS in our administration.

How did you find out about LEOS?

At the ministry, we needed a tool to support the activities of our office responsible for the quality of drafting legal texts.

We searched for open source tools used in the European Union and LEOS arose as the best option.

LEOS as an educational tool for public administrators



Dr. Fotis Fitisilis, Head of the Department for Scientific Documentation and Supervision, Scientific Service of the Hellenic Parliament

Legislation Editing Open Software (LEOS) is a free software tool that facilitates the editing/reviewing of legislative texts and generates legislation produced in an interoperable format. Dr. Fotis Fitisilis, member of the Scientific Service in the Hellenic Parliament, used LEOS to educate the future generations of public officials.

Legislative drafting is guided by principles and tradition, but the digital dimension is rapidly gaining significance. Legislatures, lawmakers and legal professionals gradually discover legal informatics as a scientific field capable of producing tools and services that have the potential to offer substantial assistance in the law making process.

The Hellenic National School of Public Administration and Local Government was among the first at a global scale to identify the need to educate the future generations of public officials in legal informatics patterns and tools. A legislative drafting laboratory was developed and the pilot course with ten students of the 'digital policy' special section took place in Spring/Summer term 2020. The Lab was based on a detailed, modular and hence reusable curriculum and was supported by a comprehensive manual exclusively developed for the purpose.

Dr. Fotis Fitisilis, member of the Scientific Service in the Hellenic Parliament and team leader of the Hellenic OCR Team, a crowdsourcing initiative for the processing and analysis of parliamentary data, designed and led the laboratory. Teaching included, among others, introduction to legislative drafting and discussion of legal informatics principles.

The use of XML for the generation of structured legal documents was explained as well as recent developments in ontologies and data schemes. In this regard, the European Interoperability Framework was shown, followed by a detailed analysis of the European Legislation Identifier and the Akoma Ntoso standard. A series of case studies displaying such systems at the European Union level and in the United States Congress was also presented.

LEOS ambassadors

LEOS ambassadors crucial for the growth and maturity of the community.

EC Open Source Programme Office help with the open source practices and culture had a huge positive impact.



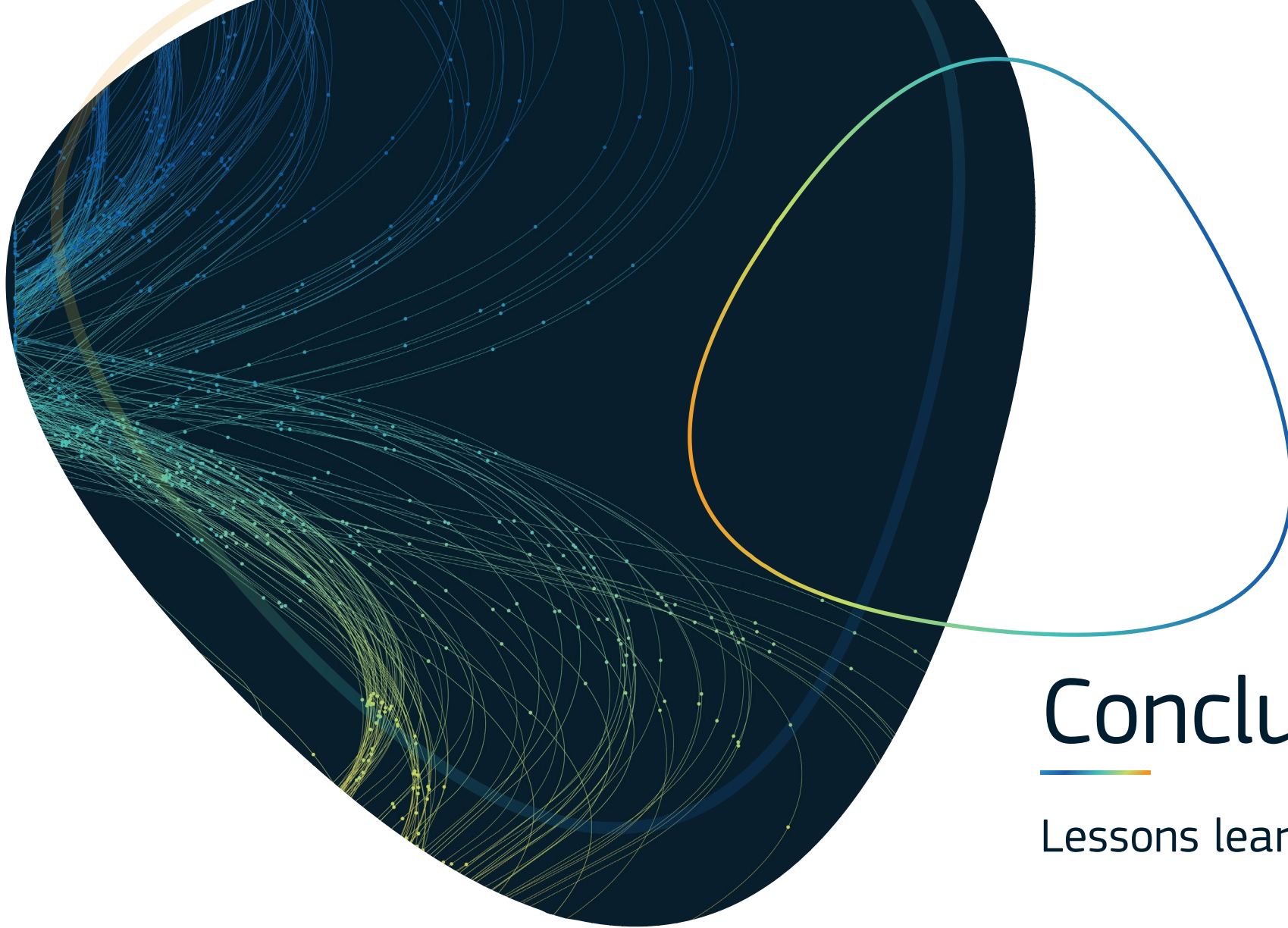
Kick-off

Maturity

Self-sustainability

Self-sustainability

The phase where the involvement of community members is more prominent, the community could self-manage the main activities.



Conclusions

Lessons learnt and next steps



LEOS starts as a project to help on the digitisation

Entering in the new era of the digital transformation

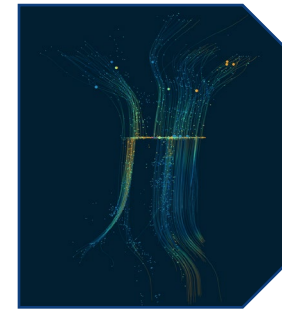
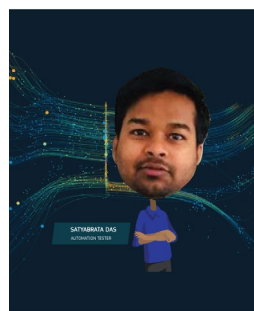
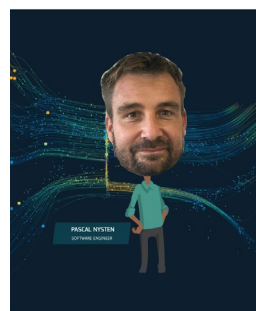
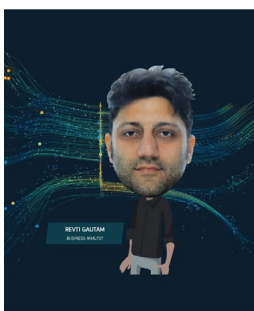
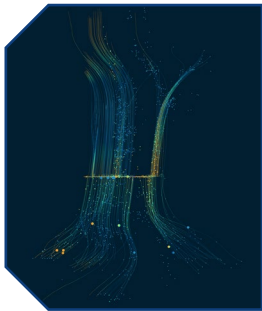
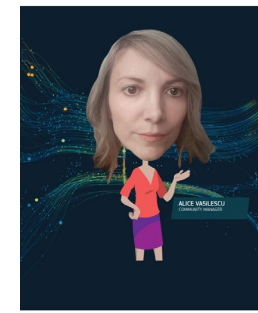
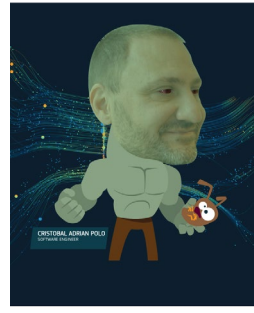
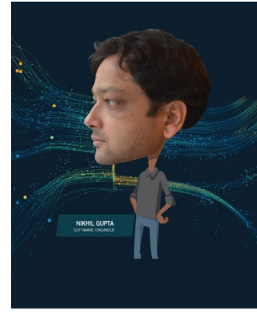
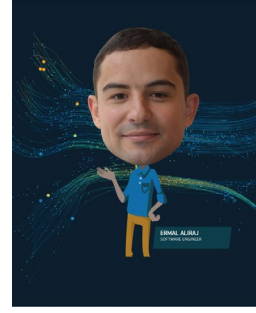
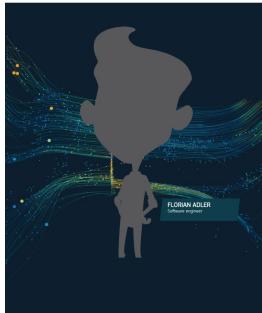
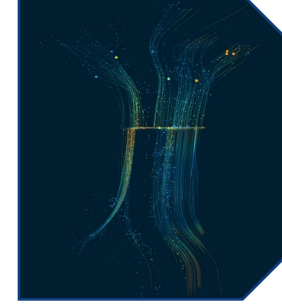
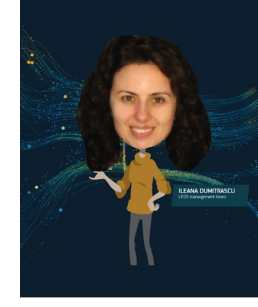
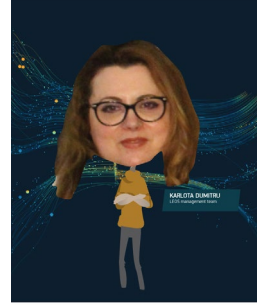
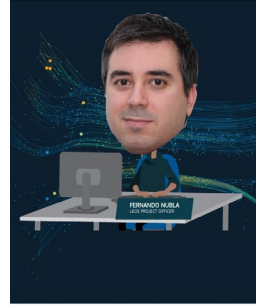
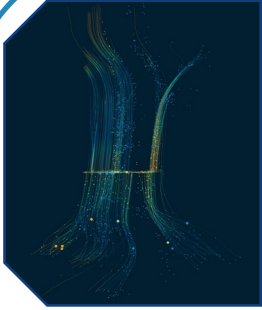
- New ecosystem of tools
- Explore new ways of legislation drafting

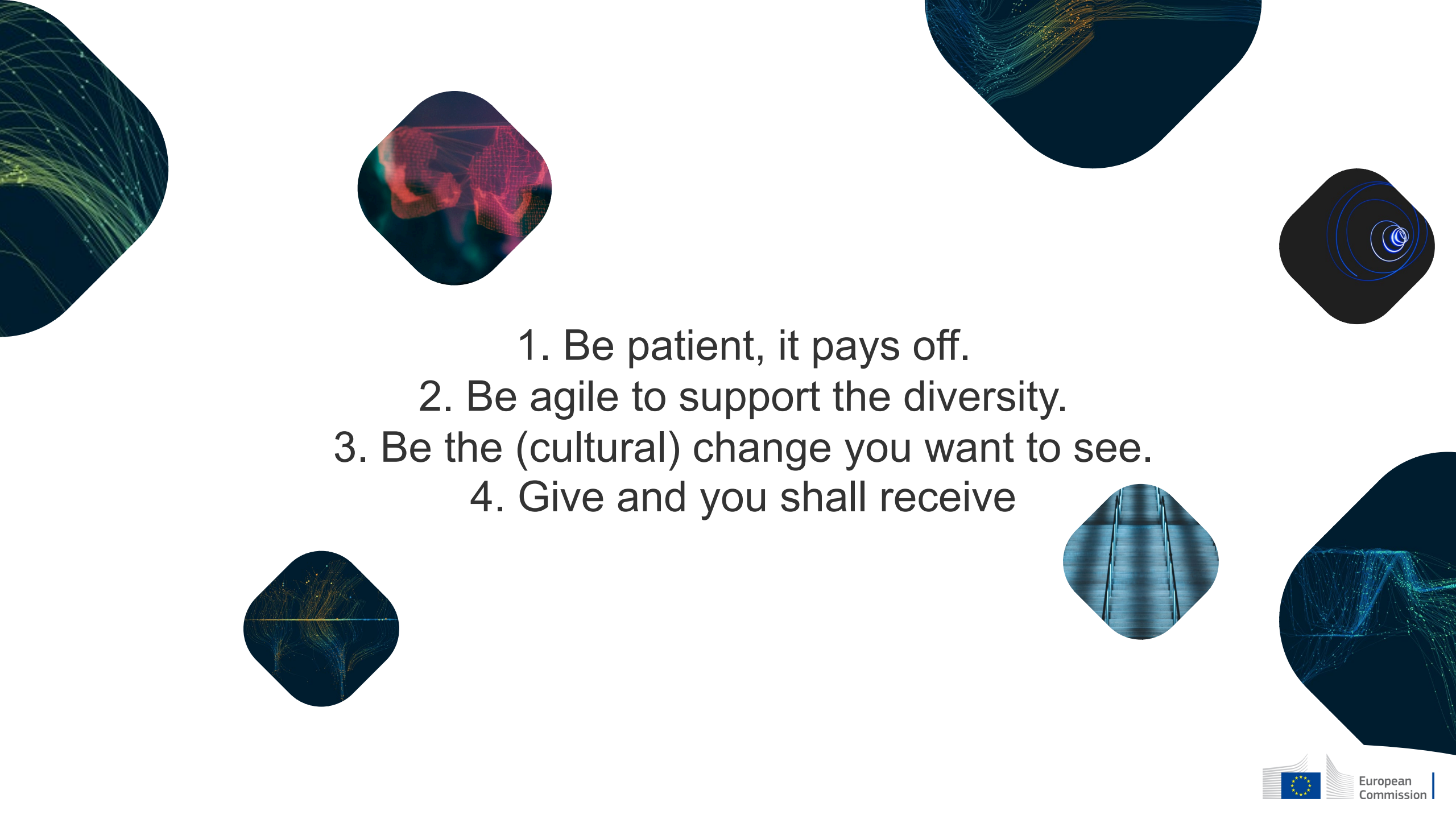
The “open source effect”



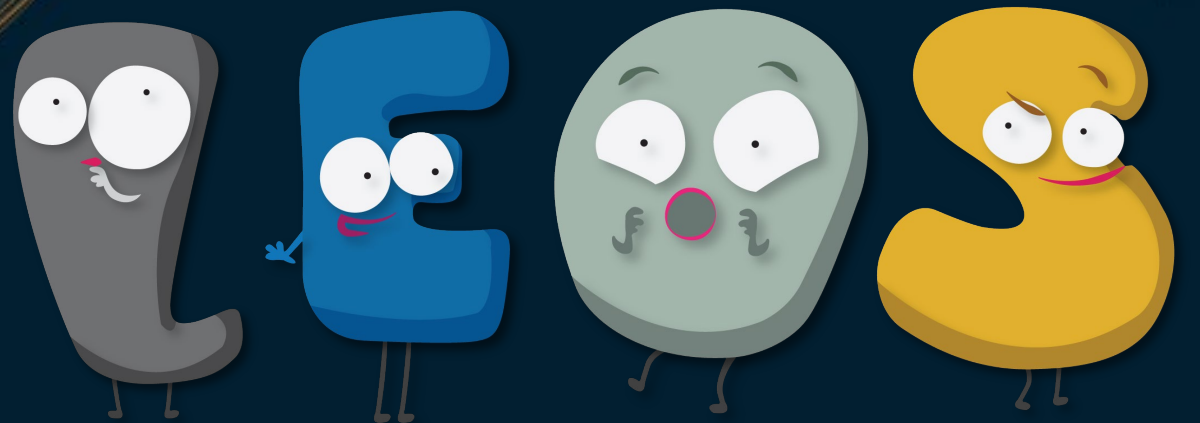
- Pushes the development team to code using standard practices and write better code.
- More people involved, more ideas, higher chances for innovation.
- Project ambassadors help with the promotion.
- The team gets more visibility, more recognition, a better work experience.
- A happy visible team attracts better talent.

LEOS core Team



- 
1. Be patient, it pays off.
 2. Be agile to support the diversity.
 3. Be the (cultural) change you want to see.
 4. Give and you shall receive

Thank you





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innovation ∞ govtech ∞ community

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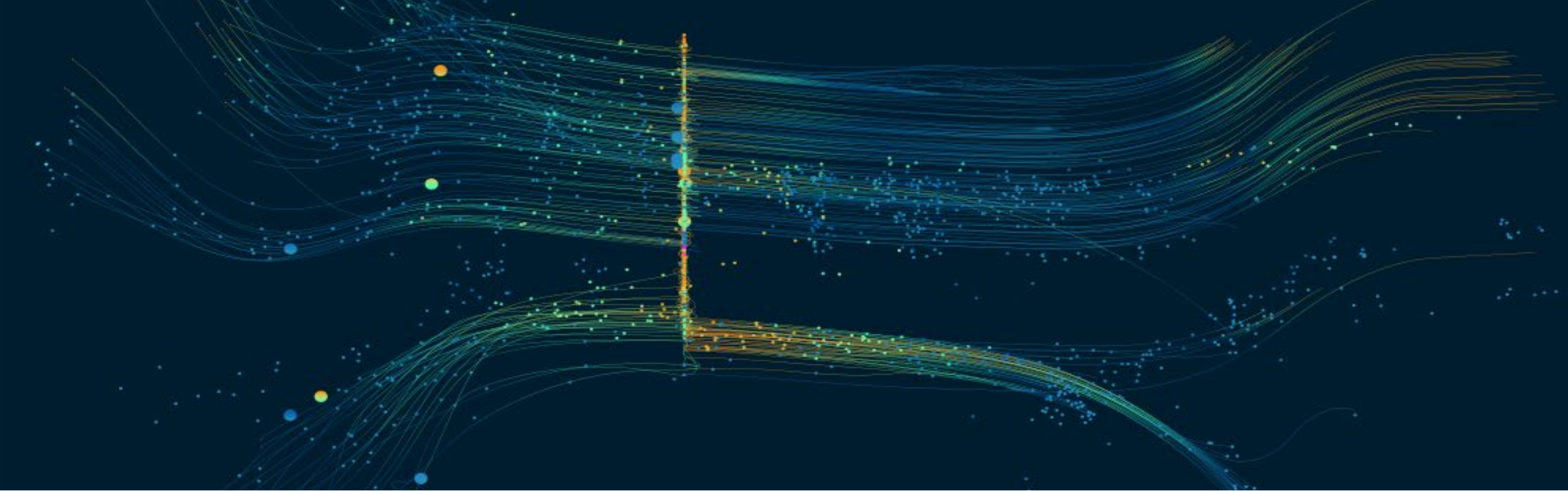


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