

NMCAs and GEO-COMMONS, a way for a sustainable and sovereign future at the European scale?

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IGNF RESPONSE TO
[EU CALL FOR
EVIDENCE
"TOWARDS
EUROPEAN OPEN
DIGITAL
ECOSYSTEMS"](#)
[JANUARY &
FEBRUARY 2026](#)

EUROSDR INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON EXPLORING THE NEW
FRONTIERS OF VOLUNTEERED GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (VGI) -
31 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER 2026





I. OPEN SOURCE & DIGITAL COMMONS

OPEN-SOURCE STRENGTHS

CREATE ALTERNATIVES

Proprietary software

- **Lock-in** effect

Open-source

- **Alternative** to closed models
- Sovereignty

ROI OF OPEN SOURCE

Business **continuity**

Reduce the costs of **licences**

Pool developments and avoid duplication of costs

Direct **access to the developers** of the project

Open source helps to **standardise**

OPEN-SOURCE LIMITS

LACK OF OPEN-SOURCE COMMUNITIES

Cases of open-source solution with no community of contributors

LACK OF COORDINATION

Difficult to synchronise open-source community around a **shared vision**

The European open-source sector is **fragmented**

FROM OPEN-SOURCE TO **DIGITAL COMMONS**

DIGITAL COMMONS GO FURTHER THAN OPEN SOURCE

Influence
functionalities

Co-building a code in
an open community

NEED FOR DIGITAL COMMONS

To create a sovereign
technological capacity

DIGITAL COMMONS **STRENGTHS**

DEFINITION

An open
resource
governed by a
community

POOLING RESOURCES

Community
members are
players of the
digital common

SOVEREIGN RESOURCE

Absence of
ownership

No appropriation

Commercial uses

Public & private
players

DIGITAL COMMONS GOVERNANCE & FUNDING

Digital
Commons:
key tools to
sovereignty

Digital
Commons
sustainability:
governance &
funding

We recommend a **strategic steering of Digital Commons** by EU

- European **calls** for projects
- **Stimulate** sovereign digital commons
- Fund **basic building blocks**

European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (**EDIC**) for Digital Commons

EuroCommons initiative

**II.
FOCUS ON THE
GEOSPATIAL SECTOR**

THE **GEOSPATIAL** SECTOR

RESPOND TO SOVEREIGN NEEDS

**Knowledge of the
territory**

Production of
essential data
e.g. environmental

Geodesy:
locate in time and space

INVEST IN THE GEOSPATIAL SECTOR

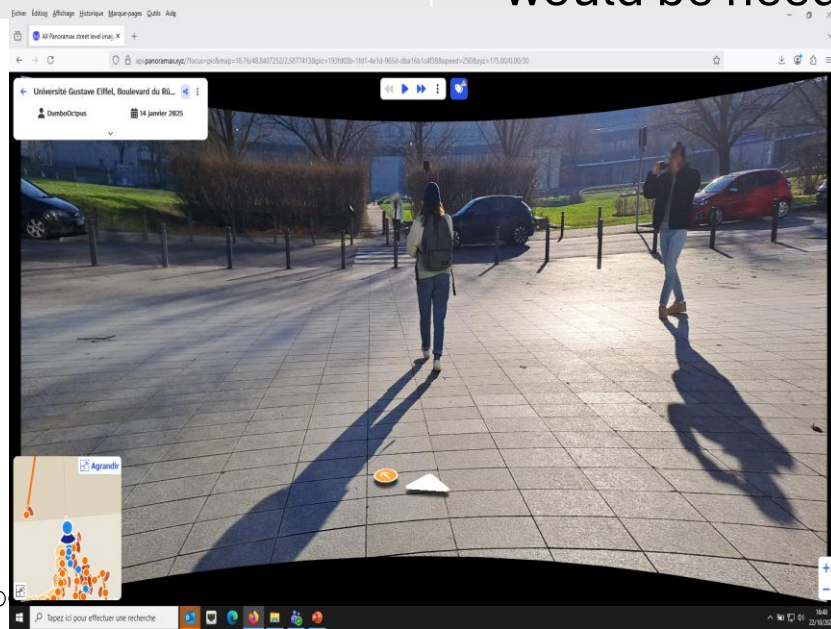
Master geospatial
stages and **tools**

Technology	Initiative	Comments
GIS software – map editing	QGIS	+ Alternative to proprietary solutions - Some functionalities missing - Ease of use, ergonomic design
Geographical database management syst.	PostgreSQL-PostGIS	+ Alternative to proprietary solutions - Components integration
Data visualisation 2D/3D	Itowns https://www.itowns-project.org/	+ High-performance 3D rendering - Lack of European players, now mainly French



Draft list of Existing Digital Commons in the Geospatial Sector (cont.)

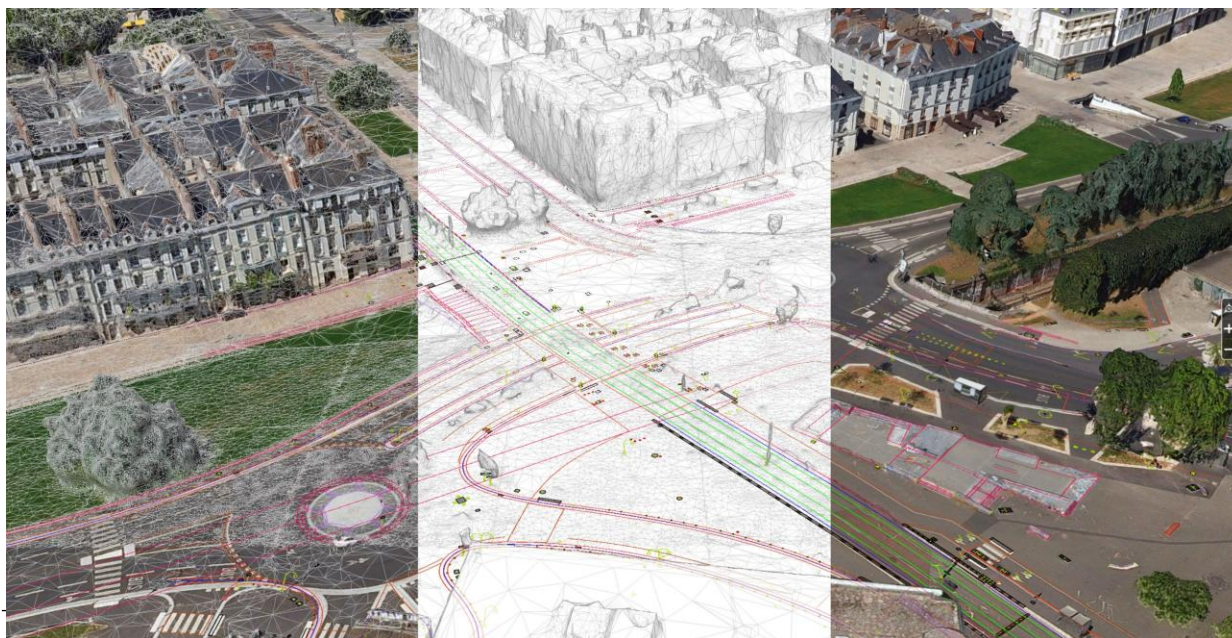
Technology	Initiative	Comments
Crowd sourced geospatial data	OpenStreetMap (OSM)	- Worldwide coverage - ODbL with share alike provision ≠ HVD licences used by many administrations & NMCA's
Immersive Streetview	Panoramax https://panoramax.fr/	- Decentralised system: Europe, America, Asia. - A larger community of contributors would be needed



Open-Source Components

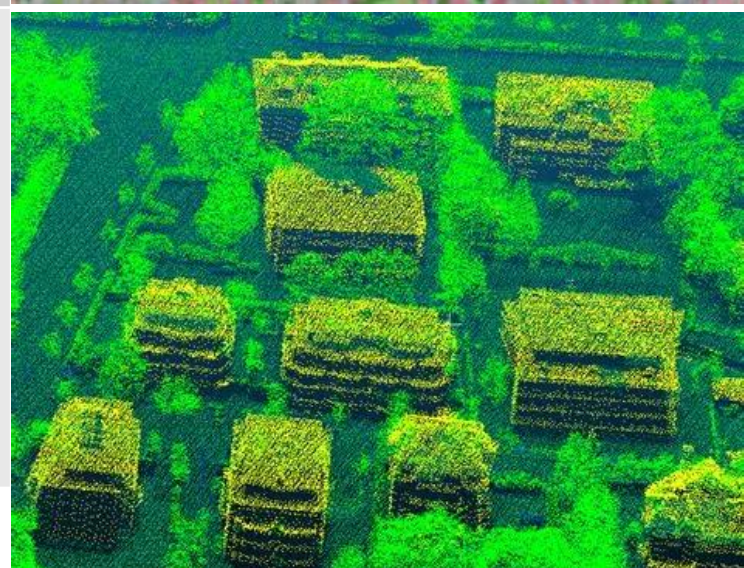
Proposed by **IGNF** to become Digital Commons

Technology	Initiative	What is missing to scale up?
Geospatial data sharing and processing platform	Geoplatform https://github.com/geoplatform	Promote the creation of an open-source community for this technology
Technical base for territorial digital twins	JUNN https://junn-france.fr/	• Sustainable business model • Deploying innovative solutions in thematic projects



Open-Source **AI** Components proposed by IGNF to become Digital Commons

Technology	Initiative	What is missing to scale up?
AI models for territorial recognition	AI Model “CosIA” https://cosia.ign.fr Flair Challenge Dataset: https://huggingface.co/IGNF	Integrate a greater diversity of territories that can be recognised by the model, especially in Europe.
Lidar Point Cloud Processing Software on a European scale	Point Cloud Classification Component “Myria3D” https://github.com/IGNF/myria3d	Promote the creation of an open-source community for this technology.



CONCLUSION: EUROPE GEOSPATIAL SOVEREIGNTY

Currently Europe is **dependent** in geospatial

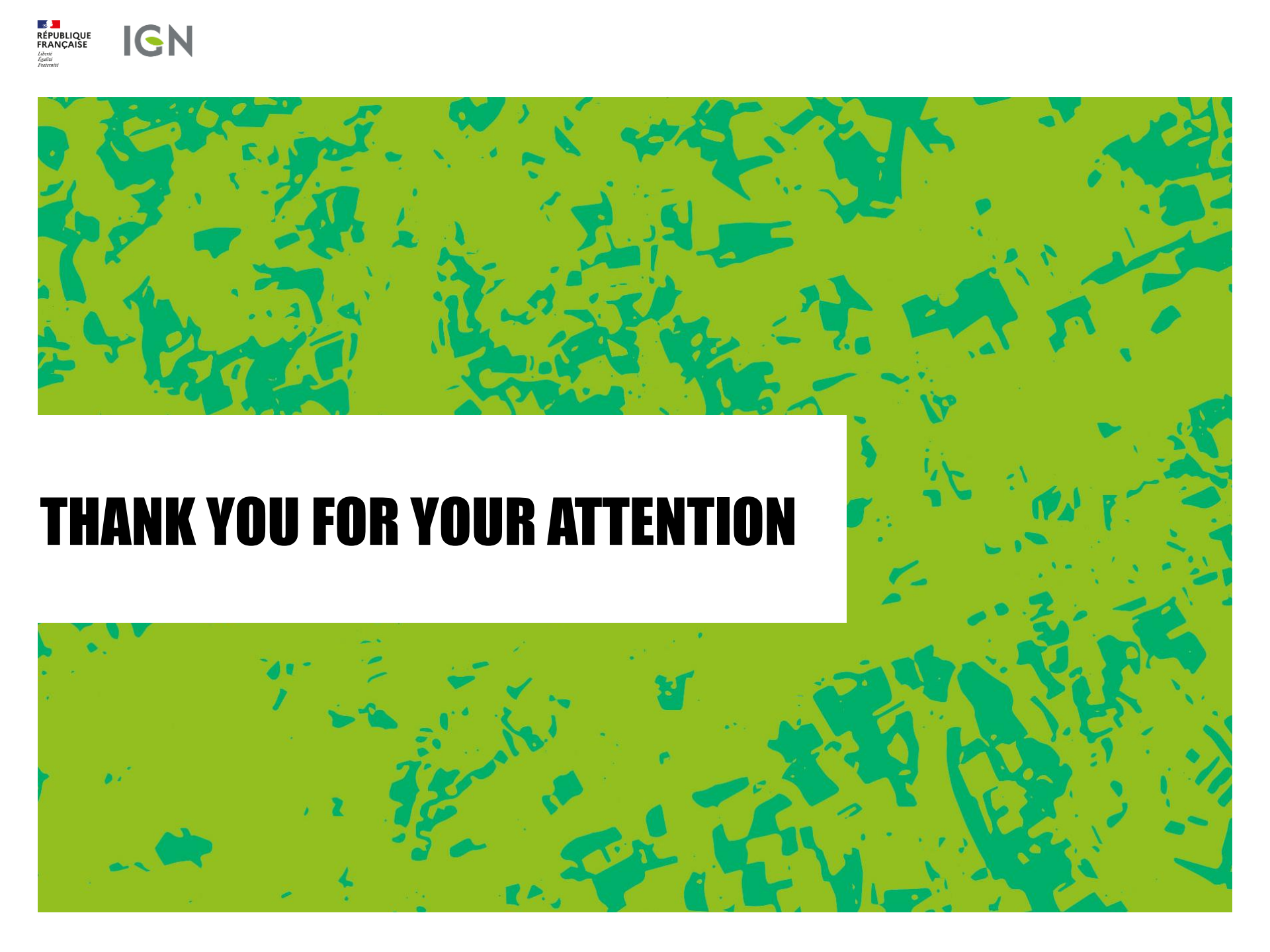
Important for Europe to be **sovereign** over geospatial

We recommend the **EU Open-Source Strategy** includes a geospatial component

Bring together European geospatial players

Promote **pooling** of resources

NMCAs and other geospatial players **shared technical resources** and new tools



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION