



**NEXT  
GENERATION  
INTERNET**  
INTERNET OF HUMANS



The Next Generation Internet is a **European Commission** initiative.



*Open Source Software for Information Systems*



# NGI0 Commons Fund

## Funding FOSS and Commons

with NGI EU cascade funding, open to all

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# SFSCON

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# NGIO Commons in a nutshell

European  
Foundations



Arnhem  
University



Tolerant  
Networks

# 21.6 MEUR

for EU FOSS community  
~400 projects / 3 years  
( The biggest EU FOSS fund ever?)

FOSS / Open Models  
Commons based on public goods  
Privacy, Trust, Civil rights,  
Internet neutrality, Inclusiveness,  
Social impact...

# How does it **WORK**?



▶ 1.000+ projects funded in 5 years

The Next Generation Internet is a **European Commission** initiative.

▶ 80% never received EU funding before

▶ Time frame: **12 to 18 months** max. (vs. 4 years avg. / Horizon)

▶ Addressing “the internet stack” (at large)

▶ Network, DNS, P2P, VPN, auth, protocols

▶ OS, virtualization, monitoring, open hardware

▶ Privacy, cryptography, id. mngt, abuse

▶ Data, AI, blockchain, search

▶ Collaboration, chat, mail, video

▶ + Commons based on public goods

▶ Focus on **technology**

ActivityPub, BigBlueButton, Cryptpad, F-Droid, IPFS, Jitsi, LibreOffice, Libre SOC, Matrix, NextCloud, NixOS, OpenPGP, Peertube, RISC V Phone, Scion, SSI, Tor, Thunderbird, Wireguard, Wordpress, XWiki...

Mastodon, Open Food Facts, Open Street Map, Panoramax, Software Heritage, e.Foundation...

## A cascade funding mechanism

- ▶ Continuous open calls
  - ▶ Projects selection by NLnet foundation (+ consortium)
- ▶ Lightweight application (web form)
  - ▶ Tell us **what you want to do!**
- ▶ Open to ALL
  - ▶ SMEs, academics, public sector, individuals...
- ▶ Funding 5k to 50k EUR
  - ▶ Max. 500 kEUR cumulative

Make it Generic and  
Reusable / Standalone

# NGIO Commons **Community** roles



NGIO LEADER  
Open Calls  
+  
Grant management

- ▶ Est. 1982
  - ▶ NL internet access point
- ▶ FOSS funding since 1997
  - ▶ Purchase by UUnet / Verizon
- ▶ Mission
  - ▶ Support independent organizations and people that contribute to an open information society.



Ecosystem  
Building

- ▶ Est. 2007
- ▶ Professional open source software
  - ▶ Companies, academics, public sector, individuals
- ▶ Mission
  - ▶ Host and promote open source projects, foster a professional ecosystem, advocate for FOSS.

# WHAT is it for?



## NGI0 Commons main goal

► Help deliver, mature and scale new **internet commons** across the whole technology spectrum, from libre silicon to middleware, from P2P infrastructure to convenient end user applications.

relying on

► **Open models:** FOSS, open hardware, open standards, open data & AI, open science, creative commons and open educational resources.

Massive data collection, “Trusts” (GAFAM...),  
Algorithms pushing ahead hate or  
misinformation, Appropriation of public assets,  
Filtering abuses...

Mass surveillance, Spying,  
Propaganda, Civil rights violations,  
Lobbying/corruption to affect laws,  
Attacks on journalists or activists...

“The answer to **market failure** and **dystopian runaway technology** lies in **collective action** and **public investment**.” (NLnet)

## Vision for EU: towards sovereignty / resilience

- ▶ Commons, but based on public goods
  - ▶ Open source is a public good (not a common)
- ▶ Sovereignty and resilience depend on model / governance
  - ▶ Open Street Map and Google Maps are commons
    - ▶ OSM based on public goods (FOSS / open data)
    - ▶ Google Maps based on private goods (“pseudo-infrastructure”)
  - ▶ An overloaded common requires governance
    - ▶ Temptation to go private (“tragedy of the commons”)
- ▶ The rich and complex ecosystem makes it possible
  - ▶ “Things must be done as simple as possible, but not simpler” (Einstein)

Resource	Excludable	Non excludable
Rivalrous (scarcity)	Private good	Common
Non rivalrous	Club good	Public good

OSM (3 employees UK and a community) is not a “counter-example” but the realisation of an “ideal-type”:

**Another STORY!**

## And the citizen?

- ▶ Code is law (L. Lessig / 2000!)
  - ▶ Access to rights / technology not neutral
- ▶ Commons
  - ▶ Sovereignty / resilience
  - ▶ Public services (virtualized)
    - ▶ Open formats, explainable algorithms
    - ▶ “Public money / public code”
- ▶ Sustainable IT
- ▶ Civil liberties
  - ▶ Privacy, Internet neutrality
- ▶ Cooperation / knowledge sharing
  - ▶ Open models : education, data, science, hardware...
  - ▶ Social economy

Code is a  
political object

Now... Let's start!



<https://nlnet.nl/commonsfund/>

- ▶ Need NGI0 Commons funding?
  - ▶ Flash QR-code
  - ▶ Fill-in form!
- ▶ More questions?
  - ▶ Meet **CW2** on booth

Thank you! (And thanks **SFSCON**)