

Synergising Digital Public Infrastructure and Digital Commons for Sustainable Development

Overview



Digital Public Infrastructure is one of the key priorities under **India's G20 Presidency** in 2023



The EU recently introduced **Digital Commons** as a new governance model of digital resources



Both **Digital Public Infrastructure** and **Digital Commons** have potentials for advancing **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**



Pressing need to align and establish **shared visions** of Digital Public Infrastructure and Digital Commons to **advance SDGs**

This synergy will contribute to the ongoing discussions surrounding the **UN Global Digital Compact**, planned for agreement during the **Summit of the Future** in September 2024

India's approach to Digital Public Infrastructure

- **Definition:** Open and interoperable technologies enabling essential functions for both public and private service delivery
- **Aims:**
 - To achieve development goals & SDGs
 - To enhance public and private service delivery ("decentralised", "open API", "interoperable networks")
 - To take back control from big techs
- **Approach:** Public-private partnerships & platform-like roles
- **Examples:** India Stack (e.g. Aadhaar, Unified Payment Interface)
- **Limitations:**
 - Predominantly influenced by for-profit sectors
 - Lacking robust regulations

The EU's approach to Digital Commons

- **Definition:** Digital resources generated and/or managed online, promoting open access and fair digital management rights among members
- **Aims:**
 - To promote the EU's values and norms and bridge geographical gaps
 - To counter the dominance of big techs
 - To accelerate SDGs
- **Approach:** Modernising regulatory frameworks
- **Examples:** EU Next Generation Internet
- **Limitations:**
 - Limited available initiatives or practice
 - Lacking an alternative (regulatory) model that would safeguard the EU's values and norms

Synergising Digital Public Infrastructure and Digital Commons



Both **Digital Public Infrastructure** and **Digital Commons** should be designed and implemented as **Digital Public Goods** to advance SDGs



Global efforts to create digital public goods as a **critical step** in advancing progress towards SDGs



G20 offers a platform for **knowledge sharing, consensus building** on how to implement Digital Public Infrastructure and Digital Commons as digital public goods **on a global scale**



Recommendations for the G20:

- Establishing a joint understanding of core principles and values that govern digital resources
- Focusing on a broader supportive ecosystems for Digital Public Infrastructure/Digital Commons

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Contact

Vy Dang

Researcher

German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

vy.dang@idos-research.de

www.idos-research.de



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