



Open WebSearch

# Governance Towards an Open Web Index

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Open Web Search



Funded by  
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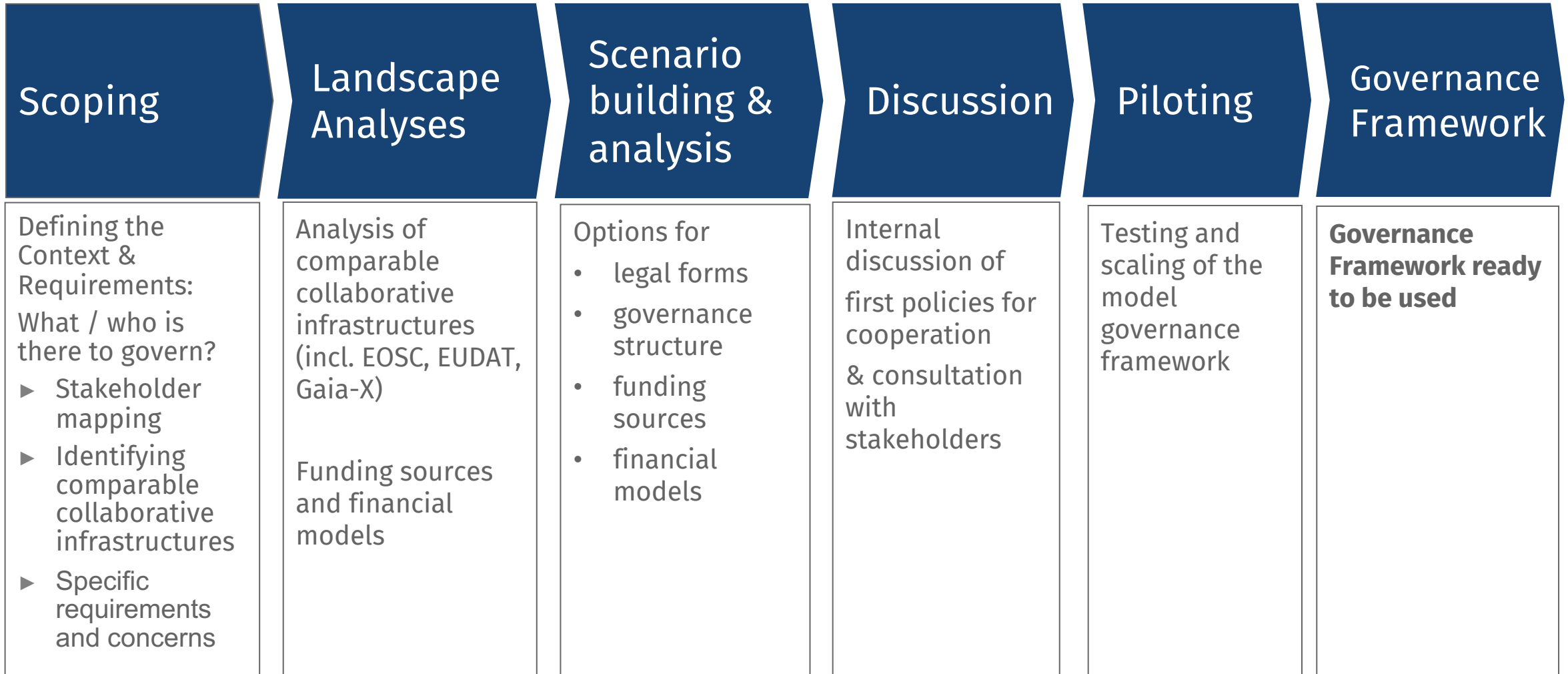
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# Contribution of Governance to the OWS.eu Project

- The OWS.eu aims to build an Open Web Index which is public good and moderated transparently in a cooperative and distributed network
- Our Task is establishing a governance framework for **federated operation, data assets & the open source software**
- This involves a multitude of ethical, legal, societal, cultural, economic, ecological and awareness dimensions

# Overview of activities



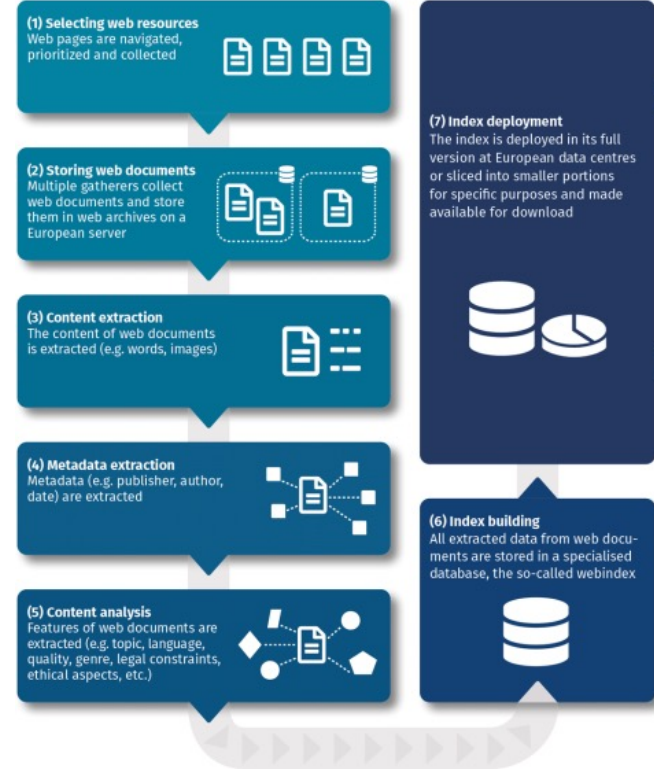
# Scoping: What is there to govern?



- Federated **infrastructure**
- **Data** assets (Open web index & other data products)
- Open source **software**
- **Services** (search applications)

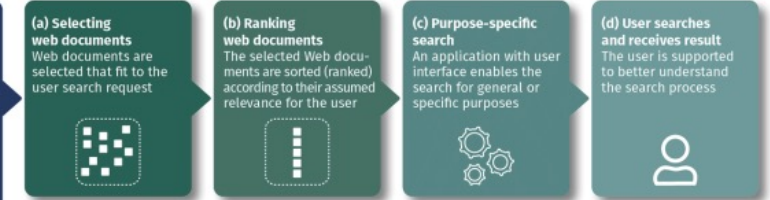
## Index Generation

Web resources are selected and retrieved, their content and metadata are analysed, and all data stored in the index database.



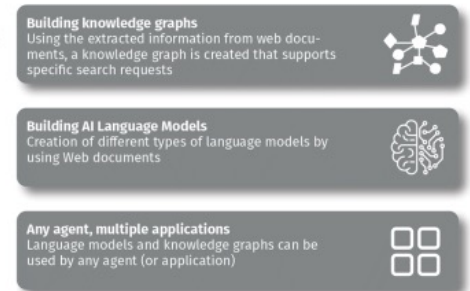
## Search Applications

A user search request will be answered by a search application that makes use of the open web index.



## Data Products

Knowledge representation models will be created using the open web index, in order to be used by any agent and for many applications



# Specific requirements for the governance

The vision of the initiative is to make the core of the open web index a **public good**, available to everyone.

- collaborative
- independent from unbalanced influence
- ethical, open and create trust
- based in the EU
- support decentralized decision-making and governance structures
- allowing for participation from various stakeholders across different EU-countries



## Requirements

- EU legal entity, EU Member State jurisdiction
- Non-profit
- Open and transparent governance
- Limited liability
- Possibility to receive EU and Member states funding
- Different levels of membership?

## Options for Open Web Search

- National legal forms
  - (Not-for profit) limited liability company
  - Non-profit association / NGO
- EU legal form
  - European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC)
  - Joint Undertaking (JU)
  - Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI)
- Other options
  - Collaborative agreement
  - MoU

# Future options



## Short-term

- MoU or other agreement between partners

## Mid-term

- Follow up project (2025-)
- Limited liability company / Association (for transition)

## Long-Term

- EDIC, JU, IPCEI
- EU programme
- EU Agency

# Funding Models

## Requirements

- Combination of funding sources
  - Public (EU, Member States)
  - Private
  - Sales, fees
- Coverage of High Upfront-Costs
- Infrastructure needs to stay public

→ can't become purely commercial



## Options for Open Web Search

- Membership fees
- Subscription fees / Sales
- EU Programmes
- Project Funding (Horizon Europe)
  
- Further additional sources (donations...)?



# Governance structures

## Core

### → **STRATEGIC:**

General assembly, council (members)

### → **EXECUTIVE:**

Board (elected by the members)

OPERATIONAL Secretariat

### → **STEERING / ADVISORY:**

Advisory board (no decision making power)

## Additional bodies and layers

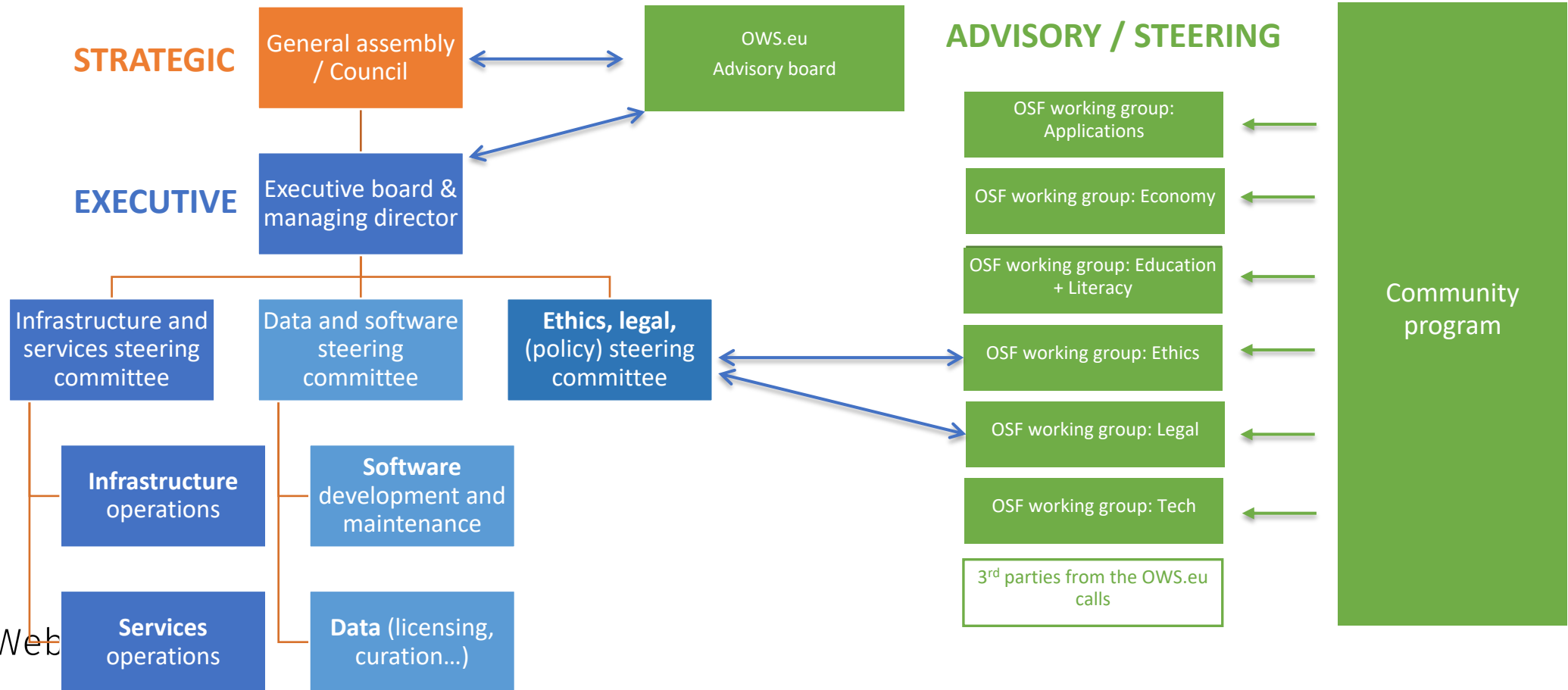
### → **Community**

OSF Working Groups

Community Programme

### → **Further working groups / committees in different bodies**

# Example governance structure



# Community program

## → **Mattermost channel**

OWS-community

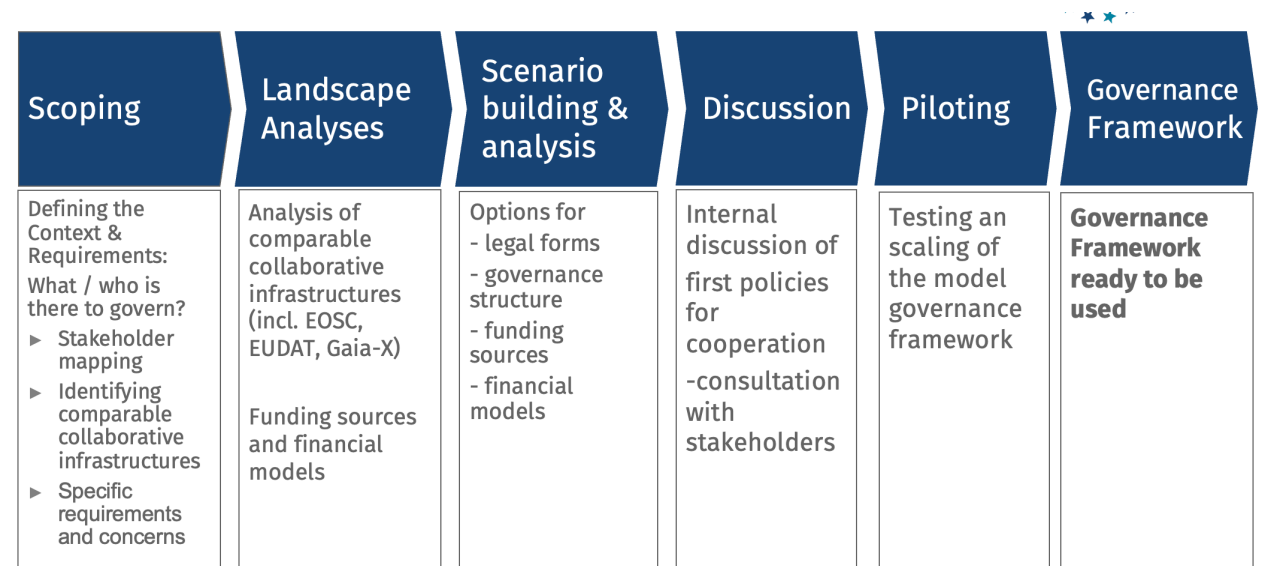
## → **Monthly Community Update**

First update on 6th of November 16:00-16:45 CET

## → **Stakeholder event in Brussels, spring 2024**

# Next steps

- Building the model governance framework
  - Workshops
  - Engaging with stakeholders
- Piloting a model governance framework (March-August 2024)
- MoU or other agreement between partners





**Thank you!**

**Feel free to contact us in case of questions or comments!**

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**on Mattermost through the OWS-community channel! 😊**

[OpenWebSearch.eu](https://www.openwebsearch.eu)

