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MUNICIPAL COLLABORATION ON OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE

- Why is it so hard?

Why is it so hard?

- Lack of internal capabilities and dependency on external resources
- Uncertainties and lack of practice in considering OSS in an acquisition and procurement process
- Discoverability of OSS options in the planning-phase of an acquisition (see http://offentligkod.se!)
- Locked-in to a proprietary technology, standard, platform, or ecosystems since before
- Glances at neighboring municipalities and copies procurement structure

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Why is it so hard?

- Uncertainties and fear for legal and security-related risks
- Cultural challenges in terms of risk aversiveness, short-term horizons, focus on own municipality
- Lack of sustainable political support and clear policies
- No coordination or organization in acquisition process nor development and maintenance stages
- …

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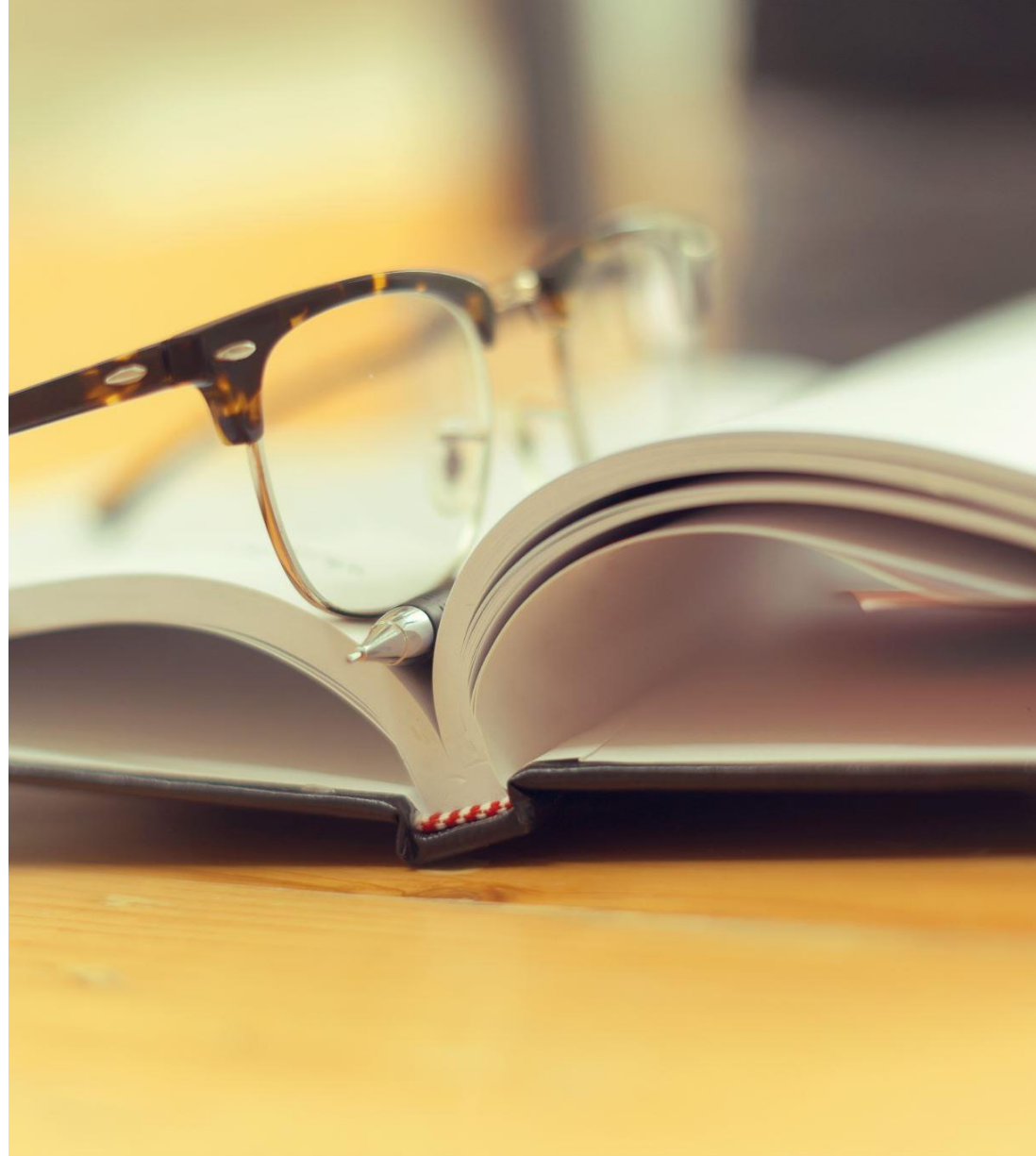
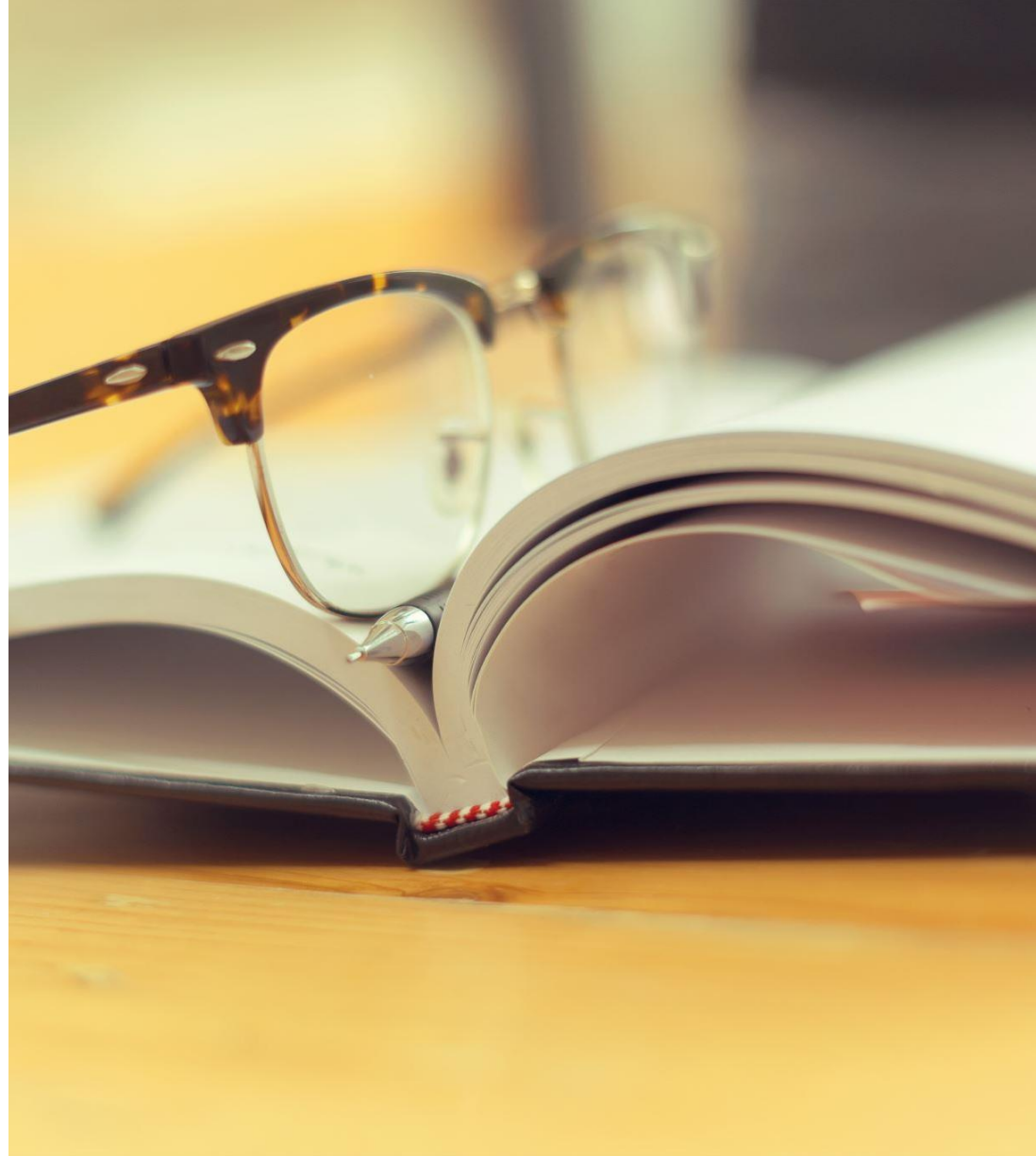
Ongoing qualitative research

- How can municipalities collaborate on the development and maintenance of OSS, addressing common use cases and requirements
- Ongoing research aimed at studying practice
- Multiple-case study investigating the context of municipal OSS communities
- Focus is specifically on the governance and development processes, as well as the organizational structures and legal frameworks enabling the collaborations over time



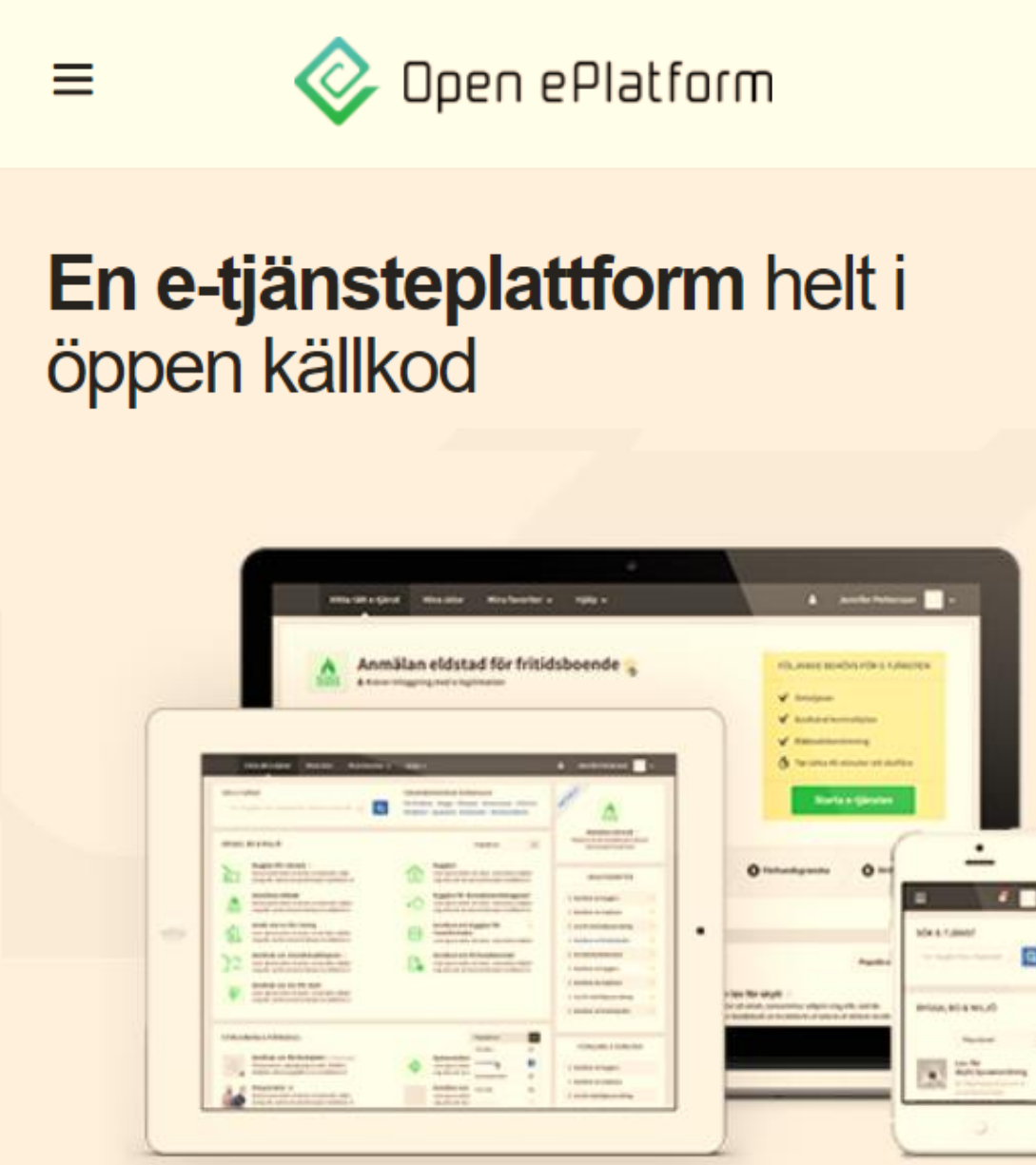
Theoretical framework

- The Governing Knowledge Commons (GKC) framework (Frischmann, Madison, & Strandburg, 2014) will be used as a foundation to capture both the technical, social, and governance-related aspects of the municipal OSS communities
- The GKC framework is a derivative of the Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework and explicitly tailored to the study of knowledge commons such as OSS (Schweik & English, 2012), and how governance structures are designed to enable sustainable development and maintenance of the common



Municipal OSS community

- OSS e-service platform (APGLv3) established in 2014
- Outcome of the Regis EU project including five municipalities
- Productified by vendor including operations and management at a fixed price, as well as further development via traditional procurement,
- Now over 180 customers
- Municipalities currently experiencing technical debt and lock-in effects, investigating options moving forward



Municipal Foundation for OSS

- OS2 –Association of 80+ Danish municipalities
- Projects are initiated by smaller numbers of municipalities with development procured from ecosystem of vendors
- Governance and project development process in place. Vendors sign an MoU.
- Copyright transferred to OS2.
- Technical committee responsible for long term maintenance together with vendor(s). Procurement through municipalites directly.
- Additional municipalites can join at any time. Finacial logic based on size.

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Civil Society foundation for OSS

- Open Cities (Otevřená Města) – a Czech non-profit gathering 20 cities in Czech republic to support their digitalizations
- Recieves and hosts OSS projects initaited by public entities. Facilites joint requirements engineering and planning
- Currently hosts three projects, including Cityvizor - an open source tool for transparent municipal management
- Collaborates with civil tech and hacker communities
- Features implemented by municipalities directly. City of Prague a lead user. Collaboration with public service provider.

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Lead User leading the way

- Lutece – an e-service platform with an ecosystem of 400+ plugins
- Developed by the City of Paris since beginning of 2000s
- Drives the development through internal IT department. Open to conributions, onboarding new cities and universities
- Pre-packeging containerized solutions and providing as-a-service
- Working to grow community nationally and cross-border

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Evolving from one to the other

- Signalen - a tool for creating, sending, receiving and handling reports about the public space
- Developed in the wild between municipalities supported by civil society Foundation for Public Code
- Transitioned into Dutch Association of Municipalities with formalized governance and technical steering
- Development mainly performed by Amsterdam. Ambition to onboard others and grow community cross-border

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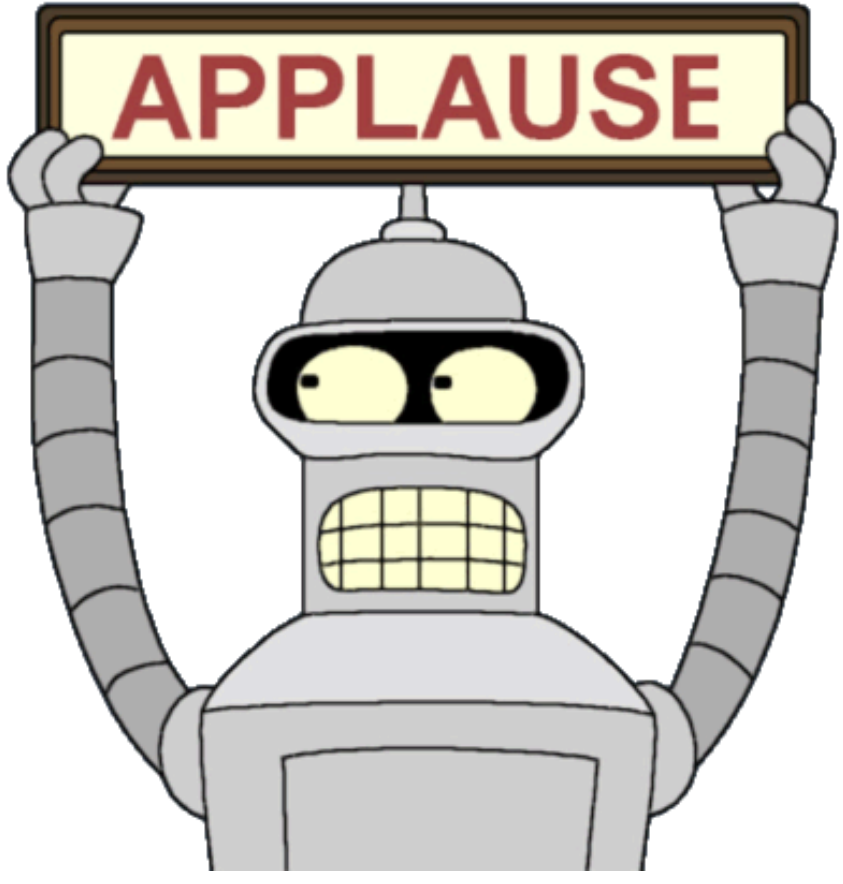

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