

OPEN SOURCE AS A GOVERNMENT GOAL: BERLIN'S STRATEGY FOR DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY AND LESSONS LEARNED

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BERLIN



Your Speakers



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Agenda

- 1** Background & Context
- 2** Strategy Development
- 3** In-Depth Look at Governance & Dependencies
- 4** Lessons Learned & Limitations

Urgency for Action and Market Situation

Data Sovereignty & Compliance

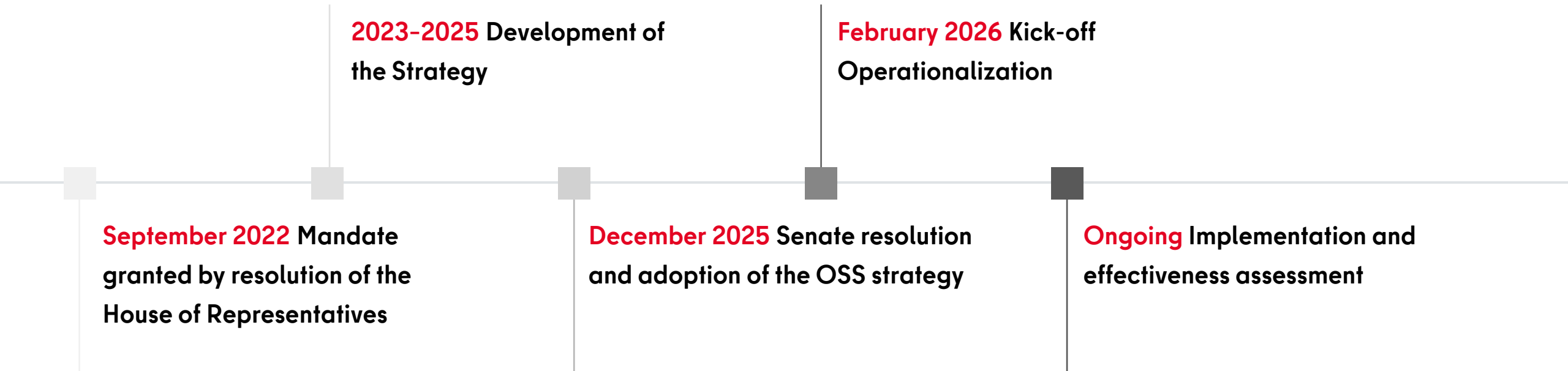
Independence & Flexibility

Cost Control

Geopolitical Resilience

- 2019: PwC Strategy& Strategic Market Analysis on Reducing Dependencies on Individual Software Providers
- 2021: IT Planning Council, Strategy to Strengthen Digital Sovereignty
- 2024: OZG: Open Standards and Open Source in the Portal Network
- 2024: ZenDiS and openCode
- Since 2024: Schleswig-Holstein's migration to open source
- 2026: EVB-IT contract templates referencing open source
- Ongoing: Open-source strategies at the European level

From Parliamentary Mandate to Operationalization



Integration of the OSS Strategy



Structure of the Open Source Strategy for Berlin



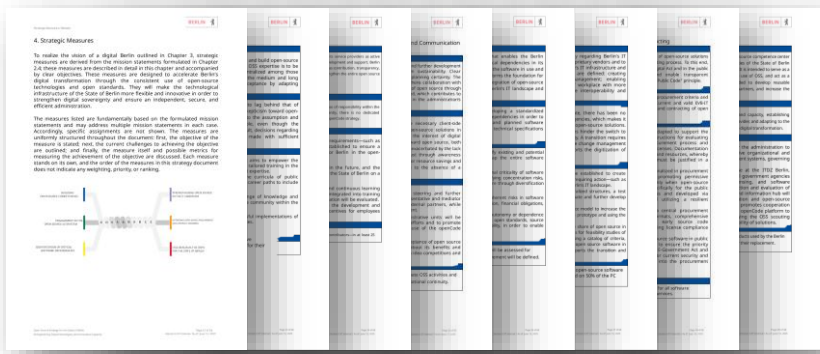
Foreword

Management Summary

Introduction

Strategic Goals

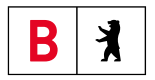
Strategic Background



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7 Strategic Measures – Fact Sheets

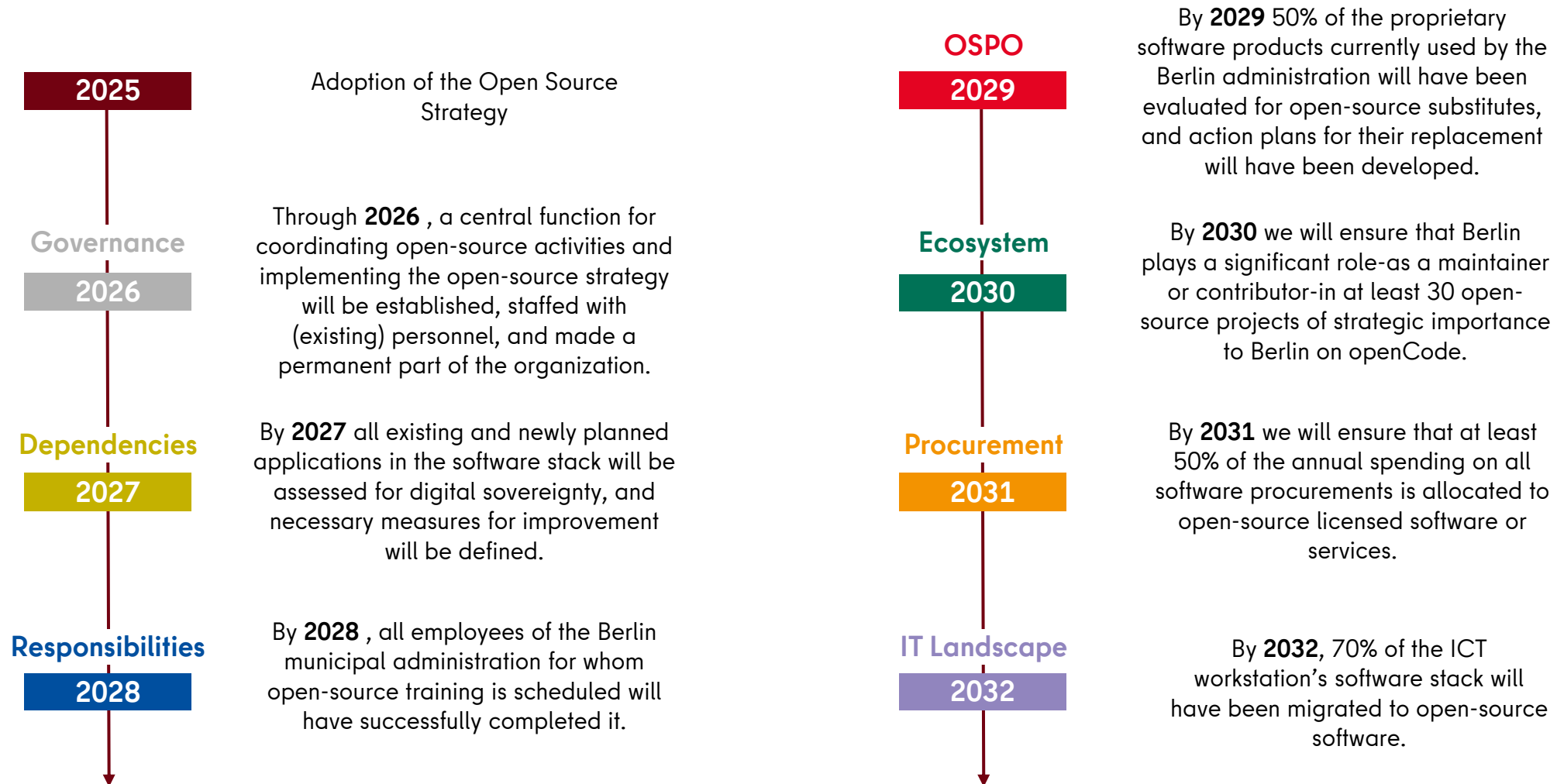
Strategic Measures – Full Version



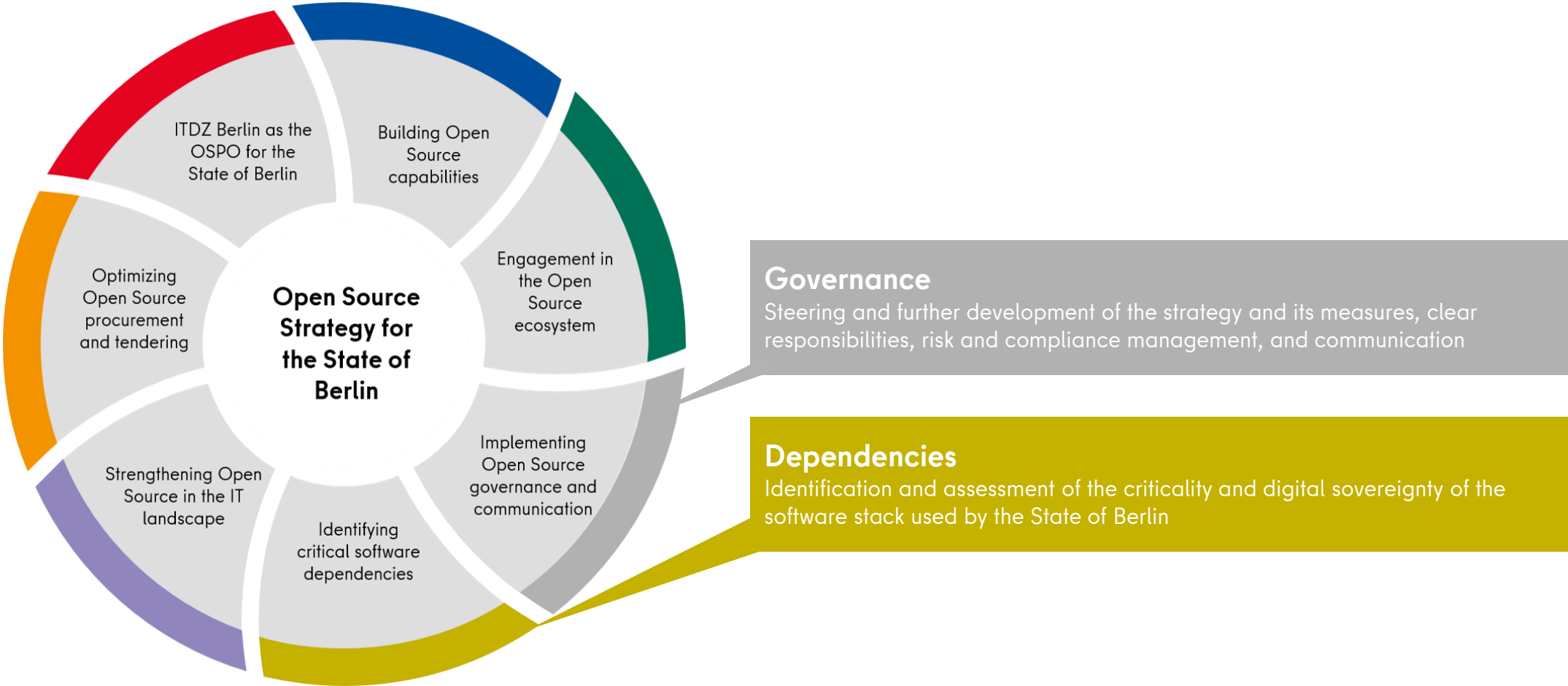
The Seven Strategic OSS Measures



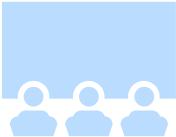
Key Performance Indicators for the OSS Strategy Measures



Insight into Two Selected OSS Measures



The Governance Initiative

Capacity to Act	Management and Compliance	Collaboration and Platform	Communication and Acceptance
- Mandate, roles, committees, and decision-making processes for the measure defined; risks and dependencies identified - All seven measures are integrated into the governance structure and can be managed centrally	- Control, governance, and compliance structure established - Guidelines for risk and compliance management (ISO 5230 / 18974) finalized	- Open-source engagement within the administration has been strengthened - Usage concept for openCode developed - Exchange formats established with national open source initiatives	- Communication and public relations strategy implemented - Knowledge and information campaigns designed
			
Approx. 138,000 employees in direct state service	1 Senate Chancellery, 10 Senate Departments	12 borough administrations	1 central coordination function

The “Dependencies” Measure

Objective of the Measure

Development and implementation of a model for identifying critical dependencies in the State of Berlin’s software stack.

Description of the Measure

- Implementation of standardized procedures for identifying software dependencies
 - Determination of operational criticality
 - Procedures for assessing risks to sovereignty
- and procedures for consolidating criticality and in-sovereignty risks
- to identify priorities for substitution,
- including implementation of the procedure for identifying software dependencies and defining priorities for substitution with OSS.

Standardized process for identifying and evaluating Critical Dependencies

IT Inventory



Risk Assessment



Substitution Planning

Lessons Learned – Quick Wins

The plan was:

Two separate surveys for overlapping topic



Mere announcement of the data collection



Creation of a new legal act for data collection



Ongoing change and risk management



What was implemented:

A joint survey

Linked to an ongoing inventory, rather than launching a second survey

Present prototypes and drafts

Presentable, iteratively developed tools and data collection forms made coordination concrete and fostered participation

Existing legal frameworks were fully utilized

Recently introduced “Organizational act of Berlin” already enables and facilitates efficient data collection from the districts without the need to develop and introduce a new act

Document risks in a transferable manner

For the goals through 2032, changes in personnel or government are the norm

Limits to strategy implementation

1. Staff capacity is a limiting factor

Start dates shift, but target years remain the same. Potential for overlapping workloads, unfilled positions, and staff turnover.

3. Unforeseen situations alter priorities

Security incidents take priority in terms of capacity allocation, even if they are not directly related to the subject matter.

2. Heterogeneous governance structures

Districts, government agencies, subordinate institutions, affiliated entities, and more, each with its own governance structure.

4. Segment-dependent availability of alternatives

No immediate replacement for individual specialized procedures. Security and technical expertise may take precedence.

Thank you very much for your attention!

Berlin Senate Chancellery:

<https://www.berlin.de/rbmskzl/politik/senatskanzlei/wir-ueber-uns/>

The State of Berlin's Open Source Strategy:

<https://www.parlament-berlin.de/adosservice/19/UABezPHPW/vorgang/UABezPHPW19-0409-v.pdf>

Additional Contacts:

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