Maastricht
21-27
September

Plone '26 CONFERENCE



Software reuse as a sovereignty practice: Plone across Italian public administrations

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Founder & CEO, RedTurtle

RedTurtle and Plone

RedTurtle

- Italian software company
- Strong focus on Public Administration
- Open source
- Using Plone since 2003



Thousands of organisations, many similar problems

Italy's public digital **ecosystem** involves more than **20.000 public bodies** and **administrations**.

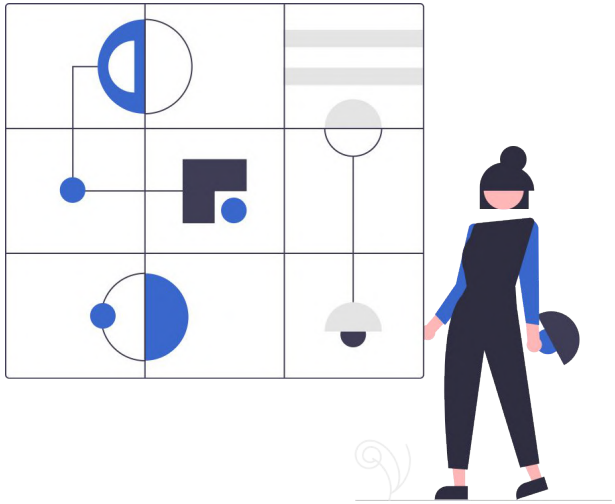
- Almost **8.000 municipalities**
- Health authorities
- Universities
- Museums
- Regions and other public bodies



Different organisations. **Similar problems**.

The “blank page” problem

Organisation A	Project A
Organisation B	Project B
Organisation C	Project C



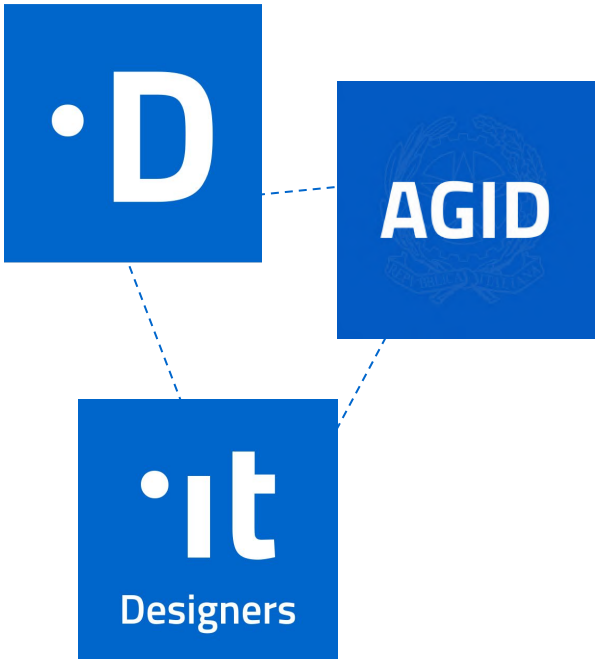
Same problems. Solutions rebuilt every time.

A shared national foundation

A **national ecosystem** for public digital services

DTD – Department for Digital Transformation
AgID – Agency for Digital Italy
Designers Italia / design system .italia

- design principles
- reusable components
- accessibility
- guidelines
- reference models

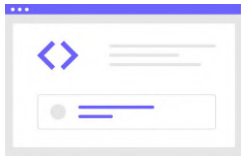


It is more than a design system



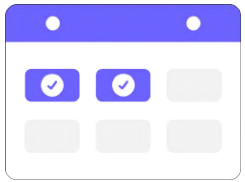
Designer

Experience and interfaces



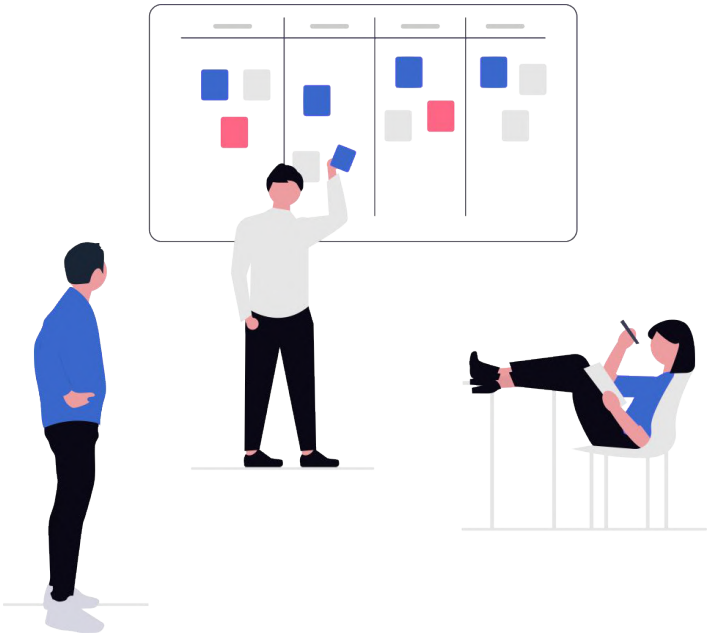
Developer

Components and code



Project manager

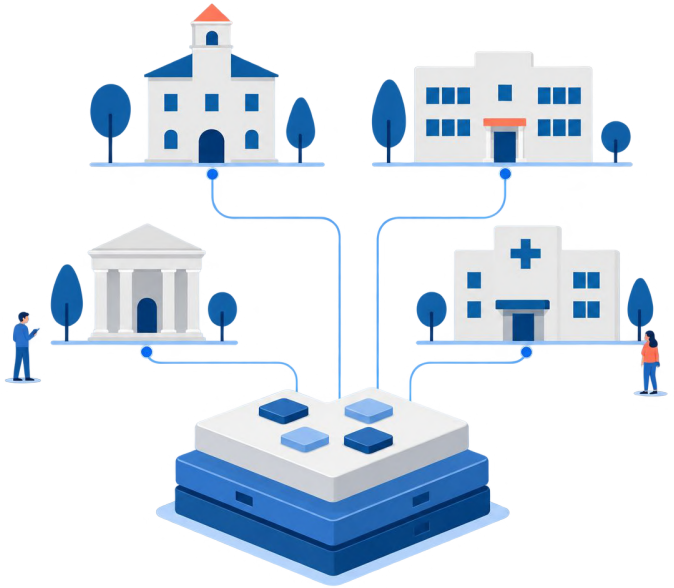
Processes and quality



From components to reference models

One common foundation, different models

- Municipalities
- Schools
- Museums
- Health authorities



A model is much more than a layout

A model defines:

- information architecture
- content types and data
- relationships
- navigation
- layouts
- accessibility
- service flows



Standardise without centralising

Same rules ≠ same website

A shared foundation + Freedom of implementation



An open approach

Shared problems → shared solutions

- Open design
- Open resources
- Open components
- Community



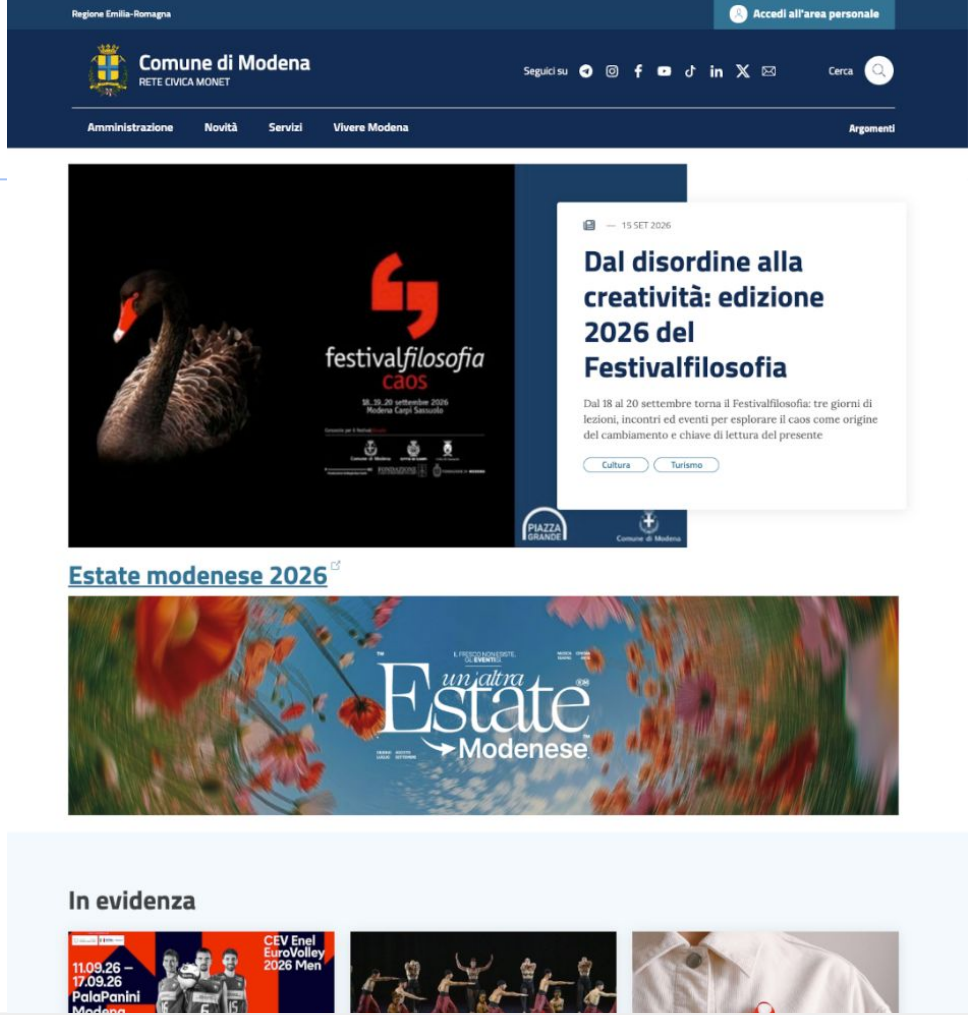
The Municipality Model

Almost 8,000 municipalities,
one **common foundation**

The Municipality Model defines:

- institutional website structure
- digital services
- content and relationships
- user journeys
- shared components and layouts

"**Informed citizen**" - "**Active citizen**"

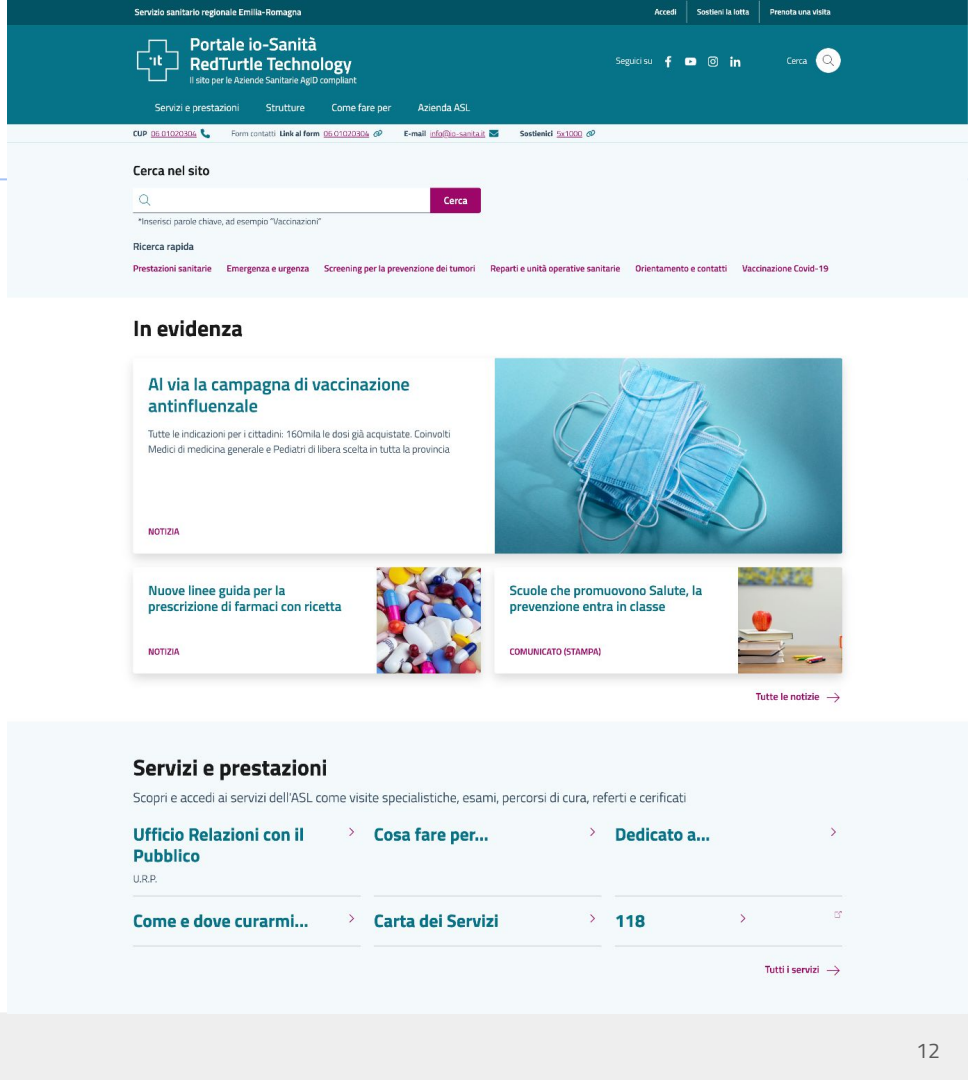


The Health Authority Model

A **specific model** for **healthcare**

The Health Authority Model defines:

- healthcare facilities
- services and procedures
- access procedures
- content relationships
- healthcare taxonomies
- user journeys
- dedicated components and layouts

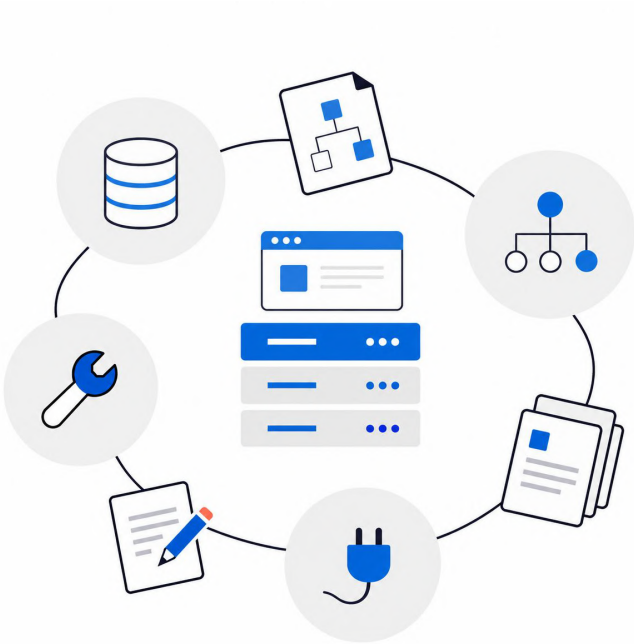


From the model to the software

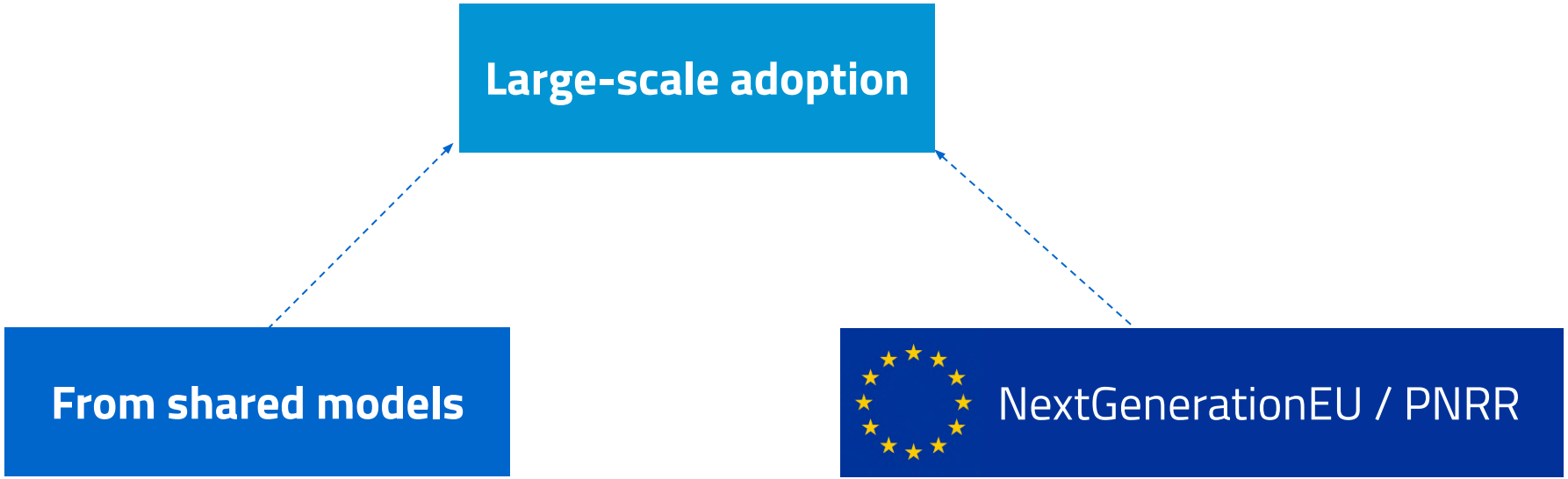
A **model** tells you **what to build**.

You still need:

- CMS
- workflows
- migration
- editorial management
- integrations
- maintenance



European funding accelerated adoption



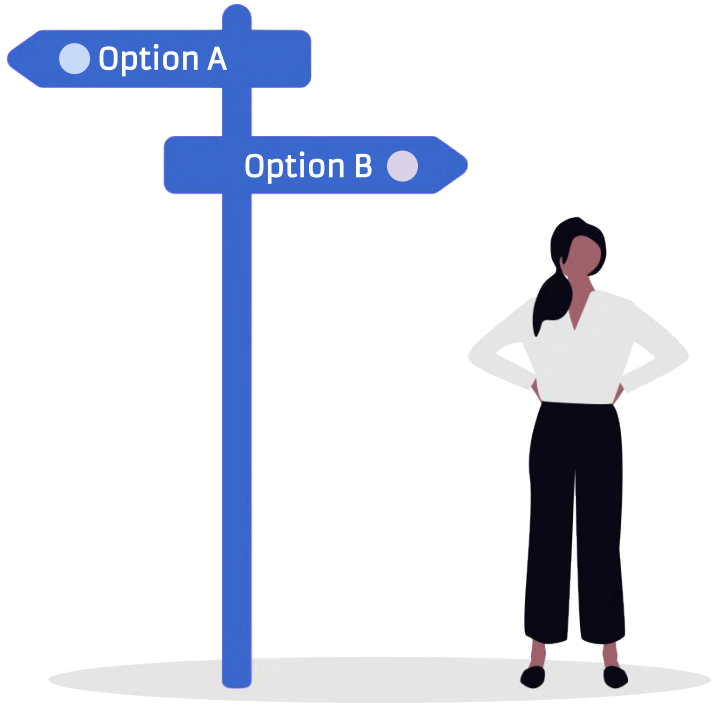
The question: rebuild or reuse?

Option A

Each administration **starts from scratch**

Option B

Each administration **starts** from a **shared foundation**



An open-source ecosystem based on Plone

Plone as the common foundation

io-Comune
Institutional websites for municipalities

io-Sanità
Websites and content for health authorities

io-Prenoto
Appointment and service booking

io-Cittadino
Digital services and citizens' personal area

+ integrations with external systems



Why Plone?

- **structured content**
- **relationships between content**
- **taxonomies**
- **workflows** and **permissions**
- **reusable components**
- a **great editorial experience** (Volto)
- **truly open**



Compliance becomes reusable

Implement once.

Reuse many times.

- Design
- Accessibility
- Components
- Technical criteria
- Validation



The reuse cycle

ADOPT → ADAPT → CONTRIBUTE



Reuse does not mean uniformity

Common foundation + local needs

- SSO
- reporting systems
- personal areas
- queue management systems
- third-party services



From a local requirement to a shared improvement

A new requirement can become:



A local customisation
useful only to one organisation



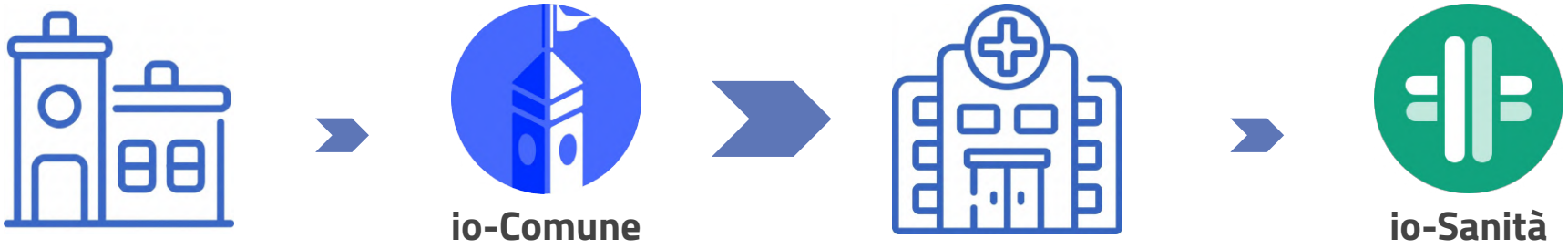
An improvement to the shared solution
useful to other organisations



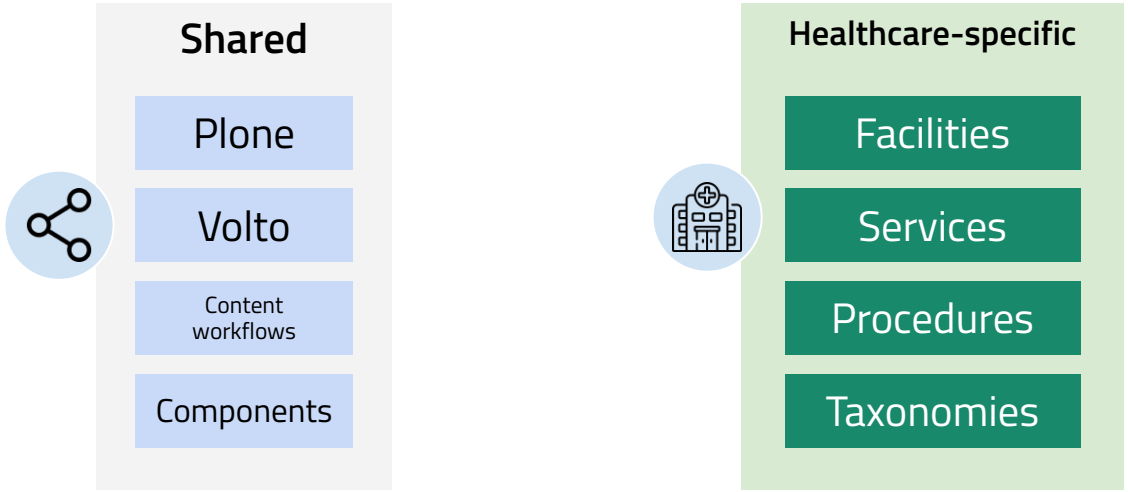
A contribution to the open-source ecosystem
useful beyond io-Comune / io-Sanità

From municipalities to healthcare

New domain - same technology foundation



Same foundation, different information model

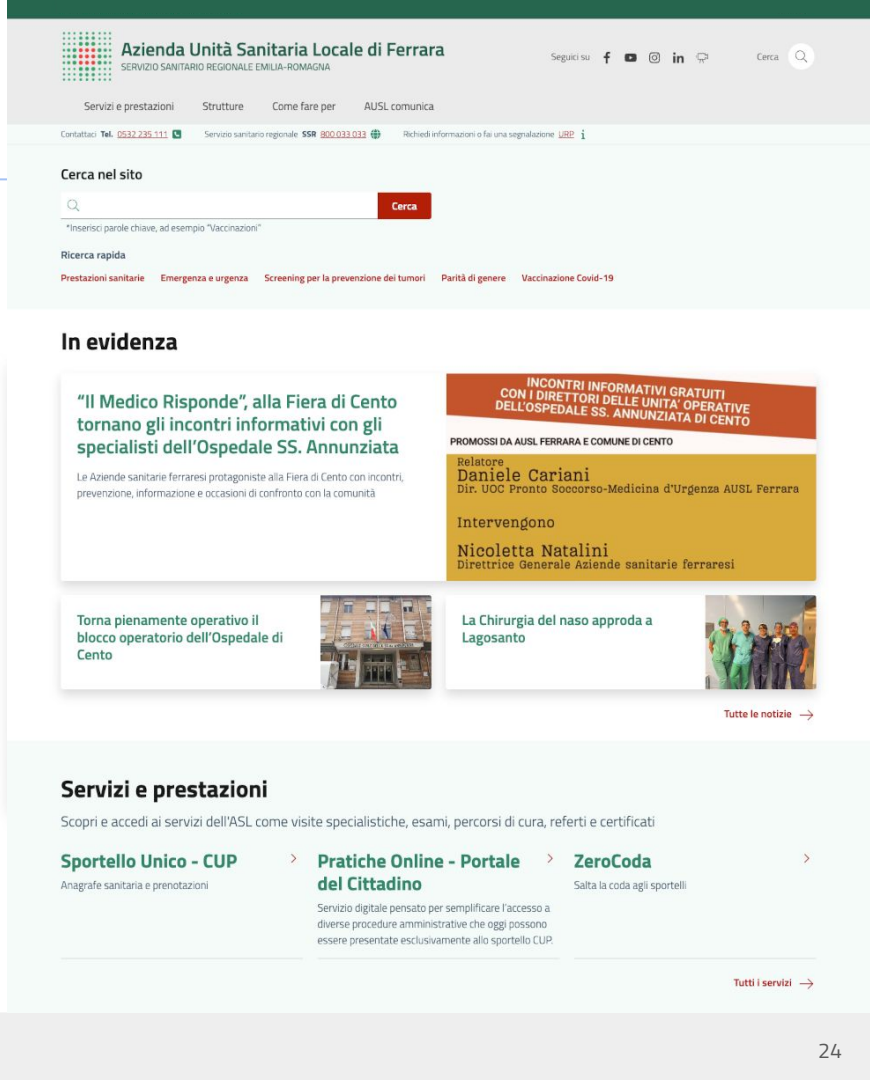


The AUSL Ferrara case

From a national model to a real project

AUSL Ferrara

- contribution to the Health Authority Model
- one of the first two compliant websites in Italy



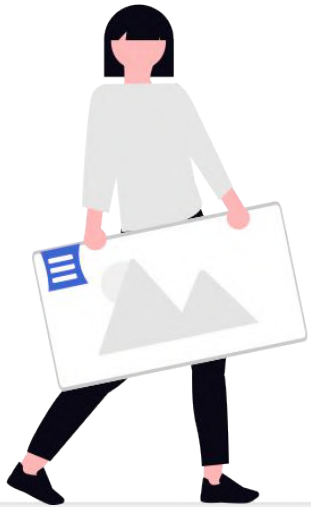
The value is not only in the website

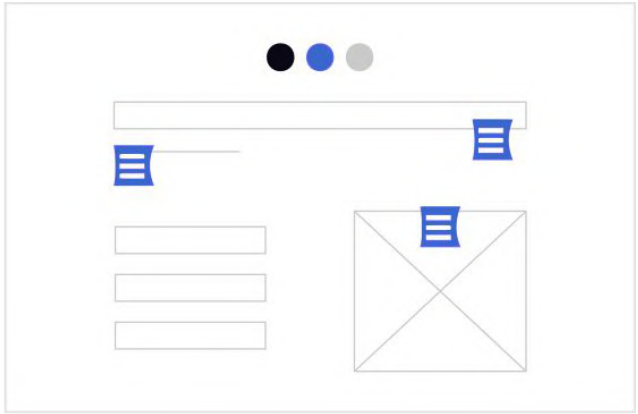
Before

- Poorly structured content

After

- Structured data
- Specific fields
- Relationships
- Reusable information





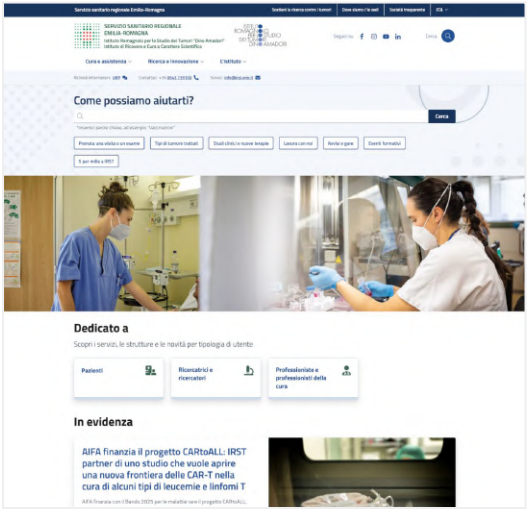
Reuse even without a specific model

There is not a specific model for every organisation

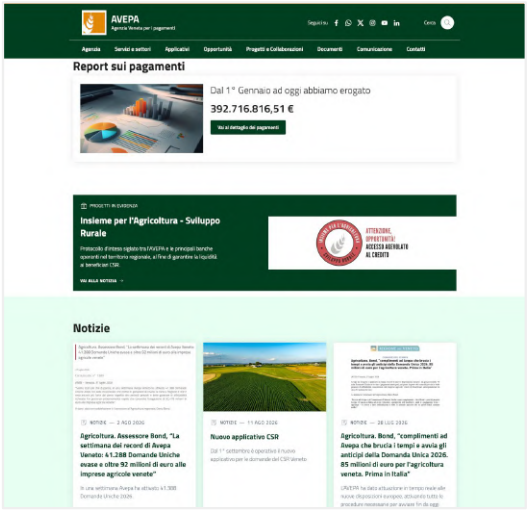
But you can start from an existing foundation.



www.regione.emilia-romagna.it



www.irst.emr.it



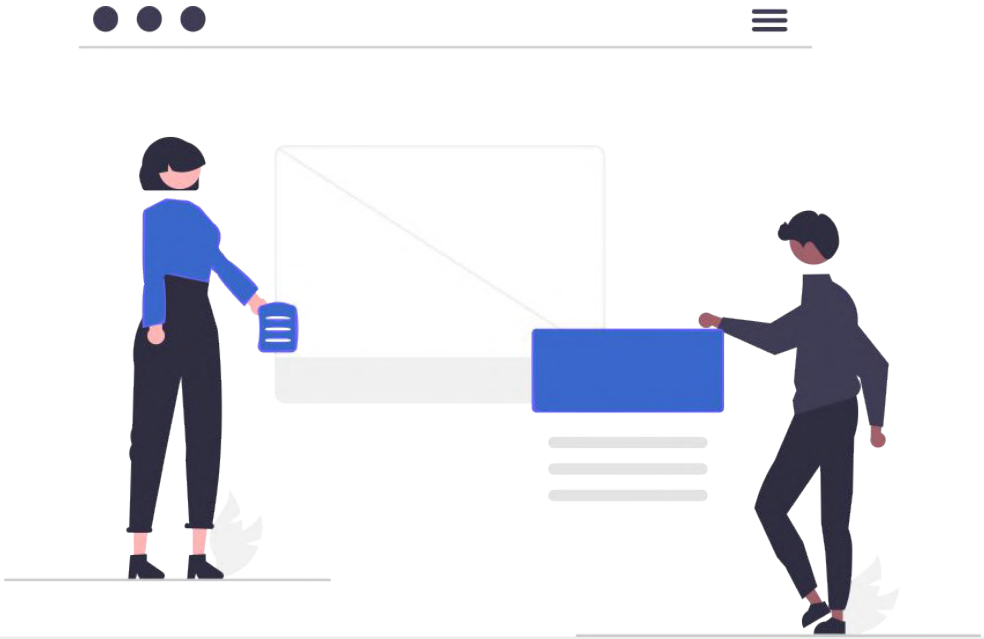
www.avepa.it

Reuse does not mean stopping design work

Reuse reduces what we need to **reinvent**.

It does not remove:

- analysis
- information architecture
- local needs
- integrations
- design



From projects to an operating model

Around **110 public organisations**

One **common foundation**

Many implementations

An **evolving ecosystem**

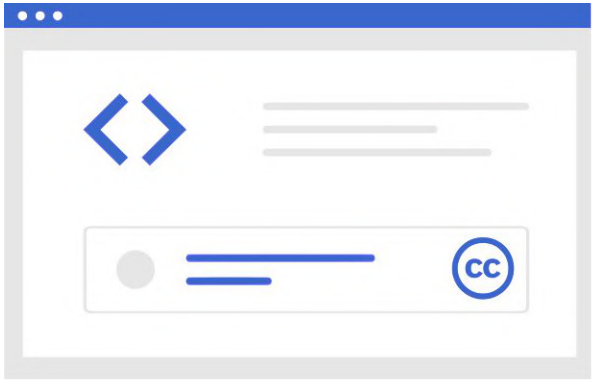


Where does digital sovereignty come in?

Open source ≠ automatically sovereignty

But it enables:

- control
- transparency
- portability
- freedom to change providers
- continuity
- shared knowledge

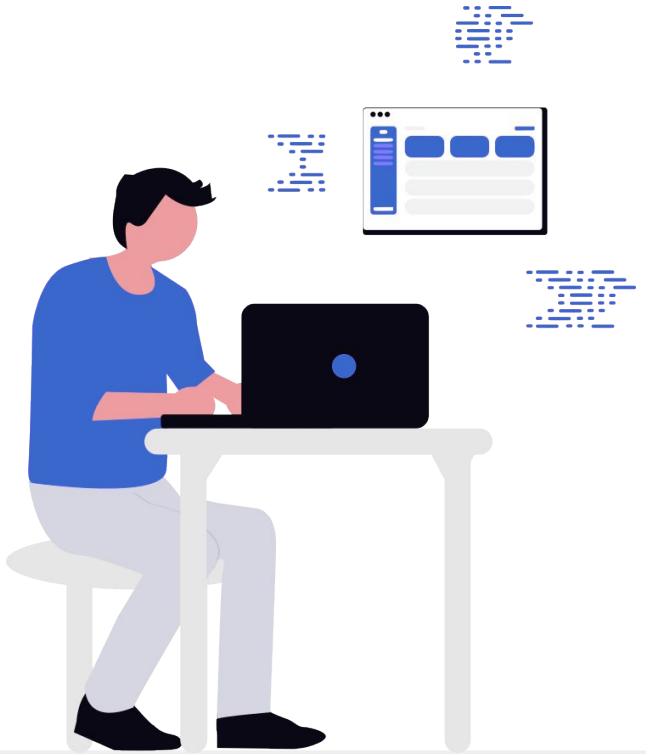




From open source to digital sovereignty

Digital sovereignty means the ability to:

- **understand** and **control** the software
- **maintain** and **evolve** it
- **change providers** when needed
- rely on **open standards**
- **share** and **preserve knowledge**



A possible model beyond Italy

Shared models

+ Open implementations

+ Multi-supplier ecosystem

Not one platform

A common foundation



Conclusion

Start from what **already exists**

Improve it

Share what can be shared

Open source reuse strengthens digital sovereignty



Get **in touch**!

www.redturtle.it

Pics





