

# Strategic viewpoints on Public Affairs

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# CSC in nutshell



Our special expertise includes research infrastructures, interoperability, and digital transformation



Business volume in was 2024 **95** million euros



Non-profit state enterprise with special tasks owned by the state of Finland **70%** and Finnish higher education institutions **30%**



One of the world's most eco-efficient datacenter in Kajaani



Approx. **670** employees in 2024



**Public Affairs as a strategic function since 2016**



**CSC wants to help policy-makers reach their goals through**

- Providing concrete solutions for technological sovereignty
- Giving advice on how regulations, policies and funding should be developed



# Why is Public Affairs important in the RI context?

Key drivers affecting everything: geopolitics, trade wars, economical constraints, dangerous dependencies, technological advancements... =>

Technology has become highly political and we must help decision-makers understand the implications of this systemic transformation.



# Digital is in the core of the dramatically changing global market environment

- “Pure commercial interest and shareholder value as an ultimate goal for business is becoming something that is not necessarily good for the society, of which all businesses are a part, thus shaping and being shaped by it”. (McManners, 2014).
- “Large digital platforms are taking over tasks that previously have been carried out by governments: controlling information systems, solving judicial disputes etc. Yet, they are not governed in a democratic manner and their leaders are not accountable to citizens.” (Lehdonvirta, 2022)
- “The platforms are creating new markets that are beyond the control of governments.” (Lehdonvirta, 2022)

Lehdonvirta, V. (2022): The Cloud Empires. How digital platforms are overtaking the state and how we can regain control. MIT Press.  
McManners, P.J. (2014): Corporate Strategy in the Age of Responsibility. UK, Gower



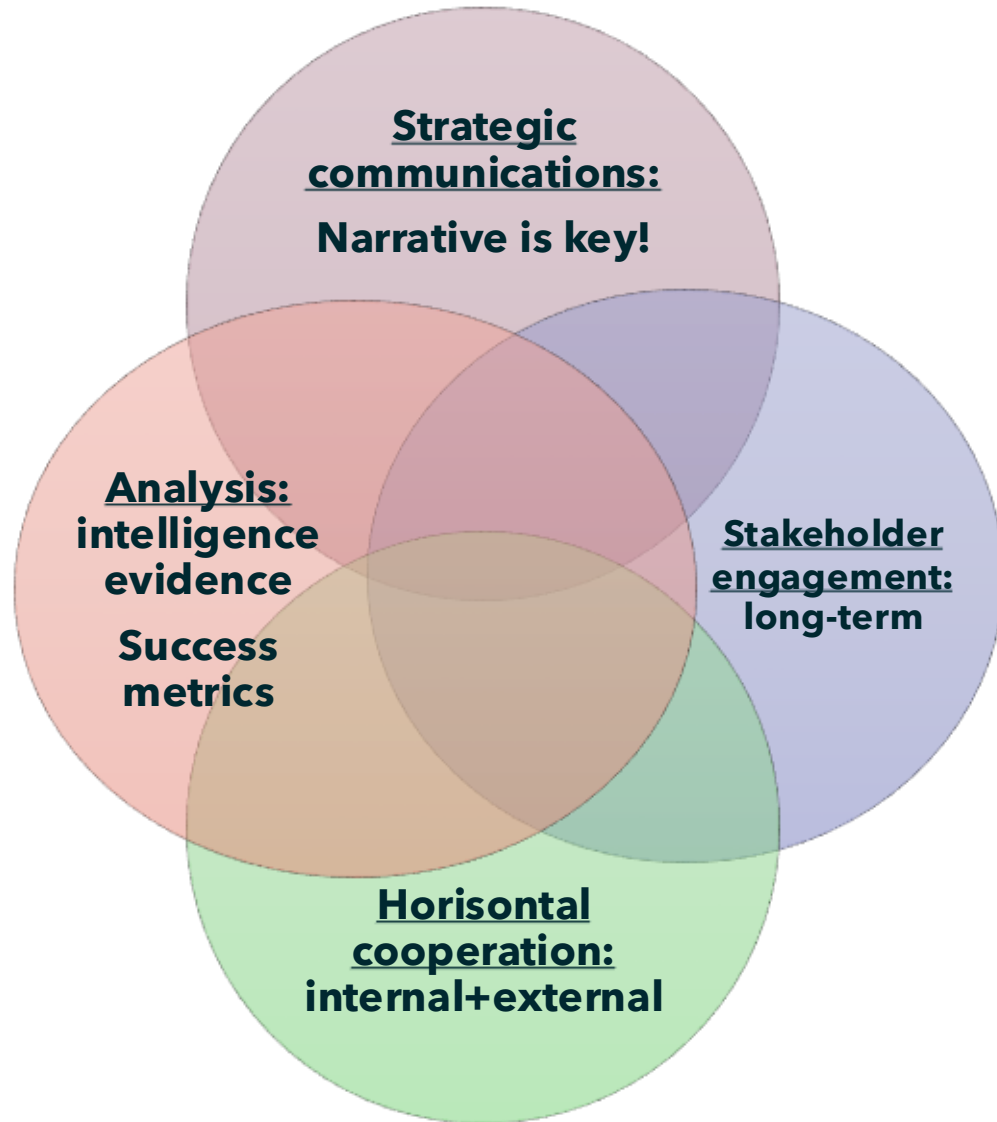
# European publicly funded digital RIs need to update their strategic positioning



# Our agenda in a nutshell: helping Europe achieve tech sovereignty and boost its competitiveness, basing on European values

- **Influencing national and EU policies and funding frameworks (incl. MFF) towards laying good foundations for next generation HPC, AI and data ecosystems, where data is understood as a critical key component that needs to be close to computing and whose ownership needs to be in European hands. Data networks and infrastructures including open web data must be an integral part of this ecosystem, to ensure data sovereignty.**
  - **Influencing all relevant EU files including digital check, digital omnibus, cloud and AI development act, EHDS implementation etc.**
- **Finland's parliamentary elections 2027: the next government program must clearly signal continuation for national investments in HPC and data infrastructure and ambitions for being active at European level.**


# How we work?



# Our key high-level messages to decision-makers



- Regulation is not the only means to develop EU's strategic autonomy and competitiveness, especially in the digital sphere.
- Instead, EU needs to identify, what are its critical infrastructures and data, that need to be kept in public ownership, and what are the parts that can be handed out to commercial players.
- Sufficient, sustainable, long-term funding for RDI, digital infrastructures and competences on a broad scale is needed.
- All regulation needs to be reviewed, not only the "digital regulation", because we are facing a systemic change that affects also the non-digital sphere.
- To reach its goals for tech sovereignty, the EU needs to do structural reforms, eg. develop stronger horizontal collaboration and alignment across different policy areas and different DGs, acknowledging also that a functioning single market is essential to drive economic growth.



**Understand your own business**  
**Understand their context**  
**Speak their language**  
**Be proactive, not reactive**  
**Remember: it's a long-term effort**

# The societal impact of high-performance computing is significant

An investment of €1 into CSC's high-performance computing services generated a

**€25-37**

economic benefit to society.

Source: SROI (Societal Return of Investment) analysis conducted by Taloustutkimus in 2024



# Links to CSC's strategic communications outputs

Statements and position papers:

<https://csc.fi/en/category/statement/>

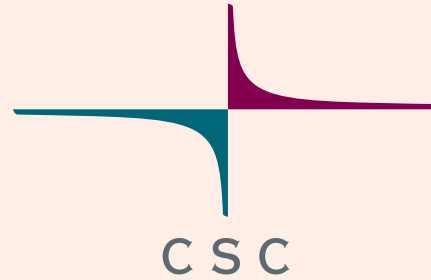
Blog posts:

<https://csc.fi/en/news/>

SROI study

<https://csc.fi/en/media-release/sroi-of-cscs-high-performance-computing-services-studied-e25-37-return-per-euro-invested/>





# Thank you!



Irina Kupiainen, Director of EU  
Affairs, Policy and Business  
Development

[Irina.kupiainen@csc.fi](mailto:Irina.kupiainen@csc.fi)

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