

Digital Commons EDIC
Attn: Director and Selection Panel
Paris, France

1 September 2026

Nomination of Marco Bernasocchi to the Digital Commons EDIC Advisory Board

Dear Director, dear members of the selection panel,

On behalf of QGIS.org, I nominate Marco Bernasocchi for appointment to the Advisory Board of the Digital Commons EDIC. The nomination was endorsed by the Project Steering Committee on 1 September 2026. Marco chairs the PSC and took no part in the decision.

The nominating community

QGIS.org is the association that governs QGIS, the leading open source geographic information system. QGIS is opened more than 30 million times a month, figures the project publishes openly at analytics.qgis.org. It is released under the GNU General Public Licence, developed by an international contributor community, and funded through more than 100 sustaining members alongside donations and grants. Public administrations across the Union run cadastre, spatial planning, environmental monitoring, utility networks and civil protection on it.

The criticality score developed by Google and the OpenSSF to identify the projects the wider open source ecosystem most depends on ranked QGIS in the top ten of its language category, alongside LLVM, PyTorch, TensorFlow and Bitcoin. That is the company a European geospatial project keeps.

We think that record matters to your work for one specific reason. QGIS displaced proprietary software in European public administrations without any procurement mandate telling anyone to adopt it. It is the outcome the EDIC is trying to engineer, and it happened on the strength of the software itself.

Why we nominate Marco Bernasocchi

Marco has chaired the Project Steering Committee since 2020, served as vice chair from 2018, and has contributed to QGIS since 2011. He is responsible for the association's governance, its finances, its relations with sustaining members, and the conflicts that arise between commercial firms contributing to the same codebase.

He understands how a digital commons project is funded over the long term because he has had to solve it. QGIS.org moved from a volunteer project to an organisation with paid staff, a professional grant programme and a bug-fixing budget, and Marco was central to that transition. He has also documented it: he is a co-author of the peer-reviewed account of QGIS governance, funding and infrastructure published in *Patterns* in 2025, which sets out both what works and what remains unsolved. He gave the main-track talk at FOSDEM 2026 in Brussels on how sustainability, community and business fit together in open source.

He also knows where the commercial layer around a commons project goes wrong. Through his work with administrations he has repeatedly met contract terms, evaluation criteria and IP clauses that make it difficult or impossible for a community project to participate in public tenders, and he can describe those obstacles precisely. Inside QGIS.org he manages the other side of the same problem: our enhancement proposal process requires firms that compete for the same contracts to review one another's technical proposals, and he has kept that working without damage to the project.

We expect him to press two points at the Advisory Board. That software adoption in public administrations follows capability rather than policy, so funding maintenance is more effective than mandating alternatives. And that procurement rules, more than any technical gap, are what keeps European open source out of the public sector.

Marco is CEO of OPENGIS.ch, a company active in the QGIS ecosystem. He declares that interest and abstains from QGIS.org decisions where it applies, and we expect the same on the Advisory Board.

A letter of support from the Open Source Geospatial Foundation, on whose Board of Directors Marco has served since January 2022, is attached. It sets out why geospatial software deserves a place in the EDIC's work, and we share that view.

QGIS.org stands behind this nomination without reservation and is available for any further information the panel may require.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Sutton

Perpetual Honorary QGIS PSC Member
on behalf of the Project Steering Committee