KERN UX-Standard — Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein's Open, Accessible Design System Adopted by Germany's IT-Planungsrat

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · Germany

Quality score: 52/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Open-source design system for German public digital services, started by Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein in 2023 to make accessible interfaces the default. The IT-Planungsrat adopts it nationally from 2027 with joint funding. Adoption and accessibility data are unpublished.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	3/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	0/1
Demonstrated reach	0/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-11

Senatskanzlei Hamburg and Staatskanzlei Schleswig-Holstein (with FITKO / IT-Planungsrat) — accessed 2026-11-11

KERN UX-Standard (official site) — accessed 2026-11-11

Hamburg Senatskanzlei — KERN becomes an IT-Planungsrat product (1 July 2026) — accessed 2026-11-11

IT-Planungsrat decision paper on KERN (Sept 2025, PDF) — accessed 2026-11-11

KERN accessibility guidance — accessed 2026-11-11

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