Open Source in public services: Europe's best practices

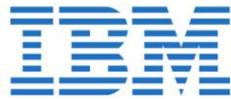16 May 2019

OpenForum Europe

- Founded in 2002 with the mission to promote an open and competitive market, *including a level playing field for open source*
- Promotes openness in computing: open standards, open source, open internet, open data, etc.
- Works with industry, SME associations, community, and academia
- Published policy note on the EU and Open Source

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**EUROPEAN UNION
AND OPEN SOURCE**

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The rise of open source in industry

- OSS started in academic circles and have now taken over the industry
- OSS underpins the internet and is fuelling development in new technologies like Blockchain, 5G, connected cars, and IOT – all 500 super computers run on Linux
- In 2017, 85% of companies increased or remained constant in the use of OSS; 60% increased usage! (Blackduck, 2017)

Linux Foundation Premium Members

"Internet of Things (IoT) is unthinkable without open source."

BOSCH

"Open source is moving away from being a niche. Collaboration provides benefits, which leads to the use of agile methods. The business world sees this and involves it in their working methods."

Scania

"We will in our countries (...) make more use of open source solutions and/or open standards when (re)building ICT systems and solutions (among else, to avoid vendor lock-ins)."

The Tallinn Declaration

The business case for open source

- OSS is used for and in case of commoditisation – why constantly reinvent the wheel?
- Reduces cost of development
- OSS brings a richer pool of contributors than any single organisation can provide alone
- Provides standard components on which companies can build offerings, services, etc.

The challenge facing public services

- Citizens expect e-government services
- Pressure on resources – must deliver good value for citizens
- Need to keep up in a rapidly changing tech world

Open source for public services

- Much of what governments do is repeated across public services – governments don't compete!
- Leverage open source to build reusable, shared platforms, using common components
- Do more with less, facilitate resources, avoid vendor lock-in
- Foster a more competitive market, including access for SMEs
- Evidence from France of increased national competitiveness

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OFE recommendations

- Increase recognition of the EU's role as user of open source and as a policymaker: improve institutional capacity
- Produce research and guidelines on open source for the public sector: tackling real and perceived challenges surrounding legacy, capability, security, and procurement
- Support open governance beyond just OSS: neutral party control, transparent rules, responsible IP licensing
- Support OSS efforts by contributing back to the community

Open source in public administrations – Europe's best practices