

Free and open source software in Europe: imple- mentations and policies

Innovate & modernise

To deliver innovative government solutions, Europe's public administrations **turn** to free and open source software. *Innovation* is the main motive, costs saving come next. The OSOR news items show that the **freedom**, **flexibility** and **scalability** enabled by open source software make it an obvious choice for public ventures.

Share

- It makes business sense to use open source software. All the big IT companies are doing it. But public administrations especially ought to share their software.
- Public administrations that invest in open source create future benefits and generate a **virtuous loop** between the public and private sector.

Pay it forward

- Public administration software is financed by taxpayers, and making it public is the best way to share the solutions with citizens and companies.
- Share their code and their improvements to existing code publicly, is a way to make their IT investments pay forward, and technological self-reliance into the bargain.
- **Swiss, German, and French public administrations** have pooled budgets to make new software solutions possible and publicly available.

It's *public* administration

Source code is information. And just like other public administrative documents, it should be **publicly accessible**.

About this talk

- big trends
- four problems
- cool policies
- top three most visible implemenations
- some less visible examples
- to open source in five steps
- but first: about OSOR.

The big trends

public administrations increasingly use free and open source

French Gendarmerie: "open source desktop lowers tco by 40%"

"using an open source desktop lowers the total cost of ownership by 40%, in savings on proprietary software licences and by reducing costs on it management."

the number of politicians that appreciate open source is rising

new meps urge building links to open source communities

[Julia Reda](#) and [Max Andersson](#), newly elected members of the European Parliament, want to build links with well-known free software communities.

Public administrations use open source

for everything, everywhere

- content management
- document management
- database applications
- e-government services
- citizen participation
- geo-information systems
- open data
- software development

and across all sectors

open source is everywhere:

in the eu's institutions

European Commission to update its open source policy

EU: EUR 1 million for security audit of open source

EC recommends supporting open document format

European Parliament releases its amendment software as open source

Two hundred ways to switch an ec directorate to open source

Open source software assists European citizens to petition the EU

open source is everywhere:

in ministries

Linux clusters in German finance ministry data centre

French interior ministry: open source 5 to 10 times cheaper

Finland's ministry of justice migrates to openoffice

Polish economy ministry makes consultation site open source

Spain's finance ministry offers open source email cloud service

Norway local gov ministry uses open source version control system

Estonian ministry saves millions by using open source

open source is everywhere:

in capitals, big cities, towns and tiny villages

Spanish cities **Zaragoza**, Madrid, Bilbao and Badajoz

Portugal's **Vieira do Minho**

Denmark's second-largest city **Århus**

Dutch city of **Ede**

towns of **Grygov** and Jihlava in the Czech Republic

villages of **Toulouse**, **Arles**, **Voreppe** and many others in france

Poland's **Poznan**

Italy's **Bologna**, **Genoa**, **Udine** and towns in **the Umbria region**

open source is everywhere:

across all sectors, including

healthcare

more and more Linux in Riga children hospital

hospitals eyeing open source patient record system

hospital in Porto to switch 3000 pcs to open source office suite

Danish hospital: "hassle free use of odf across competing office suites"

Rotterdam hospital selects open source for internal ordering system

open source is everywhere:

across all sectors, including

education

such as a

Epopetes - pc lab management tool - in over 500 greek schools

or schools in Austria and Switzerland

and the Westcliff high school for girls academy in the uk

whsg school's network manager, malcolm moore:

"this school specialises in science and engineering and if our students are to go on to do great things like start the next google or collapse the universe at cern... they will certainly need to know linux."

open source is everywhere:

across all sectors, including

defence

open source advancing at Dutch defence ministry

Polish defence ministry moving to open source email and groupware

NATO makes ODF one of its mandatory standards

ministry of defense to switch to Pardus GNU/Linux

Russian government to invest in open source desktop

First problem: too few politicians appreciate the values of open source

politicians should recognise the value of open source in terms of responsible government, sustainability, openness and independence from it vendors. they should recognise that governments using open source create future benefits.

serafín olcoz yanguas, the former chief information officer of basque country

“(free and open source software) creates a virtuous loop between the public and private sector, with a recurring public contribution.”

Research done on municipal governments in the netherlands shows:

- Political support and pioneers are **pivotal** for open source.

Second problem: the desktop.

even the ec admits it is locked-in.

open office choices grip multiple languages
do as i say, not as i do.

Third problem: procurement.

open ict standards fundamental for small ict firms

MEP Andersdotter: 'ec procurement practice blocks european firms'

EC calls for use of ict standards to battle it vendor lock-in

EC considering hotline for procurement errors

'discriminatory procurement specifications widespread'

Openforum Europe: procurement law fails to address discriminatory practices

must hear procuring software by mentioning brand names

must read

issues in open source procurement in the european public sector i

Fourth problem: unacustomed

shy and unsure

public administrations are shy when releasing their code as open source, and seem unsure about contributing to well-known open source projects.

even though this was extensively researched at the ec, and there are no objections.

public administrations, as system owner of a software asset, have every right to 'give away' an asset via the appropriate licensing scheme, as explained [here](#).

though many get it:

- [IMIO \(Belgium\)](#)
- [Dutch fund improvement to apache web services](#)
- [Switzerland's supreme court](#)
- [Adullact](#)
- [OpenMatic](#)

Policies on Sharing and Re-Use

ISA **Report on Policies and Initiatives on Sharing and Re-use** shows:

- All EU member states address sharing and re-use
- About half of them have legislation
 - by listing standards or
 - with a policy on sharing and re-use of software

Top three *most visible* open source implementations

1. French Gendarmerie

72,000 ubuntu linux & libreoffice desktops

major Stéphane Dumond (Gendarmerie, France): "the direct benefits of saving on licences are the tip of the iceberg. an industrialised open source desktop is a powerful lever for it governance."

French Gendarmerie: "open source desktop lowers tco by 40%"

2. the government of Spain's Extremadura autonomous region

42,000 Ubuntu Linux desktops (target)

Manuel Velardo (Cenatic, Spain): "young cios are more used to open source than older ones
issues in open source procurement in the european public sector ii

update:

- 10,000 pcs in healthcare organisations use **Lingobex Salud**
 - 22,000 pcs in government offices will use **Lingobex**
 - 93,000 school pcs and laptops run **Linex**
- a EUR 38 Mil procurement request for proprietary brands is under fire

3. the city administration of Munich

14,800 Ubuntu Linux and Libreoffice desktops, now

Christian Ude (mayor of Munich, Germany) meets Bill Gates.

Gates: "mr. ude, why are you doing this?".

Ude: "to gain freedom."

Gates: "freedom from what?"

Ude: "freedom from you, mr. gates."

Limux - the it evolution

Five deeper examples

- Sweden procurement
- Norway cloud services
- Belgium municipalities developing software together
- France an open source culture
- United Kingdom open document format

Five step programme

Similar to the UK:

- Make the use of open standards mandatory (ODF);
- Be serious about creating a level playing field for open source software;
- Make this one a task for the nation's CIO

Similar to the Canary Islands in Spain:

- Provide political support for the CIO;
- Allow him to keep in his budget the savings realised by switching to open source;

Similar to Basque Country (Spain) or Munich (Germany):

- Make all part fo the IT infrastructure open source;
- Promote diversification, create chances for local industry;
- Pay it forward, instead of sunk costs

Similar to the Gendarmerie (France)

- Open source provides leverage (when / to) suppliers;
- It improves IT management (reducing licence costs is the tip of the iceberg);

Similar to the city of Ede (The Netherlands):

- Make Firefox the mandatory standard browser;

Credits

Courtesy to the Herculean

Emacs Org-mode

and the stirring

Reveal.js



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