Guidelines for SW Procurement and Reuse by Italian Pas (2019)

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Italian PAs

• Before acquiring any SW, must develop a comparative evaluation of available solutions (development, reuse, third party OSS, SaaS, licensed, a combination)

• If the decision is to purchase proprietary licensed SW or to develop new SW, it must be justified

• All the SW developed must be released with an OSI compliant open source license
Law about Reuse

• Since 2005, PAs must provide their SW to other PAs who request it (direct reuse)
• Since 2012, PAs must adopt available OSS rather than proprietary SW
• Since 2016, PAs must release their SW as open source (reuse through open source)
Advantages of OSS Reuse

• Incremental quality improvement
• Transparency
• Supplier accountability
• Training/access to knowledge
• Security
• Opportunities for SMEs and SW houses
Obstacles for OSS

• ADOPTION
  • Availability of specific OSS for PAs
  • Lack of lists/catalogues of OSS for PAs

• RELEASE
  • Lack of knowledge of OSS
  • Fears about security and documentation
The evaluation and comparison of OSS is a key step to achieve the objectives outlined in the Guidelines

There is one working group focused on the comparative evaluation
Define a procedure for the evaluation and comparison of OSS reused by PAs that takes into account not only the TCO but also the technical aspects of the SW and the organisational context in which it is developed.
Evaluation Criteria

• Compliance
  • Interoperability
  • Data protection
  • Safety
  • Accessibility

• Quality
  • Requirements
  • Maintenance
  • Support
  • Dependencies
  • PA skills
  • Number of PAs
  • Vitality of SW
Situation

• Adoption of evaluation criteria is limited
• There are regions where it is customary and regions where it is completely ignored
• "No one has ever been criticized for having ignored a comparative evaluation and chosen Microsoft"
• NOTE: City of Milan's Innovation Manager is a former Microsoft employee currently on sabbatical (but the LinkedIn profile does not mention the sabbatical)