Status of Open Source Software Policies in Europe

Open Source Observatory (OSOR)

EOLE Webinar Series

27 January 2021

Agenda

01 OSOR background

02 Governance of open source software

03 Political and legislative open source software initiatives

04 Next steps

European Commission

Background

- *OSOR is an observatory that provides **FOSS expertise and information** to serve as middle-ground for connecting European public administrations with other relevant stakeholders.*
- *OSOR strives to play an active role in the open source community by **promoting OSS** and helping European public administrations with its adoption.*

What can you find on OSOR?

Monthly Newsletter

Knowledge Centre

News

Case studies

OSOR and other open source software events

joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor

What can you find within the Knowledge Centre?
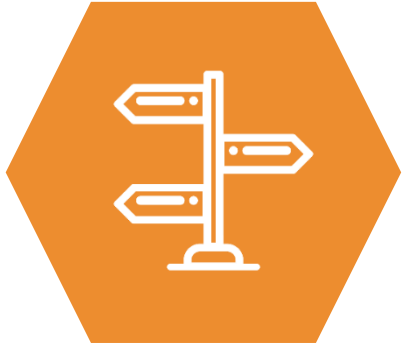
Guidelines for creating sustainable open source communities

Case studies on the deployment of open source software within public administrations
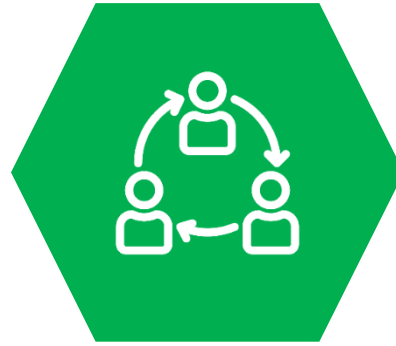
List of open source software associations, competence centres, initiatives, and points of contact

List of open source software repositories
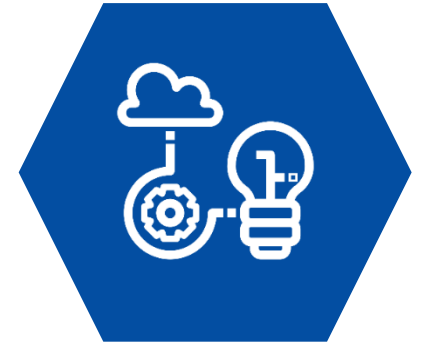
Country intelligence on open source software policies

European Commission

Introduction to OSOR's country intelligence

SCOPE

Research on open source software policies in European countries focusing on:

- **Governance**
- **Political and legal frameworks**
- Major ongoing **open source software initiatives**

METHODOLOGY

- Carrying out **desk research**
- **Feedback** from national contact points
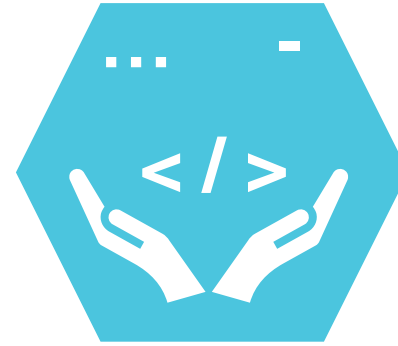- Compilation of **final** country reports
- **Analysis** of all findings to provide a **consolidated view** on the current status of open source policies in Europe

STATUS

- **27 EU and UK** reports published in 2020
- [Status report](#) compiling all data published in December 2020
- Launch of the **worldwide** country reports

Governance of open source software policies
in 28 European countries

Public sector bodies addressing open source software

LEGEND

- **[blue]** Country with at least one public sector body addressing open source software

- **[gray]** Does not have public sector body addressing open source software

- **[hatched]** Beyond scope
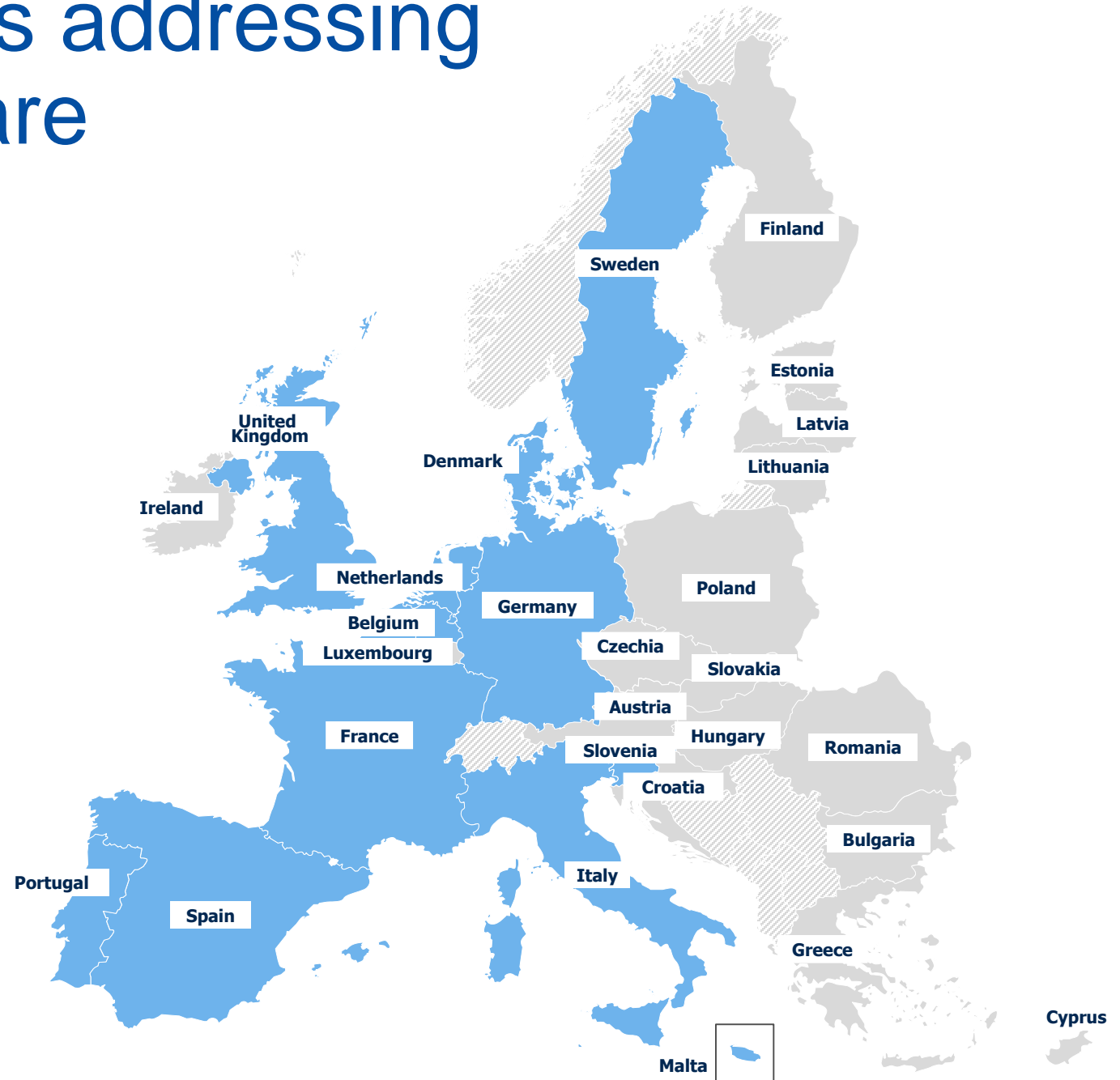
Public sector bodies addressing open source software

Belgium

- Belgian Federal Public Service Policy and Support, the Directorate-General Digital Transformation (FOD BOSA DG DT)
- Digital Agency (*Agence du Numérique*, AdN)
- Flanders Information Agency (*Informatie Vlaanderen*)

Public sector bodies addressing open source software

Italy
- Department for Digital Transformation within the Ministry for Technological Innovation
- Digitisation Agency for Digital Italy (*Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale*, AgID)

Spain
- Technology Transfer Centre (*Centro de Transferencia de Tecnología*, CTT)
- General Secretariat of Digital Administration (SGAD) within the Ministry of Finance and Public Function

Sweden
- Agency for Digital Government (*Myndigheten för digital förvaltning*, DIGG)
- Swedish National Procurement Services (*Kammarkollegiet*)

United Kingdom
- Crown Commercial Services (CCS)
- Government Digital Service (GDS)

Public sector bodies addressing open source software

Denmark

Danish Agency for Digitisation (*Digitaliseringsstyrelsen*)

France

Etalab within Interministerial Directorate for Digital Services (*Direction Interministérielle du Numérique*, DINUM)

Germany

Competence Center Open Source Software (*Kompetenzzentrum Open-Source-Software*, CC OSS)

Malta

Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA)

Portugal

Administrative Modernisation Agency (*Agência para a Modernização Administrativa*, AMA)

Slovenia

Information Society Office within the Ministry of Public Administration Information Society and Informatics Directorate

Political and legal initiatives on open source software in 28 European countries

Political initiatives addressing open source software

POLITICAL

- Action plans
- Agreements
- Guidelines
- Political declarations
- Policies
- Governmental programmes
- Strategies

LEGEND

- ■ Political initiative(s) focusing on open source software
- ■ Political initiative(s) addressing open source software
- ■ Does not have political initiative addressing open source software
- ▨ Beyond scope

Examples of specific political open source software initiatives

Open source software in procurement

🇸🇪 Sweden (2010) Framework Agreement

🇲🇹 Malta (2010) White Paper on OSS

Development and use of open source software solutions

🇸🇪 Sweden (2019) Software Development Policy

🇫🇷 France (2018) Contribution Policy for OSS of the State

Promotion of open source software in public administrations

🇲🇹 Malta (2019) OSS Policy

🇬🇷 Greece (2015) Agreement with GFOSS

Adoption of open source software in public administration

🇩🇰 Denmark (2014) Aarhus Municipality Open Source Action Plan

🇸🇮 Slovenia (2011) Study and Action Plan on OSS for workstations

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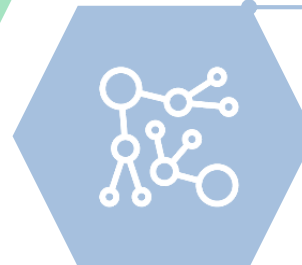- France (2018) Contribution Policy for OSS of the State

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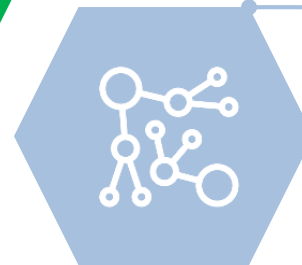- France (2018) Contribution Policy for OSS of the State

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Examples of specific political open source software initiatives

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Legal initiatives addressing open source software

LEGAL

- Decrees
- Directives
- Laws
- Parliamentary Resolutions

LEGEND

- ■ (dark blue) Legal initiative(s) focusing on open source software
- ■ (light blue) Legal initiative(s) addressing open source software
- ■ (grey) Does not have legal initiative addressing open source software
- ▨ (hatched) Beyond scope

Specific legal open source software initiatives

Ayrault Circular (2012)

Defines the general orientations for the use of OSS in public administration. Free software must be considered equal to other solutions.

OSS Directive (2012)

Instructs all agencies to give preference to the use of open source software throughout government.

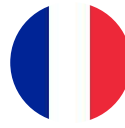## Code of Digital Administration (2013)

Makes it mandatory for Italy's public administrations to use free and open source software solutions, as stipulated in Article 68.

Decree 1236/2016

Requires the creation of "provisions to propagate software built on open standards and open source software in the public sector while maintaining the efficiency of public administration" through inter-ministerial cooperation.

Decree 1604/2016

Follow-up legislation on the adoption of open source software in the public sector and the measures necessary for the dissemination of OSS based on open standards in the public sector.
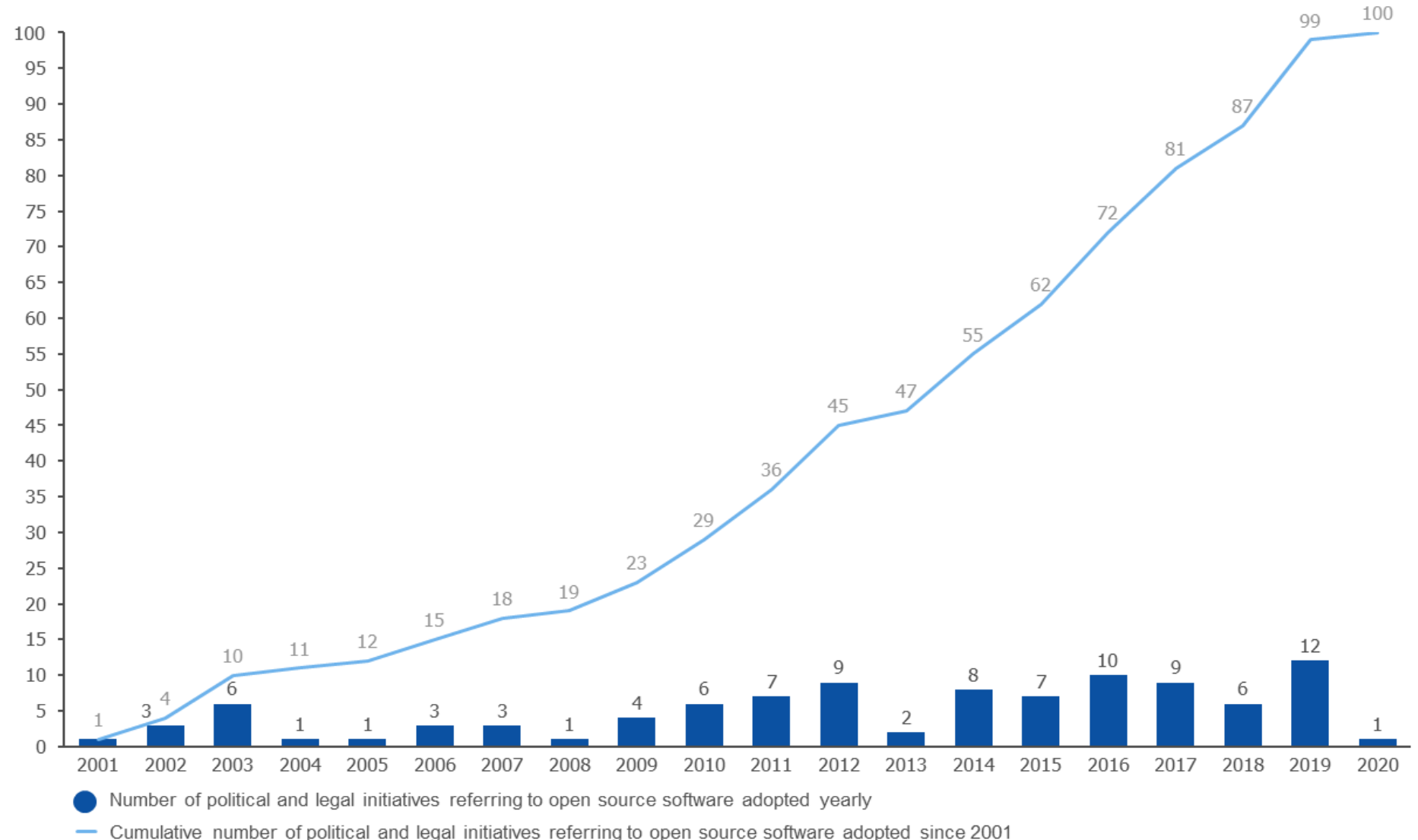
Decree no. 2017-683 (2017)

Specifies the families of open source software licences that can be used for administrative documents that are communicable and reusable.

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Adoption timeline of political and legal initiatives

- Adoption of OSS initiatives **steadily increasing** over time

- **Positive outlook** for future initiatives following the Berlin Declaration and the Commission's Open Source Software Strategy

● Number of political and legal initiatives referring to open source software adopted yearly

— Cumulative number of political and legal initiatives referring to open source software adopted since 2001

Next Steps

Next steps

Collect your feedback by email
(EU-OSOR@ec.europa.eu)

Launch the research phase and call for national contact points worldwide

Publish 16 country reports and complementary factsheets in 2021

European Commission

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Reach out at [EU-OSOR@ec.europa.eu](#)

OSOR is funded by the European Commission's [ISA² programme](#) that provides public administrations, businesses and citizens with specifications and standards, software and services to reduce administrative burdens.

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Thank you

Appendix

Contributors to the 2020 OSS country intelligence reports

Monika SOWINSKA
monika.sowinska@ec.europa.eu

Vivien DEVENYI
vivien.devenyi@wavestone.com

Debora DI GIACOMO
debora.digiacomo@wavestone.com

Chloé DUSSUTOUR
chloe.dussutour@wavestone.com

Clare O'DONOHOE
clare.odonohoe@wavestone.com

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Full list of political initiatives on open source software

Austria
- Digital Austria in 2050 (2019)
- Policy on using Linux in schools (2009)

Belgium
- Policy Statement of Wallonia-Brussels Federation (2019)
- Political Declaration of Wallonia (2019)
- Brussels-Capital Regional Government Agreement (2009)
- Declaration on the French Community Policy (2009)

Bulgaria
- eGovernment Development Strategy (2016)

Croatia
- Open Source Software Strategy (2006)

Czechia
- Digital Czechia (2018)
- Czech Open Government Initiative (2006)
- Czech Information and Communication Policy (2004)

Denmark
- Aarhus Municipality Open Source Action Plan (2014)
- National Open Government Partnership Action Plan (2013)
- Pilot Programme to use ODF and Open XML format (2007)
- Software Strategy (2002)

Estonia
- Digital Agenda 2020 (2020)
- Interoperability of the State Information System: Software Framework (2012)
- National Interoperability Framework of the State Information System (2011)
- Recommendations on Open Source Software (2003)

Finland
- Government Programme (2019)
- Public Administration Recommendation (2009)
- Open Source Procurement Guide (2008)
- Ministry of Finance Working Paper (2003)

France
- Contribution Policy for Free Software of the State (2018)
- National Action Plan for transparent and collaborative public action (2015)

Germany
- Digital Agenda (2014)
- Ministry of Interior guidelines (2012)

Greece
- Agreement with GFOSS (2015)

Hungary
- Digital Prosperity Programme (2016)
- National Infocommunication Strategy (2014)
- Electronic Public Administration Operational Programme (2007)

Italy
- AgID guidelines (2019)
- Triennial Informatic Plan for Public Administration (2017)
- Information Society guidelines (2002)

Latvia
- Open Government Partnership National Action Plan (2017)
- Initiative on procurement (2012)

Lithuania
- Government Programme (2016)
- Information Technology Strategy (2015)
- Research report (2014)
- Information Society Development Programme (2014)

Luxembourg
- National Interoperability Framework (2019)
- Coalition Agreement (2018)

Malta
- Open Source Software Policy (2019)
- MITA Strategy (2015)
- Digital Malta (2014)
- Open Source Software Policy (2012)
- White Paper on Open Source Software (2010)
- Public Consultation (2010)

Netherlands
- NL DIGITAAL (2019)
- Digital Government Agenda (2018)
- Open Standards and Open Source Software Programme (2003)

Poland
- National Integration Informatisation Programme (2016)

Portugal
- ICT Strategy (2017)
- Global Strategic Plan for Rationalisation and Cost Reduction with ICT (2012)
- Free Software in Parliament initiative (2007)

Romania
- Digital Agenda (2014)

Slovakia
- Digital Transformation Strategy and Action Plan (2019)
- National Action Plan (2017)

Slovenia
- Guidelines for the Development of Information Solutions (2018)
- Generic Technology Requirements (2017)
- Study and Action Plan on Open Source Software for workstations (2011)
- Information Society Development Strategy (2010)
- Policy for development, implementation and use of open source software solutions (2003)

Spain
- Publishing and Licencing Guide (2015)

Sweden
- Software Development Policy (2019)
- Report on open IT standards (2010)
- Framework Agreement (2010)
- Study by Agency for Public Management (2005)
- Study by Agency for Public Management (2003)

United Kingdom
- Transformation Strategy and Local Digital Declaration (2017)
- Open Standards Principles (2012)
- Government ICT Strategy (2011)
- Procurement of open source IT (2011)
- Open Source Software Strategy for Government (2010)

FIGURE LEGEND
- OSS in the context of a broader digitalisation initiative
- Initiative focuses exclusively on OSS

Full list of legislative initiatives on open source software

Bulgaria
- eGovernment Act (2016)

Czechia
- Right to Digital Services Act (2019)

Denmark
- Parliament resolution on open standards (2006)

France
- Decree No.2017-638 (2017)
- Digital Republic Bill (2016)
- Law No.2015-1779 (2015)
- Ayrault Circular (2012)

Germany
- Parliament resolution (2001)

Greece
- eGovernance Law (2011)

Hungary
- Decree 1236/2016 (2016)
- Decree 1604/2016 (2016)
- Decree 1479/2011 (2011)

Italy
- Code of Digital Administration (2013)

Latvia
- Regulation No.402 (2017)

Malta
- Digital Government Law (2018)
- OSS Directive (2012)

Netherlands
- Digital Government Law (2018)
- Government Information Act (2017)

Portugal
- Decree-Law No.107/2012 (2012)
- Law No.36/2011 (2011)
- Council of Ministers Resolution (2002)

Slovakia
- Law No.95/2019 (2019)
- Decree No.55/2014 (2014)

Spain
- Law No.40/2015 (2015)
- Royal Decree No.4/2010 (2010)
- Resolution of the Secretary of State for Public Administration (2003)

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- OSS in the context of a broader digitalisation initiative
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