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Open Source Software Country Intelligence Report

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SLOVENIA

Executive summary

Within the Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology¹, the Directorate of Information Society² has set the use of free and open source software (OSS) as one of its public administration priorities. The Ministry is the main body in charge of drafting OSS policies and strategies, as well as implementing OSS projects in Slovenia.

Over the past 10 years, the Slovenian Government has published various policy documents describing the benefits of OSS and setting out action plans for its implementation. There are also guidelines available for procurement and implementation processes that call for the equal treatment of both proprietary and OSS solutions when considering the development, implementation and hosting of new systems in public administrations. However, a single written policy on the use of OSS solutions does not exist.

Various public institutions have started partially or fully using OSS with the objectives of unifying software across workstations, enhancing security and reliability, facilitating independence from a single provider, and realising financial benefits.

Actors

This section presents the key governmental bodies that are responsible for setting OSS policies and the main strategic players that work together with the government at all levels to raise awareness on OSS.

Policy makers

- The Ministry of Public Administration³ is responsible for various tasks such as administrative management, public procurement, transparency, and the development of electronic services (including eGovernment). The Ministry houses the Information Society Office⁴ which is responsible for the strategic planning and promotion of digital transformation in Slovenia. Within the Ministry, the Directorate for Information Society and Informatics⁵ deals with the development, implementation, and hosting of IT systems. The Directorate also oversees various free and open source projects.

¹ <http://www.arhiv.mvzt.gov.si/en/>

² http://www.arhiv.mvzt.gov.si/en/areas_of_work/information_society/index.html#c3998

³ <https://www.gov.si/en/state-authorities/ministries/ministry-of-public-administration/>

⁴ <https://www.gov.si/en/state-authorities/ministries/ministry-of-public-administration/about-the-ministry/information-society-and-informatics-directorate/information-society-office/>

⁵ http://www.arhiv.mvzt.gov.si/en/areas_of_work/information_society/index.html#c3998

- The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology⁶ performs tasks in the field of higher education, research, technology, and information society.

Strategic player

- Slovenia's Open Source Centre (*Center Odprte Kode Slovenije*, COKS) is a national centre that supports the development, use, and knowledge of open source technologies and OSS solutions in both the public and private sectors. End users also have access to the community portal knowledge base, and the COKS Bazaar⁷ shares news, information and opinions in the field of OSS. It cooperates with the public sector by offering consultancy services such as general advice, strategy preparation, and assessments of OSS solutions. The centre started operating once the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology began preparing for the deployment of OSS in Slovenia.

Policy and legal framework

This section recapitulates the main OSS related policies and legal acts of the last ten years, including the first known milestone in this domain. The list is presented in a chronological order, starting from the most recent milestone.

- The Ministry of Public Administration, Directorate for Information Technology published the Guidelines for the Development of Information Solutions⁸ in 2018. The guidelines encourage public administrations to access and reuse state solutions published on the National Interoperability Portal.⁹ Solutions that are available on Joinup are also mentioned in the document. If an open source solution is selected to be installed, three key requirements must be met:
 - The community developing the OSS solution must be active and responsive;
 - The OSS solution and its components must not pose a serious security risk;
 - The OSS solution must meet the Slovenian Generic Technology Requirements (below).
- The Generic Technology Requirements¹⁰ document was presented in 2017. It provides the mandatory instructions for the development of more complex information systems that are installed on the central information infrastructure of the Ministry of Public Administration, Directorate for Informatics. The document contains guidelines for procurement and

⁶ <http://www.arhiv.mvzt.gov.si/en/>

⁷ <https://bazar.coks.si/>

⁸ <http://nio.gov.si/nio/asset/smernice+mju+za+razvoj+informacijskih+resitev-768>

⁹ <http://nio.gov.si/nio/>

¹⁰ <http://nio.gov.si/nio/asset/dokument+genericne+tehnoloske+zahteve+gtz-743>

implementation processes that call for the equal treatment of both proprietary and OSS solutions when considering the development, implementation and hosting of new systems in public administrations.

- In 2011, the Ministry of Public Administration published a study¹¹, including an Action Plan, on the introduction of OSS on its workstations. Any public authority could follow the proposed Action Plan. The key recommendations of the Action Plan were divided into three lots. Lot 1 focused on the preparation of guidelines and a potential national policy on OSS. Lot 2 promoted the implementation of the requirements for open standards. Lot 3 supported the instalment of OSS productivity tools, offered trainings, and prepared a reference distribution.
- The Information Society Development Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia 2010-2020, titled *si2010*¹², has a dedicated chapter on the support of the development of OSS solutions. The strategic goals set out in the Strategy are as follows:
 - To provide active support for the equal treatment of proprietary and OSS equipment;
 - To implement information solutions based on open standards and protocols;
 - Training in, education about, and deployment of OSS and the active promotion of knowledge transfer and good practices;
 - To avoid dependency on a single information solution;
 - To obtain full ownership of and rights to modification of the information source code solution;
 - To ensure the protection of copyright and other substantive and intangible rights;
 - To advocate the use of OSS solutions;
 - To encourage the use of OSS solutions outside the public sector.
- Although it dates back to more than ten years ago, the Slovenian Government published a policy for the development, implementation and use of OSS solutions (*Politika vlade RS pri razvijanju, uvanjanju in uporabi programske opreme in resitev temeljelih na odprti kodi*)¹³ in 2003. It is the first milestone of the Slovenian Government in the field of OSS.

¹¹ https://bazar.coks.si/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Studija_uvajanja_OKPO_na_DP_v_JU_koncna_razlicica_17.2.2011.pdf

¹² http://www.arhiv.mvzt.gov.si/fileadmin/mvzt.gov.si/pageuploads/pdf/informacijska_druzba/si2010.pdf

¹³ http://www.camtp.uni-mb.si/opensource/Slovenia/Politika_OSS_Koncna.pdf

Open source software initiatives

The following examples provide an overview of OSS initiatives in Slovenia at national and sub-national levels, reported in chronological order.

- Parlameter, 2016¹⁴: Parlameter is a tool that monitors the work of the Slovenian National Assembly by analysing votes and transcripts of meetings. Users can see which Members of Parliament took part in which meetings and sessions. The software, developed by the NGO, *Danes je nov dan* (Today is a new day)¹⁵, has been made available as OSS. The tool was initiated in 2016.
- Health Centres in Ljubljana and Koper, 2011¹⁶: The workstations of the health centres in these two cities fully migrated to OSS solutions in 2011.
- Initiatives within the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, 2009¹⁷: In a citizen-governmental question-response platform, a question was asked in 2009 concerning the use of OSS within governmental ministries. The Ministry responded with various in-house initiatives that were in place at the time, such as:
 - Computers in the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport use a licenced operating system with both an open source and licenced office suite;
 - In most cases, computers in the Ministry have various OSS solutions installed, including: a server virtualisation software, network operating systems, software for creating, maintaining and operating websites and e-classrooms, directory services, and the Eduroam network software;
 - The Ministry supports the development of e-materials intended for teaching and learning. The materials are developed in accordance with the Creative Commons licences, which means that they can be used, modified, and upgraded;
 - The Ministry provides training for teachers (e.g. seminars, workshops) to promote the use of ICT for teaching and learning, including the promotion of OSS solutions in this domain;
 - The Ministry promotes the use of OSS at presentations, fairs, and conferences in the field of ICT for teaching and learning;

¹⁴ <https://parlameter.si/>

¹⁵ <https://danesjenovdan.si/>

¹⁶ https://www.qzdbk.si/media/pdf/sekcije/informatika/posvet2011/zbornik_4pdbi_2011.pdf

¹⁷ <https://predlagam.vladi.si/predlog/46>

- The Ministry encourages schools to install free and OSS solutions on computers that are intended for free access and Internet usage (including for the local environment, e.g. e-schools).
- Gerontology research project, 2008¹⁸: Slovenia's Public Centre for Seniors (*Dom Danice Vogrinc*)¹⁹ launched a research project in 2008 that used OSS to collect and verify information. The project architecture was developed by COKS and used MediaWiki, an open source knowledge management software. The project aimed to increase seniors' use of the Internet to give them better access to health care information.
- Courts of the Slovenian Republic, 2006²⁰: The courts have been partially using OSS on workstations since 2006 and have a long history of using Open Office on over 3,000 workstations. The Supreme Court is also producing and developing OSS on GitHub.²¹ The reason for the 2006 migration was to unify software across workstations. A training programme and manual were also provided for different types of users. The new IT solutions achieved reduced costs. Moreover, Laurentius, an eDelivery solution for the exchange of court documents and cases developed by Slovenia's Supreme Court, has been approved by the European Commission. It is the first open source document exchange solution developed by a public administration.²²
- Slovenian Government website²³: The main state administration website providing comprehensive information on the government's operations and easy access to services is built on open source components.
- Government Data Centre²⁴: At the Government Data Centre, OSS solutions and components are used based on a 'best fit' principle in order to determine whether it is optimal to use custom-made, open source, or proprietary software.

¹⁸ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/sl-open-source-internet-stra>

¹⁹ <https://www.danica-vogrinc.si/>

²⁰ http://arhiv2014.skupnostobcin.si/fileadmin/sos/datoteke/pdf/DELOVNA_TELESA/KOM_ZA_E-POSLOVANJE/40_seja_-_OK.pdf

²¹ <https://github.com/VsrsCif/Laurentius>

²² <https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/2016/09/20/Laurentius+Joins+list+of+e-SENS+AS4+Conformant+Solutions>

²³ <https://www.gov.si/>

²⁴ <https://podatki.gov.si/>

