

# Open Source Observatory

OSOR

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## Things have changed

Public services instinctively recognise the opportunities in openness and open data. Openness, to increase trust in government services and to get [citizens involved](#). Open data, to make government data free to use and reuse for commercial and non-commercial purposes.

Underpinning these two is open technology.

Most readers of the European Commission's Open Source Observatory (OSOR) already know that public services are increasingly moving in this direction. It makes perfect sense to [share and reuse](#) ICT solutions, and open source is by far the easiest way to make that happen.

OSOR [in 2012](#) quoted experts who predicted that open data would nudge public services towards open source. Four years later, we [showed](#) that nearly all of Europe's open data portals rely on open source.

There are many examples of public administrations that laud open technology. See, for example, our recent [report](#) on the city of Hämeenlinna (Finland). The city believes that open technology will help attract innovative companies and research organisations and involve citizens. Next, read why the Dutch government is [encouraging](#) public services to share their software solutions as open source:

*[It] benefits public interests including innovation, economic activity, openness and information security, and reduces the amount of money wasted.*

Importantly, citizens are starting to demand openness and open technology. OSOR reports how public pressure in Italy convinced the government [to switch](#) from proprietary software to open source for its Covid-19 track-and-trace app.

Citizens are aware of the opportunities and possibilities of open source. The majority of Europeans use an Android smartphone, proving that the open source ecosystem is industry-grade and easy to use. Increasing numbers of ordinary people run open source servers, either in the cloud or perhaps on a Raspberry

Pi at home.

That is why our [report](#) on the city of Rianxo (Spain) is no surprise. Using open source is indeed easier than ever.

Webinar

Preparing for the next phase, OSOR is aggregating knowledge on how to sustain open source in public services. Tune in for our next [webinar](#) on 4 June, where we will be sharing experiences on how to get citizens involved. Examples include the city of [Groningen](#) (Netherlands) and Germany's [Integreat](#) project.

## Latest News

### **The Dutch government releases a guide on local practices of digital participation**

Netwerk Democratie, the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations' programme for "Democracy in Action", and the Interreg Like! project of the European Regional Development Fund partnered to publish a guide on local practices of digital democracy. The publication provides guidelines, checklists, and case studies stemming from initiatives in Dutch municipalities that rely on open source solutions to improve their digital participation processes.

[More](#)

### **The Italian government releases user-centric public services application**

In 2018, the Italian government launched the IO App, an open source application that aims at regrouping public services and making them available to citizens through a user-centric app. The IO App was born from the mission of Team Digitale to 'build simpler and more efficient services for citizens, public administration and businesses, through innovative digital products'. Team Digitale's mandate ended in 2019 and their projects, including the IO App, are now managed by the Digital Transformation Department within the Ministry for Technological Innovation and Digitalisation and the state-owned company Pago PA SpA.

[More](#)

### **Public procurement and open source: levelling the playing field**

RTE (Réseau Transport d'Electricité), the electricity transmission system operator of France, has progressively increased its use of open source software since 2018 and has been including open source software in its procurement since 2019. Recently, RTE published a memo providing guidelines on including open source software in public procurement procedures.

[More](#)

## Italy's Digital Republic includes threatened South Tyrol school project

The project behind South Tyrol's use of open source in schools has joined the Italian Digital Competence Coalition, an initiative by the country's Ministry for Technological Innovation and Digitisation to promote digital inclusion and advance digital skills. The ministry is bringing together expertise from more than 100 projects across Italy to create a national strategy and intervention plan.

[More](#)

## Webinar on open source software policies in the European Union

Thank you to all the participants who attended the OSOR webinar on open source software policies in the EU Member States held on 8 April 2020. Here is a short summary of the event for anyone who missed out.

[More](#)

## Galicia's Rianxo municipality uses open source for nearly everything

The municipality of Rianxo is one of those European public services that deserves to make the headlines because almost everything is done using free and open source software. For other public services, the transition to open source should now be easier than ever, says the town's pioneering IT administrator.

[More](#)

## Hämeenlinna joins network of Finnish municipalities for open source

The city of Hämeenlinna (Finland) recognises open technology as an opportunity to attract tech companies and get citizens involved. That is why the municipality is now increasing its use of – and contribution to – open source software.

[More](#)

## Spanish and French governments turn to open source video-conferencing platform

The Spanish and French governments have turned to an open-source solution, Jitsi Meet, to host online meetings and press conferences. Jitsi Meet is a video conferencing tool that doesn't require the download of any software or the creation of an account.

[More](#)

## Italy says it will share source code of Covid-19 track-and-trace app

The government of Italy will publish as open source the source code of a smartphone application developed to track and trace the spread of the Covid-19 virus in the country.

[More](#)

## GIS video tutorial attracts municipalities from across Europe

An online training course on gvSIG - an open source geographic information system (GIS) - continues to attract new users from Europe and across the globe. Over the past two years the gvSIG Association has provided certificates to trainees working for municipalities in Italy, Romania and many other countries, who have successfully completed the course.

[More](#)

## Dutch government encourages public services to share their software source code

The Dutch government wants the country's public services to share as open source any software solutions that are written for or by them. "My appeal to public services is to release the source code, unless they have good reasons not to," writes State Secretary for the Interior Raymond Knops in a letter to the Dutch parliament. "A public service that uses open source software can also be expected to actively share with society software that it develops itself."

[More](#)

## Latest Software

### RDF validation service

The Test Bed offers a generic RDF validation service that can be used to validate arbitrary RDF content using SHACL shapes to check both syntax and business rules. The RDF validation service is available for use as a standalone validator and through the Test Bed as part of complete conformance testing.

[More](#)

### CEF eArchiving

eArchiving provides the core specifications, software, training and knowledge to help data creators, software developers and digital archives tackle the challenge of short, medium and long-term data management and reuse in a sustainable, authentic, cost-efficient, manageable and interoperable way.

[More](#)

### CEF Context Broker

EF Context Broker is an API that can integrate data from multiple systems, creating a holistic view of information. By providing the layer that describes each type of data, the Context Broker makes it possible to create an interface that makes it easy for anyone to view and interpret big data. Using the Context Broker, organisations can monitor their metrics in real time through live updates and share the context information they choose with third parties, enabling process improvements and innovation across the whole data value chain.

[More](#)

## Upcoming Events

### OSOR webinar on the Sustainability of Public Sector Open Source Communities

The OSOR team is happy to invite you to an interactive webinar on our Guidelines for Sustainable Open Source Software (OSS) Communities in the Public Sector, which we have been developing together with Dr. Maha Shaikh from King's College London. The guidelines are meant to serve as a practical tool that any public sector OSS community (or OSS enthusiast) can use to create and maintain sustainability.



Permalink

[Main URL](#)



Date

04/06/2020 - 04/06/2020

### esLibre 2020

On 5-6 June, the King Juan Carlos University is organising the 2020 edition of the esLibre conference. The esLibre event is a unique meeting of open source enthusiasts in Spain which hosts plenary sessions, specialised presentations, roundtables and dedicated workshops on various open source-related topics and projects.



Permalink

[Main URL](#)



Date

05/06/2020 - 06/06/2020

### OW2'online20

The OW2'online20 event is the annual event of the OW2 community. This year's edition is exceptionally held online due to current travel restrictions. The online event will offer a serie of online presentations and live chat with the speakers. The OSOR team will participate to the event to present our work on open source policy country intelligence reports.



Permalink

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Date

17/06/2020 - 18/06/2020

### OpenExpo Europe 2020

OpenExpo Europe is one of the disclosure windows in Technological Innovation, Digital Transformation and Open Source. Created seven years ago, the four-day event aims to promote the open source ecosystem and generate networking.



Permalink

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Date

17/06/2020 - 21/06/2020

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