

Policy background

The current i2010 initiative of the European Commission invites public administrations to share their solutions and experiences to create better eGovernment services. By supporting such open source initiatives as the OSOR, IDABC aims to facilitate the development of custom applications based on Open Source Software and a collaborative development.

The development methods and the legal framework of OSS (licenses) ideally fit to the requirements of cross-border collaboration between public administrations. The Open Source model allows the sharing of resources, the re-use, modification and dissemination of code between many independent partners.

The Open Source Observatory and Repository (OSOR.eu) provides a platform for the exchange of code and knowledge between European public administrations.

About IDABC

IDABC stands for Interoperable Delivery of European eGovernment Services to public Administrations, Businesses and Citizens.

It uses the opportunities offered by information and communication technologies to encourage and support the delivery of cross-border public sector services to citizens and enterprises in Europe; to improve efficiency and collaboration between European public administrations and to contribute to making Europe an attractive place to live, work and invest.

<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc>

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European Commission



EUROPEAN OPEN SOURCE OBSERVATORY REPOSITORY

Open Source Software for eGovernment



European Commission

IDABC Studies and Advices

The implementation of OSS in eGovernment services raises many questions. IDABC has responded to this need for information by publishing studies, such as:

- **Open Source Licencing of software developed by the European Commission**
A legal study on the best licencing conditions to distribute IDABC software. Based on this evaluation, the European Commission decided to create the EUPL.
- **Partnering with Open Source developers**
Guideline for public administrations.
- **Pooling Open Source Software**
Study about re-using software in public administrations.

European Union Public Licence (EUPL) V. 1.1

The EUPL is the first European Free/Open Source Software (F/OSS) licence. The purpose of the EUPL is to encourage a new wave of public administrations to embrace the Free/Open Source model to valorise their software and knowledge.

EUPL has been approved as a licence to be used for the distribution of software developed in the framework of the IDA and IDABC programmes of the Commission. The licence text is drafted in general terms and can therefore be used by anybody wishing to release code under an OSS licence that is adopted to European legal conditions.

The EUPL was created as a result of the IDABC licencing studies. The publication of this copy-left licence was preceded by an intensive public consultation process. It was officially adopted by the European Commission on 9 January 2007. On 9 January 2009, the European Commission adopted a revised version of the Licence while at the same time validated it in 22 official languages (EUPL v.1.1).

The EUPL is now available in 22 official EU languages, in respect of the principle of linguistic diversity of the European Union.

For more information on the licence visit: <http://www.osor.eu/eupl>

To download the text of EUPL licence:
<http://www.osor.eu/eupl/european-union-public-licence-eupl-v.1.1>



Open Source Observatory and Repository (OSOR.eu)

What is OSOR.eu?

The Open Source Observatory and Repository (OSOR.eu) supports the sharing of F/OSS(*)-based eGovernment applications across Europe – connecting EU services and Member States. In order to do so, the following services are available on OSOR.eu:

- A central pan-European **information platform on OSS** which includes news, events, cases studies and newsletters about on-going initiatives, projects, new applications and developments in European Member States and across the world, as well as advices/guidelines around the use of OSS and the OSOR;
- A **community platform** allowing public administrations to set up their own community around a specific domain / interest, or participate in the numerous communities already active on OSOR.eu;
- A **repository and registry** which provide visibility to European OS projects and initiatives in public administrations, allowing users to upload and download, search and retrieve software and documentation. It facilitates mutual access to existing projects through a powerful search engine and therefore multiply chances to develop exchanges, re-usability and community building across borders. OSOR.eu also offers a **virtual forge**, a virtual repository service for local and regional organizations which would like to set up their own repository without the burden of dealing with the setting up and operating of the physical infrastructure.
- A **collaborative development environment** providing technical, organisational and legal support. It enables collaborative development and share/exchange of experience and software by providing facilities for the creation of code and content. The facilities include a “forge”, discussion forums, blogs bug tracking, software versioning.

Who is behind the OSOR project?

The OSOR project is financed by the European Commission, managed by the Directorate-General for Informatics, and supported by the Member States national, regional and local administrations.

(*) OSOR considers both Open Source and Free software, according to the OSI and FSF definitions.

Objectives of OSOR.eu

The “**Observatory**” (Information Platform) in the OSOR.eu is aimed at promoting the spread of good practice in the use of Open Source software by public administrations.

The “**Repository**” (Repository, Registry, Collaborative Environment) aims to:

- encourage the re-use of publicly-financed Open Source Software (OSS) developments;
- support the collaborative development of OSS applications and solutions.

OSOR.eu hosts applications and code used and produced by public administrations in Europe. It also promotes the work of **national repositories** so as to encourage the emergence of pan-European federation of Open Source Software repositories.

Who benefits?

- **Public administrations:** OSOR.eu reduces costs for the implementation of IT projects by facilitating sharing and cross-border collaboration, thus also promoting the reuse of existing code. Transparency and openness promise improved interoperability and better code.
- **IT-developers and -businesses:** OSOR.eu publishes activities and requirements of the public sector, thus keeping developers and business informed. The collaborative character allows direct exchange between public administrations and developers. New business opportunities for SMEs may arise.
- **Citizens and Businesses:** OSOR.eu accelerates the availability of platform independent user-friendly eGovernment services.

Welcoming Users and Communities

A dedicated team provides accompanying and technical support for new users who wish to join OSOR.eu. The OSOR team promotes synergies between European repositories and supports OSS communities and other stakeholders with the organisation of workshops. For further information on how to join the OSOR.eu community, contribute a project, or any specific detail on the OSOR:

contact@osor.eu