



Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet

Mexico



1 General Information

The Mexican federal government has recently promoted the adoption of open source software at the federal level. Several pieces of legislation highlight the importance of using free and open source software, particularly emphasising the budgetary advantages it offers in line with the national austerity law. At the federal level, regulations mandate the conditional prioritisation of open source software for public administrations. Similar measures were initially introduced in some of Mexico's 31 Member States, with the first call for such measures dating back to 2009.

2 Actors

POLICY MAKERS

National Digital Strategy Coordinator: Part of the cabinet of the president of Mexico, the coordinator develops information and communication technologies for use by the Federal Public Administration. It prepares and guides the issuance and execution of public policies and guidelines in digital systems of the federal government. It also defines and coordinates the public administration's digital policies and programs.

STRATEGIC PLAYER

Public Research Center of the Federal Government (INFOTEC): The centre contributes to the digital transformation of Mexico through research, innovation, academic training and the development of ICT products and services. It is involved in the research and use of open source in the public sector.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

Law to promote the creation, development, use, and dissemination of free and open source software in the state of Zacatecas

This law designates the COZCYT as responsible for the achievement of the regulation's goals, including prioritising open source systems whenever possible in Zacateca's institutions..

Mexico's National Digital Strategy 2021-2024

The 2021-2024 strategy promotes the use of open source as a part of the roadmap for the federal administration to guide technological and information security efforts and initiatives in a common approach.



4 Open Source Software Initiatives

Techio Comunitario, 2016

Originally developed in Mexico and then extended to 13 countries, Techio Comunitario is a training program aimed at people who collaborate in community and indigenous media and telecommunications projects. It provides tools for the learning about free software principles and using them in practice.

Labsol Network, 2023

After 11 years of existence, the Free Software Laboratory of the Zacatecan Council of Science, Technology and Innovation (COZCYT) evolved to become a network of research centres across the country. With other centres in Oaxaca, Veracruz, Río Grande and Loreto, the laboratory now also runs a Robotics, IoT and Creative Lab.

Tools against corruption, 2021

As part of the national anti-corruption policy, anti-corruption secretariats of various states have developed interoperable systems to foster an array of transparency measures. These software packages, released under the GPLv3 licence, can either be reused as-is or forked and customised by the state's administration.

Infotec's open source community

The Public Research Center of the Federal Government has developed its own open source community to promote the use of its Free Software repository with software free of charge. Among the tools it provides, there is the INFOTEC DataBase Translation and the Sistema de Nómina (payroll system).