Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet

Sweden

1 General Information

In Sweden, the use of open source software (OSS) solutions in public administrations has taken place in the context of decentralised IT decision-making. While civil society, academia and numerous public institutions have increased the use of OSS at various levels (municipal, agency, etc.), there is no national policy explicitly mandating it. However, due to the high standards that Sweden has set for data protection and transparency for the public administration at national level, investments in OSS have been increased to help to fulfil these objectives.

2 Actors

POLICY MAKERS

The Agency for Digital Government (Myndigheten för digital förvaltning, abbreviated as DIGG) was founded in September 2018. The agency is responsible for the country's digital infrastructure, and it provides the government with analysis and opinions on public services digitalisation. Its OSS development policy aims to standardise and regulate software ownership and to set the conditions for sharing OSS solutions.

STRATEGIC PLAYER

NOSAD (Network Open Source and Data In the Network Open Source and Data) is a network of organisations initiated in 2020. They gather and share best practices and lessons learned through monthly workshops on subjects concerning innovation, open data and open source. In addition, they collaborate on community initiatives such as updating a catalogue of open source software used and shared by public services.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

Framework Agreement (2010)

Sweden signed a framework agreement for the procurement of OSS at the national level (Upphandling Öppna programvaror 2010). The central government, the public education sector, twenty county councils, and 225 municipalities signed the agreement

Software Development Policy (2022)

DIGG released an extended version of their 2019 Software Development Policy. This policy decision states that software developed and/or procured for the authority's activities should predominantly be published as open source.

2010 — 2022

4 Open Source Software Initiatives

SUDO

"Sustainable Digitalisation through strategic involvement with Open source projects implementing IT standards in different domains", abbreviated as SUDO, is a collaborative research project running over four years. It focuses on developing effective work practices for engagement with open source software projects.

Open School Platform

Öppna Skolplattformen is an initiative that offered an unofficial alternative to a school application for parents that would make it easier to check on their children's lunch menu, and class schedule and inform the school about absences. The code is open source and has been officially accepted by the Stockholm and Gothenburg cities.

FOSS North

FOSS North is an annual conference that started in 2016. This open source conference covers both software and hardware topics for the Nordic FOSS communities. The community around the conference used to work with a former similar event, the FSCON which was active between 2007 and 2019.

Open Up!

Open Up! is a dashboard that visualises public procurement patterns and features that allow user-friendly analysis of the data, while also automatically publishing the data. It was funded through VINNOVA's first ever Civic Tech call, a programme to develop an open source platform to make procurement easier, more transparent and more efficient.