Poland

1 General Information

While there are no governmental actors directly working to promote the use of open source software (OSS) in Poland, there are some initiatives in the country embracing OSS. With regard to policies related to OSS, the use of open standards and specifications in IT is recognised in the Information Technology Development Act (ITDA), adopted in 2005 and most recently revised in 2019. The Ministry of Digital Affairs was reorganised in 2020 and did not issue any official documents regarding OSS.

2 Actors

POLICY MAKERS
There is no dedicated body in the public sector responsible for the regulation, development, or promotion of open source in the public sector. On 6 April 2023 a new Minister for Digital Affairs, Janusz Cieszyński, was announced but no official position on open source or similar matters has been published.

STRATEGIC PLAYER
Internet Society Poland Charter is a civil society organisation originally founded in 2000. It was created with a core mission to build and support the creation of the Internet as an open-to-all, secure and trustworthy communication network. Among its objectives are also the promotion of open standards, working on regulations relevant to the Internet, cybersecurity and information society and promoting an open model of decision-making.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

Working group on openness of publicly funded data and software (2016- 2018)
This working group conducted consultations and issues recommendations on open licences for software developed for public administrations and issued recommendations on procuring and using open source software in public administrations.

Law of 11 August 2021 on open data and re-use of public sector information
This law is a transposition of the Open Data Directive, calling for the development of a national open data portal. It also states that agencies which are part of the open data program can share or open up source code or elements of software developed with public funding.

2016 — 2021

4 Open Source Software Initiatives

E-Health Centre Strategy
The e-Health Centre is a state budget unit established by the Minister of Health. It creates and manages IT services for the healthcare sector and recently adopted the strategy for 2023-2027 which calls for the unification of solutions and a preference for open-source solutions to avoid duplication of efforts.

Poland's Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture (ARMA)
The ARMA partnered with the company Red Hat and Linux Polska to modernise the process for farmers to apply for EU funds. The developed solution is based on Red Hat's Kubernetes container and its Enterprise Linux.

Social Insurance Institution
The Social Insurance Institution (ZUS) signed an agreement with Linux Polska for the provision of an integrated server virtualisation solution with a 3-year support service. The solution would allow ZUS to develop and optimise its IT systems.

Linux for Poland's Ministry of Justice
Poland's Ministry of Justice signed a contract for the supply of the OSS SuSE Linux and training on its use, as well as a 4-year support service. More specifically, the Ministry of Justice uses the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server and SUSE Manager subscription for applications from the SAP family.