



Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet

Bolivia

OSOR

1 General Information

Bolivia has taken a particularly strong approach to the use of free and open source software at the central government level, connecting it with its sovereignty policy. This commitment stems from a well-established free software community that emerged in the early 2000s. The initial push towards open source software highlighted the necessity for comprehensive measures alongside mandatory adoption. Consequently, the country revised its regulations to embrace the transition towards open technologies with a goal of achieving full sovereignty.

2 Actors

POLICY MAKERS

The Agency for e-Government and Information and Communication Technologies (AGETIC) is the main body responsible for free and open source software in Bolivia. Created in 2015, it is placed under guidance of the Ministry of the Presidency. It oversees the implementation of the national free software plan and has its own developer team.

STRATEGIC PLAYER

Comunidad Software Libre de Bolivia, officially founded in 2006, is an initiative for the promotion of free software in Bolivia which was instrumental to creating and developing the free software plans and policies in the country. Currently, its activities are more informal. The success of the initiative led to many of its members joining government digital agencies, leading the country in its adoption of free software.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

General Law No. 164 for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies

Establishing the general approach for the government's ICT policies, its article 77 calls for the executive, legislative, judicial and electoral bodies at all levels to promote and prioritise the use of OSS and open standards.

Institutional Free Software and Open Standards Implementation Plans (PISLEAS)

These reports are produced by local governmental agencies to establish their respective migration strategies to free and open source software. The reports are published online.



4 Open Source Software Initiatives

State Repository of Free Software (RESL), 2013

Created alongside the Supreme Decree 1793 and Law No.164, this repository's functions have been detailed by the multiple reports and licensing guidelines produced by the responsible agencies. A public forge, RESL aims to encourage the reuse of software solutions among the various public entities implementing free software.

Alternatives for the selection of free and open source software, 2016

Published by the CTIC-EPB, this document proposes a white list of free software packages alongside their selection criteria which serves as a practical tool to facilitate the selection and implementation process of free software for public sector entities and institutions. It is also available as a simplified list format.

Guidelines for the Organisation of the Development, Publication, Documentation and Licensing of the Software of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 2019

Published by the CTIC-EPB, these guidelines share recommendations regarding the establishment of communities around OSS used by the government of Bolivia. The document recognises the community development basis of free software and therefore recommends creating a software project governance.

National Free Software Congress (CONASOL), 2000

Hosted for the first time by the UMSA (Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (UMSA)), it evolved over the course of 20 years to be one of the main events of the free software community of Bolivia with the last edition in 2021. At its peak, it gathered both community members and government experts.