

Open Source Policy NORTH MACEDONIA



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General Information

In the Republic of North Macedonia, the **Ministry of Information Society and Administration** (MISA) is the main governmental body responsible for the development of information society, including the drafting of national policies on digitalisation. The coordination and drafting of future strategies on open source software (OSS) will fall under its responsibility. Migrations to OSS were introduced in 2006, upon launching the **Computer for Every Child** initiative.

2

Actors



North Macedonia does not have an appointed central and federal entity for the development and supervision of open source software to date.



Free Software Macedonia is a non-profit organisation that is dedicated to the promotion of free software in order to create awareness and contextualise its use from an economic and socio-ethical perspective.

3

Policy and Legal Framework

2005

2005

2011



National Programme for Development of Education (NPDE)

The NPDE established the governmental initiative 'Computer for Every Child', launched in late 2006. The initiative is a framework for the government to install the open source Edubuntu distribution of GNU/Linux on all school computer workstations.

National Strategy for Information Society Development

The Strategy established that free and open source software is a public good. Objective 6.03 calls for the enablement of accessible e-services using open standardised formats of documentation and exchange of information.

Draft National Free Software Policy (NPSS)

The draft National Free Software Policy (NPSS) of 2011, proposes to regulate the recommendations for the use, procurement and support of free and OSS, based on the assumption that this type of software is a public good.

4

Open Source Software Initiatives



Lectures on OSS, 2005-2014: Free Software Macedonia held a series of lectures on free software at the technical campus and the social sciences campus of the SS. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje (UKIM). These lectures focussed on the history of free software, licences, contributing to free software projects software, and the communities around open source projects.

State Statistical Office analysis, 2011: The State Statistical Office published an analysis of the use of ICT in the public sector. It was found that in 2011, 25% of the public sector entities' computers ran on an open source operating system, such as Linux. The open source Internet browser Mozilla was found to be used on 91.5% of computers and the use of OpenOffice was reports on 63.6% of all public administration workstations.

Governmental websites: Currently, all major government ministries run Drupal or Wordpress for their websites, such as the Covid-19 vaccine registration website.