

Open Source Policy GERMANY



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General Information

The German federal government committed to reducing practical barriers to OSS in the **Digital Agenda 2014-2017** strategy document. However, the latest strategy currently in place, Digital Strategy 2025, does not explicitly mention OSS. Various local and regional administrations are taking individual steps towards setting up OSS on workstations, databases and server operators.

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Actors



Policy maker

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



Strategic player

Open Source Business Alliance e.V. is a nonprofit community of public administrations, SMEs and private companies that focuses on open source matters in Germany and Europe.

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Policy and Legal Framework

2001

Parliament Resolution on Overcoming the digital divide of society

The resolution called for the increased use of Open Source Software in the federal administration.

2012

Federal guidelines on the legal aspects of the usage, dissemination and further development of open source software

The document is intended for any governmental agency planning to migrate from proprietary to open source software.

2014

Digital Agenda 2014-2017

The strategy document of the German government aimed to eliminate practical obstacles in the procurement of OSS.

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Open Source Software Initiatives



German Federal Pension Insurance: The fund uses Linux servers and Apache solutions on its x86 and mainframe computers.

OSiP: The German federal state of Thuringia is using OSiP, an open source-based system for performing security checks for staff access to sensitive areas, such as airports, nuclear plants and ports.

Schul Cloud: The Ministry of Education's Schul Cloud (School Cloud) is a teaching and learning infrastructure available as open source software. It provides the technical basis for teachers and students to use digital teaching and learning content in class. The Cloud is regularly updated on GitHub.

Schwäbisch Hall: This was the first sub-national government body in Germany to switch to Linux-based IT infrastructure in 2001. The migration was done to both servers and desktops.
Ucloud4schools: Schools and vocational colleges in Cologne, Aachen, Essen and other cities are using open source-based cloud eLearning and collaboration software.

Strengthening digital sovereignty in government: The current Federal Interior Minister announced in September 2019 that the federal government will reduce dependencies on individual IT providers. OSS will play an important role when reviewing alternatives.