

Open Source Policy MALTA



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General Information

The Maltese government has been active in the development and promotion of the use of open source software (OSS) solutions in public administrations in the past ten years. The principle of giving equal consideration to OSS solutions and proprietary software solutions when procuring new software has helped to raise awareness and normalise the use of OSS solutions and increase their uptake in recent years.

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Actors



The **Malta Information Technology Agency** (MITA)^[1] is the central driver of the government's ICT policy, programmes, and initiatives. Notably, MITA is tasked with delivering and implementing the Digital Malta Strategy which promotes the use of OSS solutions.



Open Source Society Malta (OSSMalta) is an independent, non-profit organisation that aims to promote the use of OSS solutions in Malta, acting as a forum for discussion and experience-sharing on OSS solutions.

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Policy and Legal Framework

2012

2014

2019

Open Source Software Directive

Published by the MITA, it guides the implementation of OSS in public administrations. The Directive states that the government must consider OSS solutions on an equal, if not preferential, footing with proprietary solutions.

National IT Strategy

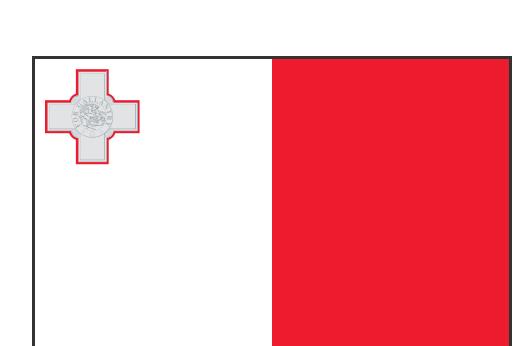
Published by the Office of the Prime Minister, it instructs public administrations to adopt open standards to encourage the exchange of information between administrations. Equal consideration must be given to OSS solutions and proprietary solutions.

Open Source Software Policy

Published by the MITA, this policy was implemented to encourage the adoption of cost-effective OSS solutions throughout the Maltese public administration.

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Open Source Software Initiatives



SUNFISH: The SUNFISH project was developed by Malta's Ministry of Finance, Italy's Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the UK South East Regional Organised Crime Unit with the aim of developing software to enable the establishment of a secure cloud federation for the secure sharing of data and services

Open Data Malta: In February 2014, the Open Data Malta platform was launched by the Local Government Association. Aside from promoting open data, the platform itself was built using OSS solutions

Open Source Survey: In December 2012, MITA organised a survey to measure the popularity of OSS in Malta with the aim of promoting the use of free and OSS solutions and helping citizens to broaden their understanding of OSS.

University of Malta: In 2019, the University of Malta organised a workshop for doctoral students with an interest in using OSS for data analyses, processes, and visualisation.