European Commission

Open Source Policy
NETHERLANDS

OSOR

1 General Information

Policies, legislation, and initiatives in the Netherlands originate from a variety of government actors at national, provincial and community levels. All levels of public administrations encourage the digitalisation of public services and the use of open source software (OSS) solutions.

2 Actors

Policy maker

The **Ministry of Interior and Kingdom** Relations oversees the digitalisation of the government. The **ICT Unit** acts as an independent advisory to help the Dutch government improve its ICT services through the development and use of OSS solutions.

Strategic player

Code for NL is a network of developers and designers supporting OSS, open government initiatives, and government digitalisation. Code for NL is the Dutch branch of the Code for All network.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

2003

Open Standards and Open Source Software Programme

The Programme was tasked with the development of a manual for government organisations on how to approach open standards and OSS in public procurement.

2018

Digital Government Agenda

It encourages the use and release of OSS within the Dutch public administration including the preparation of guidelines for the publication of open source software.

2019

NL DIGITAAL The Government Data Agenda

The Dutch government published NL DIGITAAL, detailing a plan to improve policymaking and resolve societal issues by making better use of data including the recommended use of OSS in order to increase transparency

4 Open Source Software Initiatives

Digilevering: Logius, the Dutch government digital service that is part of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom relations, has launched a data exchange service which is based on OSS.

Open source interactive map: Since 2017, the city of Rotterdam is using OSS for ClimateScan, an interactive map which proposes climate-related measures.

Standardisation Forum: Increasingly, open standards are deemed as mandatory within the Dutch public administration, some of which specify and recommend the use of OSS solutions. In July 2018, the Standardisation Forum classified the OpenAPI Specification, an OSS solution, as being mandatory for all public administration bodies.

Open source in the police: In 2013, the Digital Police Office was introduced. Built using OSS solutions, the service aims to directly involve the population in the crime-fighting activities of the police force by implementing a single Content Management System (CMS) to store all relevant content and deliver it to the multiple channels that the Digital Police Office supports

Government cloud: The Dutch government's data centre, also called ODC-Noord, opened a cloud service in 2011 that is accessible to all public administration bodies. The cloud is based on an open source cloud infrastructure, OpenStack, and an open source storage platform, Ceph.

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