

Open Source Policy NORWAY



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General Information

In the 2000s, Norway made several strides with regard to the use of open source software in public sector bodies. Many Norwegian public authorities maintain an active GitHub presence and there is a historically rich variety of strategic players working to raise awareness on the use of open source software in the country. There are also a wide variety of dynamic open source initiatives in the Norwegian public sector.

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Actors



The **Norwegian Digitalisation Agency** (Digdir) is the government's tool for the digitalisation of the public sector. The Agency is responsible for maintaining a variety of government open source solutions, including Altinn and the national data catalogue.



The **Norwegian UNIX User Group** (NUUG) is a non-profit association that works to increase the use of UNIX systems, free and open source software and open standards in Norway.

3

Policy and Legal Framework

2001

Recommendation on the use of open source in education

The Department of Employment and Administration's agency (Statskonsult) published a report recommending the use of open source in the public sector and in education. The report highlights the advantages in terms of cost savings.

2002

Decision to increase the competitiveness of procurement

The Norwegian Association of Local Authorities and the Agency for Public Administration decided against renewing a core agreement with Microsoft in order to allow for increased competition from open source software and other software competitors

2007

Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2017-2019

In 2007, the Norwegian Ministry of Modernization recommended the use of Open Document Format (ODF) and open standard PDF for all documents. Since January 2010, the recommendation is mandatory.

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Open Source Software Initiatives



Norwegian Health Archives: The National Health Archive (NHA)[1] of Norway is being built using open source solutions, including Linux, MariaDB, Elasticsearch and Archivematica. The archive, a specialised part of the National Archives of Norway, is to become a digital repository for patient archive material from hospitals, intended for research purposes.

Altinn Portal: The Altinn portal is an eGovernment platform offering services to ease regulatory reporting processes from users to government agencies. Since 2016, the source code for Altinn has been made available on GitHub. The Norwegian Digitalization Agency is responsible for the portal at present.

FixMyStreet: In 2015, the Norwegian Unix User Group developed an update of the localised version of the FixMyStreet website, FiksGataMi. The updated version is tailored for mobile devices, and there also is a custom app for Android devices. The service is in use in approximately 67 municipalities; however, it covers all 428.

DHIS2: DHIS2 is an open source, web-based health management information system (HMIS) platform for collecting, analysing, visualising and sharing data. Today, DHIS2 is the world's largest HMIS platform and the software development is managed by the Health Information Systems Program (HISP) at the University of Oslo (UiO).