Open Source Policy
PORTUGAL

1 General Information

Portugal is a centralised country where most policy initiatives stem from the government, while regional bodies only have a few competences. However, other organisations such as universities, industry and non-profit associations are mobilised on the promotion and use of open source software (OSS).

2 Actors

Portugal does not have an appointed central and federal entity for the development and supervision of open source software to date. The National Association for Open Software (ANSL) is a non-profit association whose purpose is the dissemination, promotion, development, research and study of open source software.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

2011 Law 36/2011

Law 36/2011 establishes the adoption of open standards in state computer systems, harmonising the document format and protocols used by the central government.


Goal 10 of the strategic global plan titled “Adopting solutions that foster economic growth,” promotes the use of open source solutions in the public administration.

2017 ICT Strategy 2020 (Estratégia TIC 2020)

Action 12 of the Strategy is focused on open source solutions with the implementation of a state software cross-sectional licensing need strategy, the promotion and dissemination of OSS and the creation of a public administration software catalogue.

4 Open Source Software Initiatives

The Administrative Modernisation Agency (AMA) has started using OSS for various initiatives:

- Digital identification: the digital identification ecosystem includes components developed using OSS such as the plugin of autenticacao.gov (the Portuguese digital authentication platform) and the Citizen Card (the national eID card) middleware.
- Bolsa de Documentos: a Document Exchange platform powered by an open source solution named Liferay.
- 'one-stop shop' platforms: The Portuguese single digital gateway for citizens and businesses, ePortugal.gov.pt is powered by Liferay.
- Portuguese National Broker (PNB) platform: The PNB platform, a pilot started by the Ministry of Health in 2017, is based on open source software. The national eHealth message exchange platform provides technical, semantic and legal interoperability between all health-related entities in the country as well as international e-health standards.
- Municipality of Sintra: ACES Sintra, the municipality’s public healthcare organisation, decided to switch to several open source software platforms in 2015, including the content management system Wordpress in combination with a LAMP stack.

Updated in April 2020