

Open Source Policy SWITZERLAND



1

General Information

In Switzerland, the 26 cantons are powerful entities with far-reaching legislative autonomy in the area of open source software (OSS) use and promotion. Over the last decade, several political initiatives have been implemented at the federal level regarding the use of OSS solutions in the public sector. The cantons have also developed a large amount of local OSS legislation and initiatives.

2

Actors



The **Digital Transformation and ICT Steering unit** is responsible for serving as a centre of excellence for the digital transformation of the federal administration. It ensures a cross-departmental view of projects, resources and administrative services.

CH Open promotes open systems and standards in the Swiss ICT landscape. They inform and network companies, public administrations, educational institutions and individuals, and organise political campaigns calling for more openness and sustainability in IT.

3

Policy and Legal Framework

2019

Open Source Strategic Guidelines

The Swiss Open Source Strategic Guidelines were adopted on 1 February 2019. They define how OSS will be promoted at the federal level in the future and provide concrete recommendations for action.

2019

eGovernment Strategy

The eGovernment Strategy defines common objectives and key action areas regarding digitalisation in the Swiss Confederation, cantons and communes. Openness and open interfaces are key to ensure cost-effective digitalisation.

4

Open Source Software Initiatives



SwissCovid: The SwissCovid application for mobile phones is helping to contain the spread of COVID-19 by complementing other contact-tracing efforts of the Swiss government. All code programmed for SwissCovid is available as open source.

Open Source Platform of Bern: · Since 2018, the Canton of Bern has been free to offer its software as open source, thus making it freely available to all. All content is available under an open licence (BSD-3).

Ki-Tax: Ki-Tax is an online portal through which parents can apply for financial support for childcare. It was implemented in 2017 in the City of Bern and has been published on GitHub.

Open Education Day: The Open Education Day is an annual event organized by CH Open that shows which showcases various OSS applications, learning programmes and IT training resources and highlights how students, teachers and administrations can make use of them.