

Open Source Policy SOUTH AFRICA



1

General Information

In South Africa, several open source initiatives have been developed since early 2010s in collaboration with public entities. In 2019, the Strategic Plan for the Digital Transformation 2020-2024 was adopted, mentioning the government's will to promote the re-use of digital resources and the development of open technologies.

2

Actors



South Africa does not have an appointed central and federal entity for the development and supervision of open source software to date.



OpenUp (formerly Code for South Africa) is a South-African civic technology non-profit organisation with the aim to use data and technology to promote informed decision-making, raise awareness and empower citizens.

3

Policy and Legal Framework

2006

Policy on Free and Open Source Software Use for South African Government

The Policy states that the South African government will implement Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) unless proprietary software is demonstrated to be significantly superior.

2020

Strategic Plan for the Digital Transformation 2020-2024

Published by SITA, the plan mentions the South African government's willingness to enhance collaborations and re-use of digital resources to promote and develop innovation.

4

Open Source Software Initiatives



Vulekamali: The purpose of this portal is to publish easily accessible data in a user-friendly format, to enable more effective information sharing, analyses and research on South Africa's finances.

CodeBridge Youth: The Codebridge Youth Programme, created by OpenUp, encourages young people to get involved with building tools and solving problems within their communities using open technologies. It aims to empower local governments, civic organisations and members of the youth across South Africa.

Open Gazettes: the largest freely available online collection of government gazettes in South Africa. These gazettes include important information such as by-laws, corporate agreements, land claims, court orders and tenders. The collection extends from 1958 to 2021, retracing the history of the country.

Municipal Money: Extensive municipal financial data over several years that is shared with the public. The purpose of this initiative is to make this data available to every citizen, in order to increase transparency, strengthen civic oversight and promote accountability on a local level.