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Open Source Software Country Intelligence Report

Bulgaria

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Bulgaria

Executive Summary

Bulgaria has taken specific steps to make open source software compulsory for all new government software after passing specific legislation. In June 2016, the amended Law on Electronic Governance¹ was adopted and the Bulgarian Parliament further approved plans to create a repository for software developed by and for the government. The repository² is now online and is mirrored by the government's GitHub account.³ Open source software is currently managed by the State eGovernment Agency (SEGA).⁴ This eGovernment Agency is tasked, among other things, with guiding the government policy as regards open source and monitor its development.

Actors

This section presents the policy makers who are active in digitalisation efforts and influence the status of open source in public sector, as well as the main strategic players that work together with the government at all levels to raise awareness on OSS. In Bulgaria, there is no governmental body that is specifically responsible for OSS policies.

Policy maker

- The Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications⁵ through the Information Technologies Directorate, has competences for activities related to free flow of data, data economy, and information society.
- The State eGovernment Agency (SEGA)⁶ was established in 2016. It performs activities relating to the field of electronic governance, including electronic certification services, electronic identification, network and information security, spatial information infrastructure and public sector related information in machine-processable open source code.

Strategic players

- Open Source in the Country⁷ is a group of volunteers composed of software experts, programmers, developers, designers and lawyers who work towards the implementation of eGovernment in Bulgaria. They work with several governmental agencies and ministries in

¹ <https://www.parliament.bg/bg/bills/ID/15646>

² <https://dev.egov.bg/PDev/>

³ <https://github.com/governmentbg>

⁴ https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/2017-01/open_source_observatory_annual_report_3.pdf

⁵ <https://www.mtitc.government.bg/en>

⁶ <https://www2.e-gov.bg/en/1>

⁷ <https://gov.obshtestvo.bg/administration>

helping them find the right software for the state which is publicly owned, open source and developed in a transparent and flexible way.

Policy and legal framework

This section summarises the main open source software related policies and legal acts of the last ten years, including the first known milestone in this domain. The list is presented in a chronological order, starting from the most recent milestone.

- The 2016 amendment to Article 18 of the country's 2007 eGovernment Act⁸ reads to "implement and maintain a public, national source repository and revision control system for source code and technical documentation of information systems in public administrations". Furthermore, Article 58 of the Electronic Governance Act states that administrative authorities must include the following requirement: "When the subject of the contract includes the development of computer programs, computer programs must meet the criteria for open-source software; all copyright and related rights on the relevant computer programs, their source code, the design of interfaces, and databases which are subject to the order should arise for the principal in full, without limitations in the use, modification, and distribution; and development should be done in the repository maintained by the agency in accordance with Art 7c pt. 18". This signifies that Bulgaria is now instructing outright its public administrations to develop their IT solutions as free and open source software. This amendment applies to newly created code.
- The eGovernment Development Strategy implementation road map for the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2016 – 2020⁹ outlines the use of open source software in the government and adds it as a requirement to the preliminary criteria for the eligibility of eGovernment projects. The Strategy states that:
 - All rights with regard to the interface design and the source code of the project must be transferred from the contractor to the contracting party;
 - The source code developed for the project must be made publicly available in an online Revision Control System during development;
 - For all projects, it should be explored whether the whole or part (i.e. libraries, packages, modules) of the software can be based on existing open source software; if it is financially justified, using open source is the preferred approach;
 - To facilitate the use of the online Revision Control System and to guarantee the real-time availability of the latest version of the source code, the system should function as the central and original repository.

⁸ <https://www.parliament.bg/bg/bills/ID/15646>

⁹ <http://www.strategy.bg/FileHandler.ashx?fileId=8122>

Open source software initiatives

This section presents an overview of the main open source software related initiatives in Bulgaria. The list is presented in a chronological order, starting with the most recent initiative.

- Portal for access to software systems, 2019¹⁰: The State eGovernment Agency developed a portal that gives access to software systems and development resources. This repository is mirrored by the Government's GitHub account.¹¹ The GitHub account of the Government of Bulgaria was officially created in 2017 by the Administration of the Council of Ministers and is administered by the State eGovernment Agency. The source code of government-commissioned projects is published there.
- EUPL, 2017¹²: The government of Bulgaria has made the European Union Public Licence (EUPL) the preferred licence to be used for governmental software development projects. An ordinance now allows projects to use around ten popular free and open source software licence approved by the Open Source Initiative (OSI).¹³
- AISKAO, 2013¹⁴: AISKAO, Automated Information System for Complex Administrative Services is a portal for requesting administrative services electronically, and users can also check the status of an already requested service, regardless of the channel it was requested through (even at the counter). The code of this service is published on GitHub¹⁵.
- Open data portal¹⁶: The Bulgarian open data portal represents a central, public, web-based database where governmental institutions publish the information collected by them. It allows easy processing and display in a more understandable form. The information is in machine-readable format. The portal is powered by the open source platform CKAN, which is developed by the Open Knowledge Foundation.

¹⁰ <https://dev.egov.bg/PDev/>

¹¹ <https://github.com/governmentbg>

¹² https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/custom-page/attachment/eupl_v1.2_bg.pdf

¹³ <https://opensource.org/licenses>

¹⁴ <https://github.com/governmentbg/AISKAO>

¹⁵ <https://github.com/governmentbg/AISKAO>

¹⁶ <https://data.egov.bg/>

