



DG DIGIT

Unit.D2 (Interoperability Unit)

Open Source Software Country Intelligence Poland

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Authors

Federico Chiarelli (federico.chiarelli@wavestone.com)

Vivien Devenyi (vivien.devenyi@wavestone.com)

Debora Di Giacomo (debora.digiacomio@wavestone.com)

Barbora Kudzmanaite (barbora.kudzmanaite.ext@wavestone.com)

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Poland

Executive summary

Whilst there are no actors directly working to promote the use of open source software (OSS) in Poland, there are numerous initiatives in the country embracing OSS. These range from the use of OSS in hospitals and the organisation of hackathons, to local municipalities recognising the use of OSS in their funding programmes.

With regards to policies concerning OSS, the use of open standards and specifications in IT is recognised in the Information Technology Development Act (ITDA), adopted in 2005 and most recently revised in 2019. Furthermore, in 2016 the Government adopted a National Integrated Informatisation programme, which foresees the development of an open source electronic documentation management system.

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 Poland, there is no governmental body that is specifically responsible for OSS policies.

Policy maker

- Whilst there is no single body in the public sector responsible for the promotion or systemic uptake of open source in the public sector, the Ministry of Digital Affairs¹ mandate covers the use of Information Technologies in the public sector. More specifically, Poland's Centre of Information Technology² operates under the mandate of the Ministry of Digital Affairs and is responsible for implementing IT projects in the public sector.

Strategic players

- Internet Society Poland Charter³ was created on 4 March 2020 with a core mission to build and support the creation of the Internet as an open to all, secure and trustworthy communication network. Among its objectives are also the promotion of open standards, working on regulations relevant to the Internet, cyber security and information society and promoting an open model of decision making. The Internet Society Poland Charter is a new and growing association, currently looking to attract new, like minded members.

¹ <https://www.gov.pl/web/digitalization/about-us1>

² <https://www.coi.gov.pl/o-nas>

³ <https://www.internetsocietypoland.org/>

- The Polish Free Software Advocacy Group FWIOO (*Fundacja Wolnego i Otwartego Oprogramowania*) was an active advocate for the uptake of OSS in Poland. One of its core projects involved contacting Polish schools and promoting the use of "Ubuntu School Remix", a tailored version of the Ubuntu Linux distribution, and providing lesson plans and practical teaching aids. However, it appears that the organisation has stopped its operations in 2011, as suggested by its non-operational website and several articles in the Polish media.⁴

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.

- In 2016, the Polish Government adopted PZIP, the National Integrated Informatisation programme. (*Program Zintegrowanej Informatyzacji Państwa*)⁵. With PZIP, the Ministry of Digitalisation hopes to create an efficient state information system in Poland. The programme states that Poland will create an open source electronic documentation management system. The Ministry hopes that by building the system on OSS, it will encourage private and public entities to contribute to its creation and will allow them to create of a Polish foundation of eGovernment.⁶

Open source software initiatives

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

- Polish National Digital Archive Hackathon, 2019⁷: The Polish National Digital Archive develops its solutions using OSS.⁸ On 20-21 September 2019, the Archive organised a first-of-its-kind hackathon in Poland, which brought participants together to work on the digital archival resources of the National Digital Archive and National Film Archive – Audio-visual Institute.
- Linux for Poland's Ministry of Justice, 2019⁹: Poland's Ministry of Justice signed a contract for the supply of the OSS Suse and training in how to use it, as well as a 4-year support service offered by Linux. More specifically, the Ministry of Justice now uses the Suse Linux Enterprise

⁴ <https://osworld.pl/czy-to-koniec-fwioo/>

⁵ https://www.gov.pl/documents/31305/436699/program_zintegrowanej_informatyzacji_panstwa_1.pdf/4dbc647e-a6f5-3c66-576a-b3006163bb5a

⁶ Page 41 of the PZIP programme, available at: <https://ngoteka.pl/bitstream/handle/item/256/Centrum%20Cyfrowe%20-%20mapa%20drogowa%20otwartego%20rządu%20w%20Polsce.pdf?sequence=1>

⁷ <https://www.nac.gov.pl/hackathon/>

⁸ <https://kultura20.blog.polityka.pl/2011/09/29/open-source-potrzebujemy-w-polsce-wiecej-odwagi/>

⁹ <https://linuxpolska.pl/aktualnosci/ministerstwo-sprawiedliwosci-wybralo-rozwiazania-suse-z-oferty-linux-polska/>

Server¹⁰ and Suse Manager¹¹ subscription for applications from the SAP family for an unlimited number of virtual machines, while receiving 24/7 technical support and training sessions.

- Central Source Code Repository, 2016¹²: In 2016, the Polish Government announced that it intends to create a central source code repository, with the aim of facilitating the sharing and reuse of ICT solutions. The development of this open source government document management system was announced as part of the abovementioned PZIP programme.
- Open Source Animal Identification and Tracking System, 2015¹³: In 2015, Poland's Agency for the Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture (ARMA) modernised its animal identification and tracking system.¹⁴ The solution uses Zabbix¹⁵, an OSS solution for IT security monitoring, and JAVA¹⁶, an open source programming language.
- Open Source at Warsaw's University Hospital, 2014¹⁷: OSS has been used by Poland's University Hospital since 2014. The institution's integrated medical system is based completely on OSS.¹⁸ The main benefit associated with such an approach is that it is easier to implement, improve, build and adapt solutions given the highly customisable nature of the software.
- Recognition of OSS in regional Operational Programmes 2014 – 2020¹⁹: The municipality of the city of Gdańsk is committed to using OSS applications where possible. The use of OSS is endorsed and encouraged through the city's Operational Programmes²⁰ for the 2014 – 2020 funding period, as part of achieving the objectives of the Gdansk 2030 Plus Development Strategy.

¹⁰ <https://www.suse.com/products/server/>

¹¹ <https://www.suse.com/shop/suse-manager/>

¹² Page 41 of the PZIP programme, available at: <https://ngoteka.pl/bitstream/handle/item/256/Centrum%20Cyfrowe%20-%20mapa%20drogowa%20otwartego%20rzadu%20w%20Polsce.pdf?sequence=1>

¹³ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/open-source-part-polands>

¹⁴ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/open-source-part-polands>

¹⁵ <https://www.zabbix.com/>

¹⁶ <https://www.java.com/en/>

¹⁷ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/open-source-core-warsaw-ho>

¹⁸ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/open-source-core-warsaw-ho>

¹⁹ <http://www.gdansk.pl/strategia/Gdansk-Operational-Programmes-2023-download,a.58657>

²⁰ <http://www.gdansk.pl/strategia/Gdansk-Operational-Programmes-2023-download,a.58657>

