

The French public sector context regarding FLOSS

- The 2016 Law for a Digital Republic "encourages" the administration.
- This not a formal priority like in Italy.
- The current doctrine is to use opensource when it suits **best** (aka a pragmatcal approach, as expressed by the head of DINUM.)

Good news

- We are in the process of adding the EUPL on the list of allowed licenses for the public sector.

What we currently have and do

- We have catalogue of recommended free software: sill.etalab.gouv.fr
- We have a list of 3477 repositories: code.etalab.gouv.fr
- We have a newsletter on open source ([#BlueHats gazette](https://twitter.com/BlueHats))
- We started a movement: [BlueHats](https://bluehats.org/)
- We set up a partnership with [Adullact](https://adullact.com/) in January, Adullact's mission is to help cities and small public agencies to adopt open source solutions - they will also promote the open source tools that are developed by the whole public sector.
- We do have an open source maintenance market that is in the process of being launched again (we learned from our mistakes)
- We are rewriting the procurement template for buying open source in the public sector (here again, trying to learn from our mistakes).

etalab^{gouv.fr}

Open source during the crisis: resilience, agility, infrastructure

- Not innovation first, but community first.
- We have a large community of developers in DINUM, now very engaged into proposing various open source solutions spontaneously.
- As an example: higher education and research → there is a new mailing list to gather volunteers who want to help deploy servers for Jitsi, etc.
- Another example: [Tchap](#) has doubled its number of users and the crisis helped accelerating the generalisation of the access (e.g. now firemen can use it.)
- Another example: civil society mobilised to help teachers accomplish their mission distantly: www.continuepedagogique.org
- In general: the current situation blurs the boundaries between the administration and the civil efforts, and open source helps as a common "cultural" background and as a common way of doing things.
- All of this is very much in line with the idea behind the #bluehats movement, identifying "hackers of public interest".

A story: Framasoft and the ministry of education / higher education

- Framasoft is an association promoting the use of free software in every sector and providing online services to avoid GAFAM services.
- 5 years ago, they had discussions with the Ministry of Education but this led nowhere (Framasoft was quite upset that their volunteers lost time discussing non-conclusive collaboration opportunities).
- At the start of the COVID-19 crisis, the Ministry of Higher Education asked teachers to use Framasoft services! Forgetting that Framasoft, while doing an amazing job, is only a 9-employees NGO with limited resources.
- Framasoft replied with "teachers, please don't use our tools, ask your administration to deploy their own tools instead."
- This raised awareness about the fact that services, even free services, always come with a cost and that open source is a mean to decentralise services and/or should be perceived as such.