

Dear APELL board

As mentioned with some of you last November, we are currently working on the FOSSEPS pilot project<sup>[^1]</sup> for the European Commission and we would be very keen on getting APELL's input at different levels.

This project aims at identifying Open Source "structural components" with maintenance problems that are critical for European Public services and evaluating potential remediation paths. "Structural components" means that we focus more on FOSS projects on which other applications may rely (like libraries or infrastructure elements), and not so much user facing applications.

So first, we would be interested to get your strategic views on the topic: we have listed a few questions below. We would be happy with a common response in the name of APELL or with several answers in the name of your respective organisations, whatever suits you best. Your responses will be treated as confidential, as the primary goal is for us to have a more relevant vision of the subject, but it will be also interesting to quote some of your answers in the final report, in which case we will come back to you to ask for your approval before including these quotes. I am also happy to hold a call if you like. I have some sample questions below.

1) From the point of view of the European FOSS companies, what are currently the main challenges or problems related to the maintenance/sustainability of FOSS components (meaning application dependencies or pieces of infrastructure used by applications, not applications themselves)?

2) What are the most promising initiatives for finding solutions to those problems or taking up those challenges today? (both from a security point of view and from a maintainers' financial/mental health sustainability point of view?)

3) Should governments/public bodies take specific actions on this topic? (e.g. the Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity<sup>[^2]</sup>, mandating to provide SBOMs seems to have a positive impact)

4) What is your assessment of the awareness of these issues by proprietary software vendors whose products rely on FOSS components?

Then, we have designed a survey<sup>[^3]</sup> aimed at European Public Services and *we would be very thankful if you could help us by transferring it to European Public Services that you or your member organisations are in direct contact with in your respective countries.*

Thanks very much in advance for your contribution and please don't hesitate to ask me any additional information you might need.

Best regards, Camille Moulin

[^1]: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/fosseps/news/fosseps-pilot>

[^2]: <https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/12/executive-order-on-improving-the-nations-cybersecurity/> ;!!DOxrgLBm!XbWrdPyVC2xvKnSUFIEtzQ5sVRRhv4bCyKPHiBo2Fqg5Wc73tqzcktCAALkgBZ6EXTkZ7sJIXD-p5PiQ\$

[^3]: [https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://survey.inno3.eu/index.php?r=survey\\*index&sid=695576&lang=en\\_ ;Lw!!DOxrgLBm!XbWrdPyVC2xvKnSUFIEtZQ5sVRRhv4bCyKPHiBo2Fgg5Wc73tqzcktCAALkqBZ6EXTkZ7sJIXFxQxGPY\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://survey.inno3.eu/index.php?r=survey*index&sid=695576&lang=en_ ;Lw!!DOxrgLBm!XbWrdPyVC2xvKnSUFIEtZQ5sVRRhv4bCyKPHiBo2Fgg5Wc73tqzcktCAALkqBZ6EXTkZ7sJIXFxQxGPY$)