

# Share, Re-use, Collaborate

## the Open Source Observatory and Repository - OSOR.eu

Szabolcs Székács  
European Commission



*Apart from all other good and well-known reasons such as avoiding vendor lock-in etc., because ....:*

Development methods and the legal framework of OSS (licences) fit well (better than anything else) to the requirements of cross-border collaboration and sharing that are put forward in the i2010 Initiative.

European administrations produce many customised applications to support their business processes.

These are similar and can be reused in localised versions.

Why should the tax payer pay twice (dozen times) for the same?

OSS is a key element in implementing interoperability and open standards



## *Use of OSS by public administrations*

### European Survey 2005

- **Roughly half (49%)** of local government authorities report some intentional **use of FLOSS**.
- **Additional 29% used FLOSS without being aware** of it
- F/OSS (partial) use on servers dominates (40%) followed by partial use on desktops (16%). 20% experiment in pilot projects. Complete use is very rare
- **Demand exists**: 70% of FLOSS users and 38% of non-users want to increase FLOSS use.
- **More than a fifth** of those wanting to increase FLOSS use want a complete migration to FLOSS.

### Our experience

- **115 applications** hosted by OSOR.eu
- **10 national repositories** connected – **1818 open source applications** available for re-use
- **95 000 application downloads** from OSOR since 2008 October
- **Approx. 25-30 000 unique visitors** each month

## What is OSOR.eu

- ▶ The **objectives** are **cooperation** and **sharing**
- ▶ The **instrument** is a platform to actively support the sharing of
  - **OSS-based eGovernment applications**
  - **and experiences across Europe**
- ▶ The **strategy** is to connect EU services and Member State administrations and animate a growing OSS community of public administrations



## Why OSOR.eu?

There are a myriad of code sharing platforms *already...Why set up yet another platform?*



la.farga.cat  
projeccions



SOURCEFORGE.NET®



SOURCE  
ADULLACT



Google  
Code



MORFEO PROJECT



cnet download.com



mancomun  
Centro de Referência e Serviços de Software Livre

OSOR is especially **built for Public Administrations** – only projects which were specially built for PAs around Europe are hosted

In contrast with national forges already active, OSOR **provides a European level visibility** for projects - not competing with national forges but supporting them.

## ▶ Information platform

- Website delivering news around OSS
- Providing guidance on legal, technical, organisational issues around OSS and collaboration

## ▶ Registry and Repository

- Facilities for download/uploading and search/retrieval of public sector software
- Providing visibility for and connect to other European collaboration platforms (-> building a network)

## ▶ Platform for collaboration

- Supporting collaborative cross-border projects (hosting communities)

## ▶ EUPL: European Union Public License

- Legal instrument for the EC and the EU public sector



You are here: Home

About OSOR.EU

- Welcome
- Partners & Forges
- Competence Centres Europe
- FAQ
- Virtual Forges

Navigation

- Projects
- News
- Case Studies
- EUPL
- Communities
- IDABC Studies
- Events

## OSOR.eu - Open Source Observatory and Repository

The Open Source Observatory and Repository for European public administrations (OSOR) is a platform for exchanging information, experiences and FLOSS-based code for use in public administrations.

### OSOR Focus

#### Case Study: Desktop4education – Bringing new environments to Austrian schools

In 2003 the secondary school of Weiz, Austria, started the development of an open source operating system. The overall objective has been to develop a system that was easy to maintain, sustainable in the future, and free of licensing costs: the so called desktop4education. Although open source software is not extensively used in Austrian schools yet, it is becoming more and more important, as the government tries to promote free software over proprietary solutions increasingly. Today the desktop4education project is being frequently used as a reference case by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture and as such promoted by them throughout Austria. [Read the entire study.](#)

### OSOR News

Register Your Project

OSOR forge currently **hosts 113 projects** and you can **search 1807 projects** through the federated national forges.

**Want your project to be one of them?**

**REGISTER YOUR PROJECT!**



Latest Blog Entries

- National Forges Community: National Forges - discuss improved...

Nokia PC Suite

## ▶ Information platform

- Website delivering news around OSS
- Providing guidance on legal, technical, organisational issues around OSS and collaboration

## ▶ Registry and Repository

- Facilities for download/uploading and search/retrieval of public sector software
- Providing visibility for and connect to other European collaboration platforms (-> building a network)

## ▶ Platform for collaboration

- Supporting collaborative cross-border projects (hosting communities)

## ▶ EUPL: European Union Public License

- Legal instrument for the EC and the EU public sector



## 'The OSOR.eu FORGE': a Collaborative Development Environment

Welcome to the OSOR.eu collaborative development environment forge. The forge provides tools enabling your team to collaborate - such as mailing lists and message forums, as well as tools to create and control access to code repositories - such as subversion.

This environment is available for FLOSS developments for European Public Administrations. It is provided in the scope of the Open Source Observatory and Repository ([OSOR.eu](http://OSOR.eu)) project of the [IDABC Unit](#) (managed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Informatics). OSOR.eu is a platform for exchanging information, experiences and FLOSS-based code for use in public administrations. For more information: the OSOR.eu home page: [www.OSOR.eu](http://www.OSOR.eu).

The OSOR.eu Forge is based on GForge 4.5; this Open Source software project is referenced in the forge: software and documents about the OSOR.eu software project are [available here](#).

### Creating a project on the OSOR.eu forge

Creating a project on OSOR.eu forge is simple: create your account ([register](#)) and then create your project ("Create Project" under "My Page").

The OSOR.eu forge is open to FLOSS projects for Public Administrations, enabling share and re-use among other Public Administrations across Europe. Prior to submitting a project, please read the [OSOR.eu 10 principles of use](#).

[Download the OSOR.eu 10 principles of use in .pdf.](#)

### Federation with national Forges

OSOR.eu Forge links to a series of National Repositories in Europe, creating a pan-European

#### SEARCH ON FEDERATED FORGES

Search in other associated sites:

 

Search only in sites about other Free/Libre Knowledge Issues (not only free software)

Require All Words

#### TOP FEDERATED SITES STATS

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <a href="#">Adullact</a>   | 442 projects |
| <a href="#">Repositorio de software de la junta de Andalucía</a> | 221 projects |
| <a href="#">Morfeo-Forge</a>                                     | 90 projects  |
| <a href="#">Forja de la junta de Extremadura</a>                 | 81 projects  |
| <a href="#">ASC</a>  | 19 projects  |

Total projects in associated sites: **1807**  
[\[more\]](#)

#### OSOR FORGE STATISTICS



## ▶ Information platform

- Website delivering news around OSS
- Providing guidance on legal, technical, organisational issues around OSS and collaboration

## ▶ Registry and Repository

- Facilities for download/uploading and search/retrieval of public sector software
- Providing visibility for and connect to other European collaboration platforms (-> building a network)

## ▶ Platform for collaboration

- Supporting collaborative cross-border projects (hosting communities)

## ▶ EUPL: European Union Public License

- Legal instrument for the EC and the EU public sector



Log in »

Search Site

search

- [Home](#)
- [Forge](#)
- [Projects](#)
- [News](#)
- [Case Studies](#)
- [EUPL](#)
- [Communities](#)
- [IDABC Studies](#)
- [Events](#)

You are here: [Home](#) → [Communities](#)

#### Navigation

- Centri di competenza open source (CCOS) italiani
- Citizens Portal
- DEMETRA+
- eID
- EUPL
- FLOSS in Austrian courts
- GIS
- Humanitarian FOSS
- Local Government Ireland
- Municipalities
- National Forges Community
- OpenOffice.org in public authorities
- OSS and Statistics
- OSOR
- PloneGov

## OSOR Communities

by [Marco Battistoni](#) – published on Sep 02, 2008 02:35 PM

The OSOR.eu project provides public administrations with support for communities enabling the share, exchange and re-use of FLOSS and good practices in this field. Community pages are opened regularly.

These interactive places in OSOR.eu provide essential services for enabling free and open exchange among OSOR.eu users with similar interest. OSOR.eu welcomes suggestions for new communities. Please post your suggestion [here](#) (you need to be a registered user).

- [What can you do in the OSOR Communities?](#)
- [Before you open a new community - good practices for OSOR.eu Communities](#)

### OSOR.EU Community

The OSOR.eu community pages allow the OSOR.eu team to share their activities, and OSOR.eu users to have their say about satisfaction with OSOR.eu services, suggested features to be developed in the future, suggestions of contacts who could be interested in the project... [\[read more..\]](#)

### A citizens' portal

Publishing the source code of the e-government platform that the City of Oulu uses, as well as that of the platform's content modules, aims at improving service development and at promoting inter-municipal cooperation. The source code offers municipalities and public administration a unique opportunity to tap into a ready-defined model for electronic transactions as well as into fully-fledged technology and complete content components. [\[read more..\]](#)

### Centri di competenza open source (CCOS) italiani

La comunità prende avvio sulla base di una esperienza di confronto e collaborazione avviata nel 2008

#### Create your own community



Do you want to create your own community in OSOR.eu?  
[Click here](#)

#### Latest Blog Entries

■ National Forges Community: National Forges - discuss improved federation with OSOR.eu  
Oct 09, 2009

■ OSOR: OSOR Search Widget  
Oct 06, 2009

■ OSOR: OSOR birds of a feather at the OpenWorldForum event in Paris October 1st-2nd  
Oct 01, 2009

■ FLOSS in Austrian courts: Freix Software in

## Our starred projects

- ▶ **WollMux (City of Munich, DE): 18900 downloads**
  - OpenOffice.org plugin
- ▶ **Sextante (University of Extremadura, ES): 20700 downloads**
  - A set of extensions for gvSIG with spatial data analysis capabilities

More than 110 registered projects (and 1800 federated) today – all searchable in English



Did you not find the project you were looking for? Try the [Projects Search](#) to refine your search.  
Do you want to look for anything else than projects? Try the [Advanced Search](#)

## Search results — 6 projects matching your search terms

[Subscribe to an always-updated feed of these search terms](#)



### ximDEX, the first **Semantic** CMS

ximDEX is a **semantic** Content Management System (CMS) that allows the generation of contents and services simultaneously in different technologies (PHP, J2EE, .NET, XML/XSLT, etc.). It will be published with a floss license after the OSW'08 (October)

OSOR software project — Relevance: 100%

### Agua

WATER is a bookshop that permits programming the **semantic** service grounding process Web. The grounding is the transformation of messages between the syntactical and **semantic** representations of services Web.

OSOR [federated software project](#). Project description translated with a EC service ([see disclaimer](#)) — Relevance: 99%

### SEMIC.EU

The **Semantic** Interoperability Centre Europe contains a XML Registry+Repository for so called Assets. It is completed by a forum and a CMS to enable SEMIC.EU operating as a network of eGovernment projects and communities. More on: [www.semic.eu](http://www.semic.eu)  
[Developers](#), [System Administrators](#), [Other Audience](#), [Production/Stable](#), [Front-Ends](#), [Version Control](#), [European Union Public License \(EUPL\)](#), [English](#), [OS Independent](#), [Web Environment](#), [Java](#), [Other](#)

OSOR software project — Relevance: 94%

### WodiDoc

WodiDoc is to collaborative, concurrent and **semantic** based tool to compose documents (using information fragments from different systems).

OSOR [federated software project](#). Project description translated with a EC service ([see disclaimer](#)) — Relevance: 87%

### SWAML

SWAML, pronounced [swæml], is a research project around the **semantic** Web the publish to technologies lists 's mailing archive into to RDF format, developed at University of Oviedo (Spain). (Advertisement: using another gforge)

OSOR [federated software project](#). Project description translated with a EC service ([see disclaimer](#)) — Relevance: 85%

### Aplaws

APLAWs is an Open Source Content Management System. The Accessible and Personalised Local Authority Website System (APLAWs) is an open

13 October 2009



## How Can I host a project on OSOR?

There are 4 ways of publishing your project in OSOR

Your project is hosted directly in OSOR

Your project can be hosted in a Federated Repository

You host your project physically , but put a project page on OSOR.eu

Many projects? → Virtual Forge

## Hosted in OSOR

Your project is physically hosted in OSOR

You need to be a registered user

You need to be compliant with the “10 Principles”

You need to Fill out the Project Form

## In brief (10 Principles)

***Most  
impo  
rtant:***

...

**The platform is reserved for software and** projects that are publicly financed

**Software or documentation that will be uploaded** on the OSOR.eu must be made available for free and under a recognised Open Source licence

## ▶ Information platform

- Website delivering news around OSS
- Providing guidance on legal, technical, organisational issues around OSS and collaboration

## ▶ Registry and Repository

- Facilities for download/uploading and search/retrieval of public sector software
- Providing visibility for and connect to other European collaboration platforms (-> building a network)

## ▶ Platform for collaboration

- Supporting collaborative cross-border projects (hosting communities)

## ▶ EUPL: European Union Public License

- Legal instrument for the EC and the EU public sector

## EUPL is an acronym for “European Union Public Licence”

- The first **European OSS licence**.
- Created on the initiative of the **European Commission**.
- The first OSS license with the **same official value** in most European languages.

v1.0 approved by the **European Commission** on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 in three linguistic versions.

By a second Decision, in 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008, the European Commission validated the v1.0 in **22 EU official languages**.

By a third one validated v1.1 in 9<sup>th</sup> January 2009

OSI **certifies** v1.1 on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2009.



### Yet another OS license? Not really; EUPL satisfy:

- the specificity of Community and Member State's law regarding **copyright principles**
- the specificity of Community and Member State's law regarding **warranty** and **liability** issues
- the specificity of Community and Member State's law regarding **applicable law** and **jurisdiction**
- the requirement to obtain a **text legally valid** in all the official languages of the European Union.



## Yet another OS license? Not really: EUPL is compatible!

- ✓ General Public licence (GPL) v. 2
- ✓ Open Software licence (OSL) v. 2.1, v. 3.0
- ✓ Common Public licence v. 1.0
- ✓ Eclipse Public licence v. 1.0
- ✓ Cecill v. 2.0

IDABC's aim is to offer a license **secure** for public sector users and publishers and **friendly** for developers.

IDABC's is actively in touch with the FLOSS community.

Users are **supported** at the OSOR.eu [EUPL community](#).





## What do you gain by using OSOR?

### Benefits for users

- Saving time and money by reusing eGov applications
- Get legal and practical guidelines on using OSS in your administrations
- Identification of communities in their specific domains and exchange of experiences
- Get OSS related content - news, events, case studies – on one central site

### Benefits for contributors

- Gaining visibility for your project on a European level
- Can focus on your project instead of solving technical problems (hosting, maintenance, project webpage, forums, wikis to interact with your users)
- Can use OSOR services to develop in collaboration

- Do you own an OSS project in a public administration?
- Do you own an OSS project used at a public administration?
- Your software is closed but want to open it?

We want to hear from **you!!**

## Contact

[contact@osor.eu](mailto:contact@osor.eu)

**Szabolcs Székács**  
Project Officer of OSOR  
[Szabolcs.szekacs@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Szabolcs.szekacs@ec.europa.eu)

# Thank you!

# Questions?