




## SHARING & REUSE CONFERENCE

**OPEN.SHARE.LINK**

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**Software reuse through open source:  
the new Italian regulation and strategy**

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#SRCONF19



# The Digital Team: a startup within the Prime Minister office

30 senior experts covering software  
architecture, big data, cloud, cybersecurity,  
UX/service design and... **open source**

**We're the plumbers building the "operating  
system" of the country:**

- Unified National Population Registry (ANPR)
- IO.italia.it - Digital Citizenship
- Codice Amministrazione Digitale (CAD)
- Data & Analytics Framework (DAF)
- designers.italia.it
- developers.italia.it
- API ecosystem
- docs.italia.it
- Digital Payments PagoPA
- Digital Identity (SPID)

# Software reuse: The Italian Law

Since **2005**, Public Administrations are required to share their software with other administrations upon request (**direct reuse**).

Since **2012**, Public Administrations are required to adopt open source over proprietary software.

Since **2016**, Public Administrations are required to release their own software as open source (**reuse through open source**).

Mandatory release of software within Public Administrations enables reuse through open source.

# Why reuse through open source is convenient

- Incremental improvement of software
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Education
- Security
- Opportunities for SMEs

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→ No need for direct agreements  
(open licenses are enough)

→ Clear separation of  
responsibilities between parties  
and limitation of liability

## Obstacles to adoption of OSS

- Limited amount of OSS suitable for custom government processes or services
- Lack of comprehensive directories of existing OSS (discoverability)
- Lack of guidelines for decision-making about software procurement

## Obstacles to the release of OSS

- Insufficient knowledge about open source: licenses, dynamic, best practices
- Lack of skills within the administrations about how to perform a correct release
- Fear about security risks
- Fear about insufficient documentation that would hinder reuse

## Our strategy

# Regulation + Tools + Community

→ Guidelines

→ Technical guides  
→ Templates for contracts  
→ Software catalog  
→ **publiccode.yml**  
→ docs.italia.it

→ forum.italia.it  
→ slack.developers.italia.it  
→ Hackathons  
→ Google Summer of Code



# Guidelines

- Mandatory regulation which applies the principles written in primary law
- Written by the Digital Transformation Team and the Agency for Digital Italy
- Guide administrations through the required steps to comply with the law and maximise the benefit
- Simple decision-making workflow for defining requirements and looking for available solutions by prioritizing OSS)

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2. Guidelines for acquiring software

- 2.1. Introduction and legislative context

## Guidelines on the acquisition and reuse of *software* for public administrations

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## Technical guides

In order to **simplify procurement**, we wrote **technical guides that can be included in supply contracts and tenders** to require the suppliers to perform the OSS release and do sensible actions.

| Document     | Title   | Use case   |
|--------------|---|--|
| Attachment B | Guide to publishing new software as open source     | To be attached whenever new software is being developed (how to choose a code hosting platform, how to apply a license, how to remove sensitive data, how to include documentation etc.) |
| Attachment C | Guide to open source software maintenance           | To be attached whenever maintenance is applied to open software software (how to handle updates, how to handle bug reports and patches etc.)   |
| Attachment E | Guide to reusing and modifying open source software | To be attached whenever existing open source software is acquired, reused and modified (how to contribute modifications back, how to communicate with the upstream project etc.)         |

## TOOLS

# The software catalog

→ <https://developers.italia.it>

Generated automatically by a crawler that finds public software.

For each software:

- features & roadmap
- screenshots
- forks
- maintainers
- development activity

## Reuse software



IO

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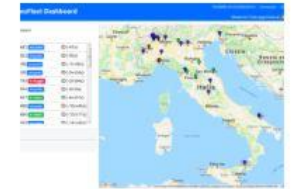
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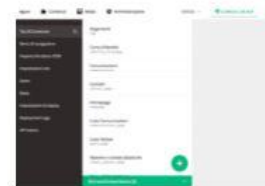
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Chiedi al bibliotecario

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## TOOLS

# publiccode.yml

→ <https://github.com/italia/publiccode.yml>

A **metadata description standard for public software repositories** that is easy to use both for developers and people with less technical background, to make the software developed by Public Administrations easily discoverable.

Developed in collaboration with the Foundation for Public Code (Boris van Hoytema).

**Join us! Adopt publiccode.yml in your country and join our working group for developing the standard.**

Developers **Italia**

```
name: Medusa
applicationSuite: MegaProductivitySuite
url: "https://example.com/italia/medusa.git"
landingURL: "https://example.com/italia/medusa"
```

```
isBasedOn: "https://github.com/italia/otello.git"
softwareVersion: "1.0"
releaseDate: "2017-04-15"
logo: img/logo.svg
monochromeLogo: img/logo-mono.svg
```

```
inputTypes:
- text/plain
outputTypes:
- text/plain
```

```
platforms:
- android
- ios
```


```
tags:
- content-management
- artificial-intelligence
- museum
```



```
usedBy:
- Comune di Firenze
- Comune di Roma
```


```
roadmap: "https://example.com/italia/medusa/roadmap"
```

```
developmentStatus: development
```

```
softwareType: "standalone"
```

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We develop public services, together

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# A community of developers who design and code Italian digital public services


[Learn more](#)

## NEWS

### Developers Italia at the Google Summer of Code 2019

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## NEWSLETTER



SUBSCRIBE

Stay in touch to be informed. We're not going to overflow you with too many e-mails; it's a dev-to-dev promise ([privacy policy](#)).

## COMMUNITY



In order to boost the community, we organized a big distributed hackathon which took place in October, 2017:

**26** cities

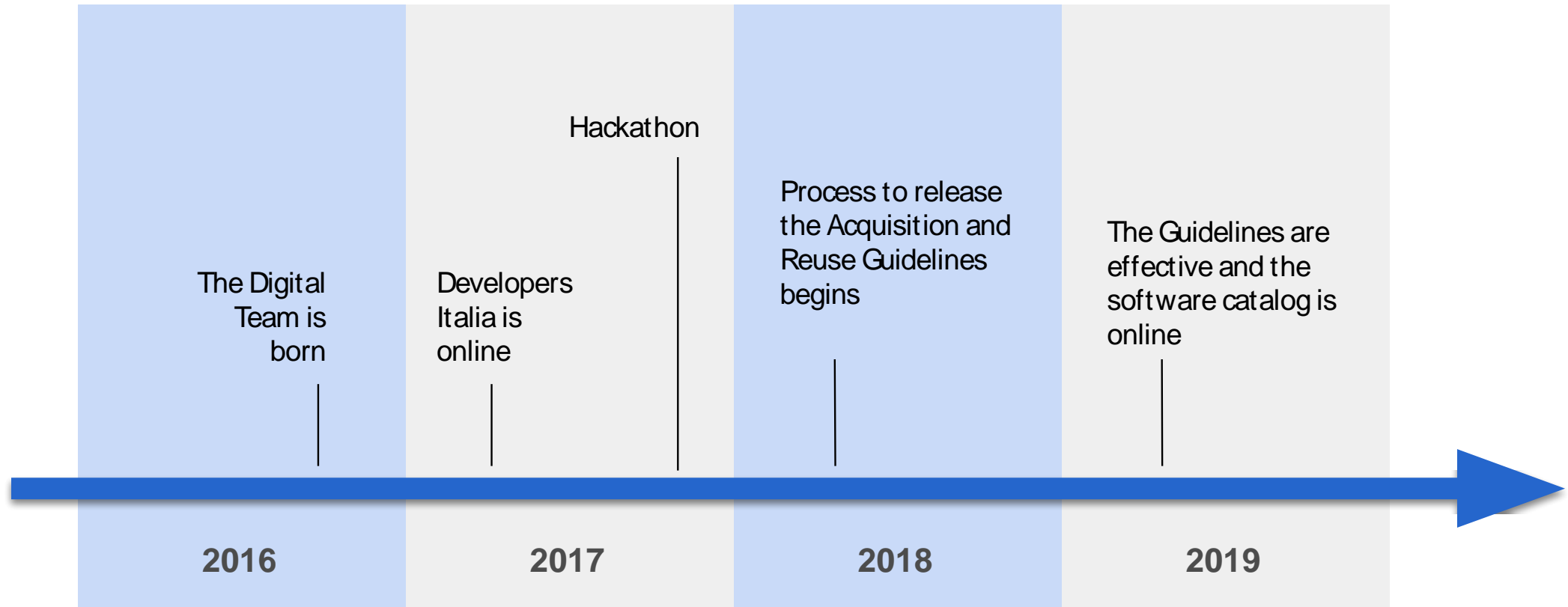
**800** developers

**96** pull requests

We plan to organize yearly hackathons.



# Timeline



# Challenges

- Populate the catalog as quickly as possible
- Promote community engagement and open development, instead of publishing the source code when development ends
- Combine this strategy with the cloud-first principle



## Follow us!

- 📄 <https://developers.italia.it/>
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- 📄 @ITdigitalteam

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