



Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet

Austria

OSOR

1 General Information

Austria has increasingly embraced Open Source Software (OSS) as a strategic component of its digital transformation, particularly in the public sector. This shift is reflected in national strategies like the Digital Action Plan on Digital Sovereignty, which positions OSS as crucial for achieving digital independence. Key developments include the Federal Chancellery's 2022 establishment of an open source working group to analyse and promote OSS adoption in public administration. At the local level, Vienna's government actively champions OSS through its Digital Agenda 2030.

2 Actors

POLICY MAKERS

The Chief Digital Officer Task Force was created in 2018 and sits within the Department of Digitalisation in the Federal Chancellery. The CDO is responsible for leading cooperation on digitalisation between federal ministries. In 2022, the CDO set up a working group to determine the federal public administration's use of open source and to outline recommendations for improvement.

STRATEGIC PLAYER

Open Source Software Business Innovation Group (OSSBIG) is a non-profit organisation which helps promote the use of OSS in Austria. OSSBIG is a leading influence in informing a strategic approach to open source in Austria, working closely with the Austrian government. For instance, OSSBIG worked with the Austrian government on a 2022 policy paper that was later mentioned in the Digital Austria Act concerning open source recommendations.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

Digital Austria Act (DAA), 2023

The DAA is a digital work programme and includes recommendations on the use of OSS by the federal government. The Act covers 117 measures and 36 digitalisation principles that are meant to "reshape digitalisation in Austria".

Guidelines on the use of open source software, 2025.

The Federal Government, has published guidelines on the use of OSS which include information on selection criteria for OSS, contractual regulations, and useful EU tools.



4 Open Source Software Initiatives

OSS.wien.gv.at

This repository is maintained by the city of Vienna and lists all the open source software used by Vienna's local government, divided by categories of use (such as data centres or OSS on end devices). This repository also begins with an explainer of what is OSS and what are open source licences, referencing the work of the Open Source Initiative.

OSS and Austrian Universities

A number of Austrian universities and institutes of technology are involved in research and development of open source technologies, from open source systems to the political economy of open source. An overview of Vienna's higher education institutes' involvement in open source is available in Vienna Business Agency's paper on open source (p.21).

Open Source Innovation Hubs

A project between Austria and Czechia, the Open Source Innovation Hubs are meant to advance digital sovereignty and competitiveness through the strengthening of interregional cooperation on open source technologies. Through this initiative, the Vienna Business Agency and the University of Applied Sciences Technikum Wien are to set up a FIWARE iHub.

OpenDesk collaboration

Through a joint declaration of intent on "Strengthening Digital Sovereignty and Joint Development of the Sovereign Workplace", signed on 14 June 2023, Austria agreed with Germany to collaborate on and evaluate OpenDesk – the office suite initiative launched by Germany's Centre for Digital Sovereignty (ZenDis).