Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet
Cyprus

OSOR

1 General Information

From 2020 the use and development of Open Source Software (OSS) in Cyprus' public administration has matured. This has been caused by the country's efforts to digitalise its public sector and by a shift towards the EU principle of openness, especially regarding access to information. The Cypriot Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy (DMRID), the country's three public universities, and an active community of OS advocates are playing a key role in encouraging the adoption of open science practices including by distributing OSS and monitoring its adoption.

2 Actors

POLICY MAKERS

The DMRID is the main policy maker for digital policies including the National Policy of the Republic of Cyprus for Open Science Practices, which mentions OSS. However, certain goals related to the digital transformation of the Cypriot public sector involve collaboration between the DMRID and specific service areas of other ministries such as the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Industry.

STRATEGIC PLAYER

The KIOS Research and Innovation Center of Excellence (KIOS CoE) is Cyprus' largest research and innovation centre addressing ICT. Operating within the University of Cyprus and in accordance with the principles of open science it is promoting open data and open access to knowledge, including OSS. It has participated in several projects and events supporting the use of OSS in the public sector since its inception.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

National Policy of the Republic of Cyprus for Open Science Practices 2022.
It encourages the adoption of open science practices in public research such as the involvement in citizen science projects, the use of open peer review, the use of open educational resources, the release of data and content under open and standard open licences, and the release of OSS.

2020 ———— 2022

4 Open Source Software Initiatives

KIOS CoE, University of Cyprus
Affiliated with the University of Cyprus, it releases the code of the software needed to validate its public research results to the KIOS CoE Github Repository. The repository contains 77 entries of OS toolkits and datasets that remain up to date. The most recent update was that of LeakDB (Leakage Diagnosis Benchmark), a dataset for water distribution networks containing a scoring algorithm in MATLAB code.

SWIFTERS
Discontinued in 2019, SWIFTERS can nonetheless be considered one of the symbolic OSS collaborations between KIOS CoE and the Cypriot public sector. SWIFTERS used swarms of drones to study, design, develop, and test drone cooperation strategies that could help assist civil protection operations, particularly with regards to disaster management.

DKAN-The Cypriot Open Data Portal
The Cypriot Open Data Portal in its present form was developed using the DKAN data management system", which is FOSS. DKAN is hosted at the Open University of Cyprus and supported by the Open Data team at the Department of Public Administration.

QGIS Cyprus, 2020
Promoted by the Cypriot Free Software Community, ELLAK-Cyprus, the QGIS Cyprus community aims to gather other OS oriented groups to spread knowledge through events, hack days, workshops, and seminars about the QGIS software, a FOSS platform hosting a geographical information system (GIS).