



Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet Hungary

OSOR

1 General Information

Attempts to promote open source software across public administration bodies in Hungary, at both the national and local level, have reached a peak around the first half of the 2010s. Since then, a number of structural changes in the structure of the country's public administration appear to have led to a slowing down of open source use and development by Hungarian public administrations. Open source software nonetheless continues to be used and developed by various public administrations to facilitate the coordination and delivery of public service in the country.

2 Actors

POLICY MAKERS

Digital Hungary Agency (Digitális Magyarország Ügynökség, DMU), established in 2020, DMU is responsible for the entire ICT infrastructure of the Hungarian government and is tasked with leading Hungary into a "well-functioning 21st century". DMU coordinates all eGovernment at the national level and is responsible for the creation of Hungary's digital citizenship and its cloud service. Its mandate does not specifically cover open source.

STRATEGIC PLAYER

KIFÜ - The Hungarian Digitalisation Service: KIFÜ provides ICT services to the Hungarian public sector. The service is funded by the European Union, in partnership with the Hungarian government. KIFÜ provides a wide range of digital and ICT-related services to the Hungarian public sector. In 2023, KIFÜ took over the responsibilities of the former Digital Success Programme which included open source promotion.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

National Infocommunication Strategy 2014-2020:

The strategy aimed for open source code applications to reach 15% for new software and applications installed in public administrations. This strategy was replaced by the Hungary National Digitalisation Strategy 2022-2030, which does not mention open source.

Decrees 1236/2016 and 1604/2016: Covering measures to disseminate open standards and open source software to the public. The passing of these two decrees matches the last peak of activity for the former Hungarian eGovernment Open Source Software Competence Centre. Since 2016, there has been no publicly available information on the related implementation measures.



4 Open Source Software Initiatives

Budapest City Council's GitHub page (2020-onwards): Maintained by the municipality of Budapest, this GitHub repository provides insights into the use and development of open source software by the local government in the Hungarian capital and indicates regular updates in 2023-2024. Popular projects listed on the repository include a Covid-19 test booking system and a tool for local residents to organise and book meetings.

Szoftver Alaspcsomag (2021): An open source operating system developed by the Hungarian government, through the former Digital Success Programme. This operating system, said to come with elements including web browser and email, was to support the digitalisation of the country and was available for all Hungarians to use. It also included information about open source. However, the website to download it is no longer accessible.

Free Software Conference (Szabad Szoftver Konferencia, 2005-2022): Organised on-and-off since 2005, the Free Software Conference aimed at promoting knowledge of open source software amongst the public and private sectors in Hungary. The last edition was organised in 2022 in Szeged.

Covid-19 Testing-Booking 1-0 (2020): Developed by the municipality of Budapest, this application aimed to provide local residents with a facilitated system to book Covid-19 rapid testing. The system was released under an MIT licence and the source code was made available via GitHub with additional technical specifications published on a dedicated website.