



Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet Bulgaria

OSOR

1 General Information

Bulgaria has taken significant steps to make open source software compulsory for all new government software as part of implementing the June 2016 amendment to the Law on Electronic Governance (or “the eGovernment Act”). There have been no new landmark pieces of legislation since then, but Bulgaria is now consolidating its approach towards open source. While the law’s implementation has stayed on track with its earlier objectives, it lacks coordinated enforcement.

2 Actors

POLICY MAKERS

The current Ministry of e-Governance was created in 2021 and is now in charge of activities related to free flow of data, data economy, and information society. It doesn’t own specific OSS related responsibilities. Until 2021, this was the responsibility of the State eGovernment Agency (SEGA).

STRATEGIC PLAYER

Obshtestvo.bg Foundation (“Society”) is a group of volunteers composed of software experts, programmers, developers, designers and lawyers who describe themselves as independent creators of electronic tools for fast and convenient state-citizen communication. The group campaigns for transparency in policy and government, it promotes the use of open source as a tool to achieve a more democratic public administration.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

Strategy for the Development of Electronic Government in the Republic of Bulgaria 2019- 2025

Calls for all e-government initiatives undertaken to respect the following basic principles: Using common standards, modular architectures and open source software (OSS) in the public sector and providing diverse interoperable services.

Agreement On Joint Management Of The Republic Of Bulgaria In The Period 2021- 2025:

In its 8th annex on Digital Policy, the coalition agreement is promoting a wider digitalisation of the countries’ services. It also focuses on respecting regulatory requirements for open source software development.



4 Open Source Software Initiatives

Budibase:

When faced with the sudden need for a strong infrastructure after the invasion of Ukraine and the first arrivals of refugees, the Bulgarian government partnered with an open source software project Budibase to handle registering thousands of people. This allowed the Bulgarian government to satisfy urgent humanitarian relief needs.

eDelivery:

Updated in 2022, this Bulgarian government system was released as open source following the European Commission specifications. It allows a safe exchange of electronic documents between citizens and administrations.

OpenFest 2003 –2023:

It is the biggest Bulgarian conference dedicated to free culture, free knowledge sharing, and free and open source software. It is held annually in Sofia and features talks and panels on open innovation and open source.

Portal for access to software systems:

The State eGovernment Agency developed a portal (dev.egov.bg) that gives access to software systems and development resources. This repository is mirrored on the government’s GitHub account.