



## Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet

# Finland



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### General Information

Finland has long championed open source software (OSS) in the public sector, with supportive policies since 2003. While OSS adoption remains strong, major new initiatives have slowed since 2020, and no central body oversees policymaking. Government agencies manage OSS in a decentralised manner, highlighting a need for better governance. Groups like COSS continue to promote OSS, and Finland's rich experience provides a strong foundation to revive momentum and lead in public sector adoption.

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### Actors

#### POLICY MAKERS

The Public Sector ICT Department of the Ministry of Finance plays a key role in guiding public sector information management, structural development, and service provision. It coordinates e-service criteria, information security, and governance policies, while overseeing the Digital and Population Data Services Agency and the Government ICT Centre Valtori, both of which support digital transformation.

#### STRATEGIC PLAYERS

The Centre for Open Systems and Solutions (COSS) is a trade association that promotes OSS, open data, open standards, and APIs. COSS facilitates networking, fosters international collaboration, provides legal expertise, and supports OSS licensing. It also coordinates OSS groups across the country, supports research, and develops OSS solutions for educational use.

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### Policy and Legal Framework

#### Programme of Prime Minister Sanna Marin's Government, 2019

The 10 December 2019 government program outlined plans to prioritise openness in public information, emphasising OSS use in public information systems and procurement. It proposed regulations requiring OSS for such systems, except when there were compelling reasons to choose alternatives.

#### Report on the ICT sector, climate and the environment, 2020.

This report highlights the link between rapid, high-quality software production for public services and OSS, emphasising the need for Finnish service providers to quickly adapt to diverse stakeholder needs, with OSS functionalities significantly boosting development efficiency.



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### Open Source Software Initiatives

#### OpenEuroLLM initiative, 2025

The EU aims to develop a European open source AI model through the co-funded OpenEuroLLM project, involving nine partners, including universities like the University of Helsinki and the University of Turku, and Finnish organisations such as Silo AI. The project seeks to strengthen Europe's digital sovereignty by aligning AI technologies with European values, data privacy standards, and languages, positioning OpenEuroLLM as a European counterpart to US and Chinese language models.

#### eVaka, 2020

Deployed initially by Espoo, the OSS eVaka is an ERP system offering citizens information and services related to kindergartens and early childhood education centres. It enables guardians to apply for education, communicate securely with staff, and manage attendance, while also supporting daycare operations, including client data, fees, and decision-making. Active in 2025, eVaka is being further developed with the cities of Tampere, Oulu, and Turku.

#### Digital and Population Data Services Agency, 2025

The agency has its own GitHub page with 115 repositories for all of its services such as open data or geospatial open source APIs that are still being updated today.

#### Kuntaliitto and COSS joint effort for open source in the local government, 2019

The Association of Finnish Cities and Municipalities (Kuntaliitto) partnered with COSS through Avoinkoodi.fi to promote OSS and make existing OSS applications accessible to citizens. Kuntaliitto supported Finnish municipalities in adopting OSS to transform their services.