



Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet Ireland

OSOR

1 General Information

Since 2019, Ireland's public sector has seen a moderate increase in Open Source Software (OSS) usage and development, driven by a shift towards user-centric and reusable digital solutions. Formal recognition of OSS in national strategies remains limited but there is a growing emphasis on interoperability, reusability, and transparency in digital transformation efforts. Key initiatives like the Life Events programme and Digital Wallet reflect this gradual move towards OSS adoption and development in the public sector.

2 Actors

POLICY MAKERS

The Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (DPENDR), is the government body responsible for improving public services in Ireland, through enhanced governance, capacity building, and effective delivery of public services. The department is responsible for the Connecting Government 2030 Strategy, Ireland's Digital and ICT strategy for public service.

STRATEGIC PLAYER

The Open Ireland Network (OIN), established in 2021, aims to connect the open source community in Ireland while also engaging with the entire innovation ecosystem to promote knowledge and skills related to open source. OIN regularly engages with the Irish government to drive open source awareness amongst government bodies and to support outreach efforts to the open source community in Ireland.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

Connecting Government 2030 - A Digital and ICT Strategy for Ireland's Public Service, 2022. Sets the framework for the development of a digital government in Ireland through the digitalisation and interoperability of public services. This is the only element of Ireland's digital strategy for public services that directly refers to open source.

Better Public Services, A Transformation Strategy to Deliver for the Public and Build Trust, 2023. Presents a consolidated view of the building blocks for the digitalisation strategy for public services delivery in Ireland. While it does not mention open source, it does emphasise a shift towards embracing a culture of innovation, including through open collaboration and development of joined-up services.



4 Open Source Software Initiatives

Community of Practice for Open Source Practitioners in the Public Service, 2024, Open Ireland Network is implementing a Community of Practice for open source practitioners in Irish Public Service in collaboration with the Irish Government. This community will serve as a hub for learning, networking, and enabling the responsible adoption of open source solutions and practices to improve government services and operations.

Life Events programme and Digital Wallet, 2024, will provide online users with integrated access to Ireland's public service through a single online platform structured around key life events. It builds upon Ireland's engagement with the GovStack Principles and is in line with the Build to Share programme, using or developing open source solutions. On the same principles, Ireland is also developing its Digital Wallet solution.

Covid Green app, 2020, the Covid-19 contact tracing app was developed by the Irish Health Service in partnership with the Linux Foundation Public Health Initiative. It was reused by other States globally. The app marked an important shift in the use and development of open source by the Irish government, highlighting how open source can facilitate international exchanges between governments.

Telecom Infra Project (TIP) OpenWifi, 2022, Launched as a trial initiative under the WiFi4EU programme, this project offers increased coverage for public Wi-Fi in the city of Dublin by using the open Wi-Fi architecture developed by the Telecom Infra Project.