



Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet

Lithuania

OSOR

1 General Information

Since 2020, Lithuania has advanced open source software use in the public sector, driven by digitalisation efforts and EU openness principles. While there is no central open source software authority, bodies like the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation and the State Digital Solutions Agency lead digital transformation. A 2011 resolution, a 2015 IT strategy, and a 2016 government programme supported open source software, though recent policies have ignored it. Nonetheless, government GitHub repositories and the ongoing commitment to openness and innovation are fostering a more open source software-friendly future environment.

2 Actors

POLICY MAKERS

The Ministry of the Economy and Innovation (MEI) plays a pivotal role in shaping digital policies, managing public sector IT systems, and fostering the growth of the digital economy largely through the State Digital Solutions Agency.

STRATEGIC PLAYER

Under the MEI, the State Digital Solutions Agency leads Lithuania's digital transformation, overseeing information resources, eGovernment services, and open data. It also serves as the national authority for implementing the Interoperable Europe Act.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

The 17th Government Programme of the Republic of Lithuania, 2016

Implemented in 2016, this programme set objectives regarding the use of open source software in public administration. The Lithuanian government committed to conducting a risk and cost-benefit analysis, as well as assessing the feasibility of establishing an open source software -based service infrastructure. Additionally, the programme includes efforts to educate the public on the benefits of using open source software.

Law on the new methodology for public information systems (IS) lifecycle management, 2024.

The SDSA has introduced a methodology for managing government IS. It mandates storing public code in a state-run Git repository without licensing restrictions. Reusable modules should be published as open source, and open source solutions are prioritised over proprietary ones.



4 Open Source Software Initiatives

National Boundaries and Addresses API of Lithuania, 2024

The Government of Lithuania provides open access to data on national boundaries and registered addresses within the country, through its GitHub page. This open API offers information and geometries for various geographic features, including counties, municipalities, elderships, residential areas, streets, and addresses. The data is used for Lithuania's open source software "vector tiles", a government map format designed to display geographic data at the municipal and national levels.

Office of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania GitHub page, 2023

In 2023, the Government of Lithuania shared its first GitHub resources. The page contains six repositories of projects with open source components.

National Open Data Portal, 2020

In January 2020, Lithuania introduced an open data portal powered by the open source solution CKAN. The portal facilitates the creation of data catalogues, planning of open data production, and utilisation of data transformation tools. Additionally, the portal use Spinta, an open source tool.

GovTech Challenge Series and Innovation Bank, 2019

Launched in 2019, Lithuania's GovTech Lab Challenge Series promotes collaboration between startups and government bodies. While not explicitly focused on open source software, some piloted tools, like Decidim for citizen engagement and Climate OS for climate planning, are open source. Since 2023, the Lab has also been developing the GovTech Innovation Bank, featuring various GovTech solutions, some of which are open source software.