

Open Source Policy CYPRUS



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General Information

At present, there are neither central entities for the development and supervision of open source software nor political and legislative initiatives governing its use in Cyprus. It is hoped that initiatives will be introduced in the coming years to promote the use of open source software within Cypriot public administrations, building off the country's strong background in the provision of user-centric and interoperable eGovernment services.

2

Actors



Cyprus does not have an appointed central entity for the development and supervision of open source software to date.



The **KIOS Research and Innovation Centre of Excellence** is the largest research and innovation ICT centre in Cyprus addressing ICT. The Centre has participated in several projects and events supporting the use of open source software in the public sector since its inception.

3

Policy and Legal Framework

At present, there appears to be no overarching policy in place to encourage the uptake of open source software adoption in Cypriot public administrations. To illustrate, the current **Digital Strategy for Cyprus**, the **eGovernment Strategy**, the **Memorandum of Understanding in the Area of eGovernment between the Republic of Cyprus and Estonia**, and the **Public Administration Reform** make no explicit reference to the use of open source software in Cypriot public administrations.

4

Open Source Software Initiatives



SWIFTERS: This software leverages drone swarms in order to study, design, develop and test drone cooperation strategies that can help assist civil protection operations, particularly with regards to disaster management. The project was developed by KIOS CoE, the Centre for Security Studies of the Ministry of Interior, and the Cyprus Civil Defence in 2017. The software package has been released under an open source licence.

ProximAid: ProximAid is a smartphone application designed to operate without a connection to a network infrastructure, while still enabling communication between a network of mobile phones. It can serve as a vital communication tool in areas where communications infrastructure is affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, fires, or man-made disasters. The application was developed using open source software.

University of Cyprus Library: Since 2012, the University of Cyprus Library has supported OSS solutions, even developing its own open source mirror server and making it fully available to the public.