Open Source Policy
LATVIA

OSOR

1 General Information

Latvia has a rich variety of actors and strategic players working to raise awareness on and increase the use of open source software. Within the government, there is a particular focus on the fair treatment of open source software in IT procurement processes in the public sector. Public administrations are mandated to consider open source software on an equal footing with proprietary software, and to make source code available.

2 Actors

Policy maker

The **Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia** (VARAM) is responsible for the implementation and coordination of eGovernment and open source software policies.

Strategic player

The **Latvian Open Technology Association** (LATA) is a leading and highly influential ICT industry association in Latvia that promotes the openness of technologies, interoperability, reusability, and open source software and standards.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

2012

IT Procurement Guide

In 2012, LATA and Latvia's Procurement Monitoring Bureau worked on an initiative that advocated for fairer, more competitive IT solution procurement processes that don't prevent bidders from suggesting open source software solutions.

2017

Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.402

This Regulation was introduced to improve public administration services and increase digitalisation. The Regulation ensures that software for digital public services should be licensed as open source software.

2017

Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2017-2019

This Action Plan outlines Latvia's aim to increase transparency, decrease bureaucracy, and improve procurement processes. An open source public data portal built using open source technology will be developed as part of this Action Plan.
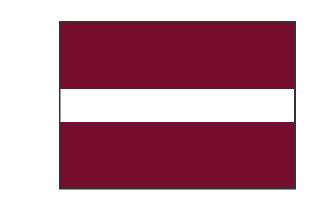
4 Open Source Software Initiatives

Statistics Portal: A statistics portal built entirely on open source software will be launched in 2020. It was procured as open source software and some of the source code for the Geographic Information System is being reused from a Slovenian prototype.

Open Data Portal: In September 2017, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development launched an Open Data Portal designed to act as a single point of access to open government data. The portal was created using an open source technology platform and an open source data catalogue, CKAN.

Building Information System: The Building Information System is a public portal which ensures information exchange among the persons participating in the construction process and is managed by the State Construction Control Bureau. The first development contract was signed in 2011.

Austrumi Linux: Austrumi Linux is a bootable live Linux distribution that is built on Slackware Linux and it is highly suitable for servers and workstations in public administrations. It was created and is maintained by a group of programmers from the Latgale region of Latvia.

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