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Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
ACTORS	3
POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK	5
OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE INITIATIVES	6

AUSTRIA

Executive summary

Since 2020, the use and development of Open Source Software (OSS) by the Austrian public sector has gradually taken on more strategic importance, with a number of digitalisation strategies and action plans directly referring to open source. The National Strategic Roadmap for the Austrian Digital Decade¹ and the Digital Action Plan on Digital Sovereignty,² for instance, position open source as a critical pillar of a sovereign and resilient digital transformation for Austria. The Austrian government supports OSS as a means to achieve digital sovereignty by avoiding vendor lock-in and increasing digital skills, and has been further encouraging its use by the public sector. A number of initiatives at the federal and local levels are aiming to increase awareness and knowledge of OSS, including through software repositories.

Demonstrating this strategic shift towards OSS, the Austrian Federal Chancellery in 2022 set up an open source working group within the Chief Digital Officer Task Force. This working group was created to analyse the state of OSS use by the public sector in Austria and to outline recommendations for encouraging the use of OSS. The results of this working group have been published in a report outlining guidelines on open source use for the public administration.

This view of open source as a driver of digital sovereignty and economic competitiveness is also demonstrated at the local level, with Vienna's city government engaged in a number of open source initiatives. The city of Vienna, the local authority for both the capital city and its surrounding state, directly refers to open source in its Digital Agenda 2030³ and uses its role as the city's main provider of IT services to encourage the use of OSS by both the public and private sector.

¹ [National Strategic Roadmap for Austrian Digital Decade \(2023\)](#)

² [Digital Action Plan on Digital Sovereignty \(2023\)](#)

³ [Stadt Wien \(2024\). Digital Agenda 2030 der Stadt Wien](#)

Actors

This section presents the key governmental bodies and strategic players influencing awareness and uptake of OSS within the Austrian government and the public sector.

Polymakers

- Chief Digital Officer Task Force (CDO)⁴: The CDO was created in 2018 and sits within the Department of Digitalisation in the Federal Chancellery. The CDO is responsible for leading cooperation on digitalisation between federal ministries. In 2022, the CDO set up a working group to determine the federal public administration's use of open source and to outline recommendations for improvement.
- Digital Austria⁵: This initiative was created in 2005 by the Federal Chancellery to coordinate a digital strategy across the country's public administration. Its online platform hosts information about the development of the Digital Office (a central online platform for all public services) and documents related to Austria's digitalisation strategy.^{6,7} The platform also provides access to a repository of different digitalisation projects in the country, though not necessarily open source. Until 2012 it hosted the repository of OSS modules, which has since been transferred to the eGovernment Innovation Centre.
- eGovernment Innovation Centre (EGIZ)⁸: Established in 2012, EGIZ supports Austria's digitalisation strategy through the development and maintenance of open source eGovernment modules. A joint initiative with the Federal Chancellery, EGIZ is part of the Secure Information Technology Center of Austria (A-SIT)⁹ and is supported by the Institute for Applied Information Processing and Communications Technology (IAIK) at Graz University. EGIZ's decision to open source its modules was not mandated by the Austrian government, and is a good example of the successful development of open source modules for eGovernment on an institution's own initiative. A repository of EGIZ's open source solution is available on its website.¹⁰
- IKT-Bund:¹¹ This Austrian government department is responsible for the overall provision of ICT services within the public administration at the federal level. It also supports coordination with the federal regions in Austria.¹²
- State Secretary for Digital Affairs and e-Government in the Federal Chancellery: The State Secretary is responsible for overseeing digitalisation-related issues, including open source, at the national level. This responsibility was previously under the Federal Ministry for Digital and

⁴ [Digital Austria. Administrative Agencies](#)

⁵ [Digital Austria](#)

⁶ [Digital Austria. Downloads](#)

⁷ [Open Source Software \(OSS\)](#)

⁸ [eGovernment Innovation Center \(EGIZ\)](#)

⁹ [Secure Information Technology Center Austria](#)

¹⁰ [Open Source Modules - EGIZ](#)

¹¹ [Digital Austria - Koordinationsgremien der digitalen Verwaltung](#)

¹² [Digital Austria - Koordinationsgremien der digitalen Verwaltung](#)

Economics Affairs (dissolved in 2022)¹³ and was shifted to the State Secretary following a change in government. Future governments may again shift that responsibility to a different Ministry or State Secretary as the structure of ministries in Austria changes with each new government.

Strategic players

- Open Source Software Business Innovation Group (OSSBIG)¹⁴: OSSBIG is a non-profit organisation which helps promote the use of OSS in Austria, in particular among public administrations. OSSBIG is a leading influence in informing a strategic approach to open source in Austria, working closely with the Austrian government. For instance, OSSBIG worked with the Austrian government on a 2022 policy paper¹⁵ that was later mentioned in the Digital Austria Act¹⁶ concerning open source recommendations. In recent years, OSSBIG has also published research papers on open source and digital governance,¹⁷ as well as on open source and digital sovereignty¹⁸ - a topic of high importance for the Austrian government in its approach to open source.
- City of Vienna:¹⁹ The local government for the city and state of Vienna has integrated open source software in its digital architecture principles, opting for OSS whenever preferable. Through its engagement with OSS, the city of Vienna encourages the use of open source by the public and private sectors at the local level. This commitment is reflected in the city of Vienna's digital agenda for 2030 which refers to open source and to the digital humanism principle as critical to achieving a transparent and inclusive digitalisation process (see next section). The city of Vienna is a member of Austrian open source business association OSSBIG and is collaborating with open source organisations and projects such as Red Hat,²⁰ FIWARE, and GAIA-X²¹ to develop and maintain its digital infrastructure and public services, in particular in relation to Smart City development.²²
- Vienna Business Agency (Vienna Business)²³: Supporting the city of Vienna's strategy of encouraging OSS for digital sovereignty and economic competitiveness, Vienna Business acts as an information hub and connectivity nexus to promote the use of OSS with businesses in Vienna, hosting regulating meetings on OSS, including FIWARE community meetings, and providing guidance and explainers. In 2021 Vienna Business published a report on Open Source / Open Standards Technology providing a comprehensive overview of what OSS is and practical examples of how it is being used by the public and private sectors in Vienna.²⁴

¹³ [Federal Chancellery - Republic of Austria, Federal Ministries](#)

¹⁴ [OSSBIG.at](#)

¹⁵ [eGovernment Bund Länder Gemeinden \(2024\), Open Source Software \(OSS\) beschaffen, einsetzen und sichtbar machen](#)

¹⁶ [Digital Austria Act \(2023\)](#)

¹⁷ [OSSBIG, Open Source Governance Empfehlungen für die Öffentliche Verwaltung](#)

¹⁸ [OSSBIG, Open Source Strategie zur digitalen Selbstbestimmung](#)

¹⁹ [Digitales Wien](#)

²⁰ [Stadt Wien \(2024\), Stadt Wien modernisiert Rechenzentrum mit Kubernetes](#)

²¹ [Vienna Business Agency \(2021\), Open Source / Open Standard Technology Report](#)

²² [Smart City Wien](#)

²³ [Vienna Business Agency](#)

²⁴ [Open Source / Open Standards Technology Report, Vienna Business Agency](#)

- Open Source Expert Group at the Austrian Chamber of Commerce:²⁵ This expert group provides a platform to connect OSS experts. It was set up by the Association of Business Consulting and Information Technology of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce and provides two repositories of OSS experts: a national one²⁶ and one listing experts by federal state.²⁷ It also publishes a series of reports on “OSS Success Stories”, with the first one published in 2015 and followed by updated reports in 2018, 2019, and 2024.²⁸
- Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE) in Austria: This is a non-profit organisation working to increase support for and general understanding of free and open source software, and open standards in the public and private sector. There is one group operating at the national level and one operating at the local level in Vienna.²⁹ However, it seems that both groups have been inactive in recent years.

Policy and legal framework

This section summarises the main digital and public services policies relating to OSS in Austria, including landmark strategies documents and implementation frameworks. The list is presented in chronological order, starting from the most recent milestone.

- Guidelines on the use of open source software, 2025³⁰: The Federal Government, under the lead of the CDO’s open source group, has published guidelines on the use of OSS by the public administration. These guidelines include, amongst others, information on selection criteria for OSS, contractual regulations, and useful EU tools (JLA, EUPL) and guidelines.
- Proposal for a reference architecture, 2024: In line with the different digitalisation strategies introduced in Austria since 2020, a proposal for a reference architecture for public services web applications consisting exclusively of OSS components was submitted to the IKT-Bund in 2024. This document is for internal use by the federal government only.
- Digital Agenda 2030 - City of Vienna, 2024³¹: This agenda sets out the strategic direction and five-year plan for the city of Vienna to continue building on digital services and infrastructure while putting people at the core of digitalisation through the concept of “digital humanism”. The document directly refers to the use of OSS, including the city of Vienna’s collaboration with FIWARE and the Open Source Innovation Hub (see next section). With this strategy, open source is aligned with the principle of digital humanism through a focus on transparency, inclusivity and user empowerment.

²⁵ [Open Source - Österreich](#)

²⁶ [Open Source Expert:innen online finden](#)

²⁷ [Sprecherinnen und Sprecher Experts Group OpenSource](#)

²⁸ [OSEG Success Stories](#)

²⁹ <https://wiki.fsfe.org/LocalGroups/Vienna>

³⁰ [Downloads zum Thema OSS](#)

³¹ [Stadt Wien \(2024\). Digital Agenda 2030 der Stadt Wien](#)

- E-Government Strategy, 2023³²: This document outlines the vision, impact areas, and initiatives for the federal government to pursue a digital transformation through the development of digital public services that ensure user trust and maintain digital sovereignty. Open source is highlighted as a way to strengthen Austria’s digital sovereignty.
- Resolution on “Strengthening digital sovereignty through more flexible and increased use of open source products”, 2023³³: In line with the aforementioned E-Government Strategy, the Austrian Parliament unanimously adopted this cross-party resolution in July 2023 explicitly linking the use of open source to Austria’s digital sovereignty. Its adoption followed a discussion by the Parliamentary Committee on Research, Innovation and Digitalisation.
- National Strategic Roadmap for the Austrian Digital Decade, 2023³⁴: The roadmap outlines the implementation of the EU’s Digital Decade initiative in Austria and introduces the Digital Austria Act (DAA) – the digital work programme of the federal government (see below). A chapter of this document is dedicated to open source, presenting “strategic guidelines” to support the use of open source with the direct aim of “securing the digital sovereignty of Austria and the [European] Union in an open manner”. Through this, open source is envisioned as a toolkit to decrease dependencies on foreign software while strengthening Austria’s economic competitiveness, IT security, interoperability, and collaboration through the “resilience of value chains”.
- Digital Austria Act (DAA), 2023³⁵: The DAA is a digital work programme and includes recommendations on the use of OSS by the federal government. The Act covers 117 measures and 36 digitalisation principles that are meant to “reshape digitalisation in Austria”, including through a focus on “Smart government of the future” which seeks to develop a Digital Office providing online access to all federal administrative services. The DAA presents OSS as a “building block of the smart government of the future”, including through the creation of a central OSS repository for the federal administration, the nomination of OSS points of contact in public administration departments, increased use of and training on OSS in schools, and measures related to facilitating provisions of OSS through contract templates and a list of safe open source licences.
- Digital Action Plan on Digital Sovereignty, 2022³⁶: Part of a series of strategy papers on Digital Action for Austria, this document addresses different questions related to the cause of digital dependencies and proposes measures to address them. It highlights the use of open source as a way to reduce dependency and to work towards digital sovereignty.
- Open Source / Open Standards Technology report, Vienna Business Agency, 2021³⁷: This report gives a comprehensive definition of open source and open standards, and outlines how they are

³² [E-Government Strategy \(2023\)](#)

³³ [Parlament Österreich \(2023\). Open-Source-Produkte: Nationalrat bekennt sich einstimmig zur Förderung der digitalen Souveränität](#)

³⁴ [National Strategic Roadmap for the Austrian Digital Decade \(2023\)](#)

³⁵ [Digital Austria Act \(2023\)](#)

³⁶ [Digital Action Plan on Digital Sovereignty. Digital Austria](#)

³⁷ [Open Source / Open Standards Technology Report. Vienna Business Agency](#)

used by the local government in Vienna to advance the development of high-quality digital services for a “new digital humanism”. Building on the Vienna 2030 Strategy and its focus on digitalisation, it outlines OSS as a way to achieve digital services that encourage transparency, security, and “self-determination”. It also outlines different open source initiatives that the City of Vienna is engaged with (see below), and highlights the critical value of open source and open standards, without which “many services would otherwise hardly be conceivable”. An updated version of this report is expected for publication in 2026.

Open source software initiatives

This section presents an overview of the main open source software-related initiatives in Austria. The list is presented in chronological order, starting with the most recent initiative.

- Open Source Guide for Austria, 2025³⁸: Published by Netidee, a programme of the Internet Foundation promoting open source internet in Austria, this report provides a comprehensive overview of open source projects and communities in Austria. The report also includes an explainer as to what is open source software and the principles supporting it.
- City of Vienna & Red Hat’s Open Shift, 2024³⁹: The city of Vienna in January 2024 announced a new collaboration with Red Hat’s Open Shift Kubernetes platform to be deployed in its data centre, with the aim of modernising Vienna’s IT infrastructure.
- OpenDesk collaboration, 2023: Through a joint declaration of intent on “Strengthening Digital Sovereignty and Joint Development of the Sovereign Workplace”, signed on 14 June 2023⁴⁰, Austria agreed with Germany to collaborate on and evaluate OpenDesk – the office suite initiative launched by Germany’s Centre for Digital Sovereignty (ZenDis).
- Data.gv.at, from 2012, updates in 2024⁴¹: The “Decentralized data catalogues of the administration in Austria” is the country’s open data platform collating resources from all levels of government in Austria into a joint portal. It was set up in 2012 and further established as the access point for government data in July 2022, when the Federal Law on the Reuse of Public Sector Information was amended. The online platform is open source and contains 44,615 datasets from 2,394 organisations (as of July 2023). In December 2024, the platform was updated to include an open source filter, helping users to easily find applications that use both open data and open source software.⁴²
- EGIZ’s Open Source Module, from 2012, updates in 2024⁴³: The eGovernment Innovation Center principally focuses on developing and maintaining ID management and electronic signature

³⁸ [Netidee \(2025\). Open Source Guide für Österreich](#)

³⁹ [DigitalesWien \(2024\). Stadt Wien modernisiert Rechenzentrum mit Kubernetes](#)

⁴⁰ [Nationaler strategischer Fahrplan für die Digitale Dekade Österreich](#) (page 123)

⁴¹ [Data.gv.at](#)

⁴² [New filter on data.gv.at: Open source applications easy to find. Data.gv.at](#)

⁴³ [EGIZ. Open Source Modules](#)

software for the Austrian government. Recent projects developed by EGIZ include the national eID system⁴⁴ and the edu.digicard for Austrian students.⁴⁵

- Open Source Innovation Hubs, 2024⁴⁶: A project between Austria and Czechia, the Open Source Innovation Hubs are meant to advance digital sovereignty and competitiveness through the strengthening of interregional cooperation on open source technologies. Through this initiative, the Vienna Business Agency and the University of Applied Sciences Technikum Wien are to set up a FIWARE iHub providing technical and non-technical support for FIWARE technologies in the programme regions. The hub in Brno, coordinated by Open Cities⁴⁷, will focus on open source and AI with the end goal of setting up a physical open source project office (OSPO).
- City of Vienna and GAIA-X, 2022⁴⁸: Vienna is involved with the GAIA-X project which aims to provide a federated and secure data infrastructure across EU Member States, in particular through FIWARE and the Smart City Domain. The city of Vienna and GAIA-X focus their collaboration on driving the digital and data transformation of Vienna.⁴⁹ The Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien) Pilot Factory, which leads the EuProGigant consortium, is also one of the first industrial projects implementing the GAIA-X principles.⁵⁰
- OSS and Austrian Universities: A number of Austrian universities and institutes of technology are involved in research and development of open source technologies, from open source systems to the political economy of open source. An overview of Vienna's higher education institutes' involvement in open source is available in Vienna Business Agency's paper on open source (p.21).⁵¹
- OpenFoam Manual, 2020⁵²: Researchers from the Johannes Kepler University in Linz⁵³ published a manual for engineers seeking to simulate additively manufactured (AM) cooling channels using the open source application OpenFoam, a C++ toolbox. The researchers outlined their experiences in a manual for practitioners, engineers and students to help improve their knowledge of OpenFoam and their software simulations.
- OSS.wien.gv.at (2018)⁵⁴: This repository is maintained by the city of Vienna and lists all the open source software used by Vienna's local government, divided by categories of use (such as data centres or OSS on end devices). This repository also begins with an explainer of what is OSS and what are open source licences, referencing the work of the Open Source Initiative (OSI).

⁴⁴ [A-SIT. Bürgerkarte / ID Austria](#)

⁴⁵ [Herzlich Willkommen auf der Informationsseite der edu.digicard und edu.card!](#)

⁴⁶ [Open Source Innovation Hubs](#)

⁴⁷ <https://otevrenamesta.cz/>

⁴⁸ [Vienna Business Agency \(2021\). Open Source / Open Standard Technology Report](#)

⁴⁹ [DigitalesWien \(2024\). Neues Gaia-X Positionspapier](#)

⁵⁰ [EuProGigant](#)

⁵¹ [Vienna Business Agency \(2021\). Open Source / Open Standard Technology Report](#)

⁵² [Mitterlehner T., Kobler E., Steinbichler G., \(2019\). Introduction to OpenFoam® and chtMultiRegion using an application-oriented example](#)

⁵³ [Institut für Polymer-Spritzgießtechnik und Prozessautomatisierung](#)

⁵⁴ [DigitalesWien. Open Source Software](#)

- OpenAtlas, 2017⁵⁵: OpenAtlas is an Austrian open source, web-based database system which maps complex archaeological, historical and geospatial data. The source code is available on GitHub,⁵⁶ and it uses OSS such as Apache, PostgreSQL, PostGIS, Python 3, Flask, and Leaflet.
- Vienna's use of FIWARE, 2017:⁵⁷ City of Vienna's use of FIWARE demonstrates the local government's engagement with open source projects on different levels. An open source cloud platform with a framework for developing interoperable smart solutions, FIWARE is used as a leading tool to help realise the city of Vienna's digital vision for a smart city. The Vienna Business Agency and city of Vienna also regularly organise FIWARE community meetings, events and workshops. The city of Vienna and FIWARE also collaborated on the EU project CEFAT4Cities, aiming to create a tool for multilingual access to eGovernment services in the Smart City area. The FIWARE's Orion Context Broker is also used for the smartdata.wien platform, which provides access to urban data and use cases of Smart City implementation in Vienna.⁵⁸
- Open Source Software Funding, 2016⁵⁹: The Austrian government funded EUR 200,000 for open source projects on eGovernment, eHealth, eLearning, eInclusion, and other services. Funding was available to cover the cost of launching a product or service, testing, or improving an existing software application. This specific funding was not renewed, although the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)⁶⁰ also acts as a portal for funding opportunities (at the National and European level), including tenders specific to digitalisation.
- Vorarlberg and Quantum GIS, 2013⁶¹: In early 2013, the Austrian state of Vorarlberg became the first silver sponsor for improvements to Quantum GIS, an OSS application for managing geographic information, with a donation of EUR 5,000.
- eLearning Competence Centre, 2011⁶²: In 2011, the Federal Ministry of Education funded an eLearning competence centre with the aim of increasing the use in schools of OSS applications such as Moodle, Desktop4education and server4education.
- Bregenz Telephone System, 2011⁶³: Since 2011, the city of Bregenz has been using an open source and IP-based telephone service within their telephone infrastructure. This has massively reduced licensing and maintenance costs, and it was designed to meet the specific needs of the municipality.
- Desktop4education and server4education, 2009⁶⁴: With support from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, a version of GNU/Linux distributions have been developed

⁵⁵ OpenAtlas.eu

⁵⁶ [OpenAtlas. Github](https://github.com/OpenAtlas)

⁵⁷ [Vienna Business Agency \(2021\). Open Source / Open Standard Technology Report](#)

⁵⁸ [Smart City Vienna](#)

⁵⁹ [OSOR \(2016\). Up to EUR 200,000 for Austria open source projects](#)

⁶⁰ [Austrian Research Promotion Agency](#)

⁶¹ [OSOR \(2013\). Austria's Vorarlberg state sponsors improvements to Quantum GIS software](#)

⁶² [OSOR \(2011\). AT: Education ministry funds open source eLearning competence centre](#)

⁶³ [OSOR \(2011\). AT: City of Bregenz reduces costs with OS-based VoIP telephone system](#)

⁶⁴ [desktop4education](#)

specifically for schools, with the aim of promoting the use of OSS in classrooms. This has been further bolstered in light of the government's decision to halt funding for proprietary software in schools in 2009.⁶⁵

- Ministry of Justice, 2008⁶⁶: Since 2008, the Austrian Ministry of Justice has been using OpenOffice on several thousand desktop PCs, following a mass migration from proprietary software that was no longer meeting the ministry's needs. In 2011, the ministry expanded its use of OSS to include an open source web application for data warehousing. The application is based on Apache, MySQL, php, and JavaScript, and it was chosen to carry out reliable data evaluations which were not possible with the proprietary software previously used.

⁶⁵ [OSOR \(2009\). AT: Education ministry no longer funds proprietary office licenses](#)

⁶⁶ [OSOR \(2011\). AT: Department of Justice's migration to OpenOffice a success story](#)

