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Open Source Software Country Intelligence Report Liechtenstein

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Liechtenstein

Executive Summary

While Liechtenstein does not have an appointed government entity for the development and supervision of open source software (OSS), the Æternity Crypto Foundation¹ has emerged as a key non-profit organisation supporting the open source development of Blockchain technology and OSS more generally in Liechtenstein.

There exists no formalised policy or legal framework to encourage the uptake of OSS solutions in public administrations throughout Liechtenstein. To illustrate, the Digital Agenda Liechtenstein 2019², the IT Strategy 2019-2023^{3,4}, the current Government Programme 2017-2021⁵ and the eGovernment Strategy 2017-21⁶ make no explicit reference to OSS.

A survey conducted in 2017 found that Liechtenstein had expressed willingness to develop their open source market.⁷ Given the country's background in the provision of user-centric and interoperable eGovernment services and promotion of open data, there is a strong potential to incorporate the promotion and use of OSS within Liechtenstein's public administrations.

Actors

This section presents the policy makers who are active in digitalisation efforts and influence the status of open source in public sector, as well as the main strategic players that work together with the government at all levels to raise awareness on OSS. In Liechtenstein, there is no governmental body that is specifically responsible for OSS policies.

Policy makers

- The Ministry of General Government Affairs⁸ is the political actor closest to policymaking in areas related to OSS, however, there are no explicit references to OSS on its website. The Ministry is the central authority in Liechtenstein responsible for the provision of modernised, transparent and effective public administration by means of public sector reform, eGovernment initiatives and information policies.

¹ <https://www.aeternity-foundation.org/>

² <https://www.regierung.li/media/attachments/ikr-DigitaleAgendaFL-A4-Einzelseiten-200dpi.pdf?t=637460563401675760>

³ https://www.liv.li/files/sf/bua_106_2019_finanzplanung-2020-2023.pdf

⁴ https://www.digital-liechtenstein.li/application/files/8115/9127/8484/Webinar_eID_20200603.pdf

⁵ https://www.regierung.li/media/attachments/Regierungsprogramm_2017%E2%80%932021_www.pdf

⁶ <https://www.regierung.li/media/attachments/ikr-eGovernmentStrategie-A4-D.PDF?t=637165045252940772>

⁷ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/market>

⁸ <https://www.regierung.li/ministries/ministry-of-general-government-affairs-and-finance/>

Strategic players

- The Æternity Crypto Foundation⁹ is a non-profit organisation that was established in Liechtenstein in 2016 with the aim of supporting the open source development of Blockchain technology, promoting user-friendly applications and advocating in favour of OSS initiatives. More specifically, the Foundation works to maintain and technically advance the open source core of æternity blockchain, a scalable smart contract platform designed to address some of the key challenges of earlier blockchains.¹⁰ The Foundation also supports research and education in the fields of open source, blockchain technology, cryptography and mathematics and provides grants for more than 30 projects¹¹. Following the enactment of innovative blockchain legislation in 2020¹², it is hoped that public administrations in Liechtenstein will increasingly turn to open source blockchain technology.

Policy and legal framework

This section summarises the main open source software related policies and legal acts of the last ten years, including the first known milestone in this domain. It must be noted, however, that there is no policy or legal framework for OSS policies in Liechtenstein.

- With regards to specific strategies, policy frameworks and legal acts, there appears to be no overarching policy in place to encourage the uptake of OSS adoption in Liechtenstein's public administrations. To illustrate, the Digital Agenda Liechtenstein 2019¹³, the IT Strategy 2019-2023^{14,15}, the current Government Programme 2017-2021¹⁶ and the eGovernment Strategy 2017-21¹⁷ make no explicit reference to OSS. As a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Liechtenstein was however a signatory of the Tallinn Declaration¹⁸, whereby all signatories committed to make more use of OSS and open standards when building ICT systems and solutions. Furthermore, they called upon the European Commission to making this requirement binding when the building of ICT systems and solutions takes place with EU funding.

⁹ <https://www.aeternity-foundation.org/>

¹⁰ <https://aeternity.com/>

¹¹ <https://www.aeternity-foundation.org/#grants>

¹² <https://www.regierung.li/media/attachments/BuA-TVtG-18042019-CLEAN-636942017742518511.pdf?t=637146055822007311>

¹³ <https://www.regierung.li/media/attachments/ikr-DigitaleAgendaFL-A4-Einzelseiten-200dpi.pdf?t=637460563401675760>

¹⁴ https://www.llv.li/files/sf/bua_106_2019_finanplanung-2020-2023.pdf

¹⁵ https://www.digital-liechtenstein.li/application/files/8115/9127/8484/Webinar_eID_20200603.pdf

¹⁶ https://www.regierung.li/media/attachments/Regierungsprogramm_2017%E2%80%932021_www.pdf

¹⁷ <https://www.regierung.li/media/attachments/ikr-eGovernmentStrategie-A4-D.PDF?t=637165045252940772>

¹⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/ministerial-declaration-egovernment-tallinn-declaration>

Open source software initiatives

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

- Block Reward Initiative, 2019¹⁹: Launched in 2019, the Block Reward Initiative (BRI) invites members of the OSS community to use existing OSS tools to contribute to the æternity open source blockchain and ensure its long-term sustainability. The BRI was launched by the Æternity Crypto Foundation and Æternity Anstalt.
- The Things Network, 2017²⁰: The Things Network is an open source collaborative Internet of Things Network that spans across the globe. A small community initiative was launched in Liechtenstein in 2017 with the aim of developing an open and free network with open source components that are independent of large telecommunications providers. One project that made use of the network was focussed on waste management. The local community equipped waste bins with sensors to measure waste levels and display this information on an online application using the network²¹, thus allowing citizens to monitor the situation.
- Cybersecurity Liechtenstein, 2016²²: Established in 2016, Cybersecurity Liechtenstein is a non-profit association that promotes IT security in Liechtenstein and provides training sessions for young people who are interested in IT risks and vulnerabilities and how to mitigate them. Many of their cybersecurity outputs are available as OSS and the source code is freely available on GitHub²³.

¹⁹ <https://blog.aeternity.com/aeternity-first-on-chain-governance-vote-decentralization-2-0-5e0c8a01891a>

²⁰ <https://www.thethingsnetwork.org/community/liechtenstein/>

²¹ <https://www.thethingsnetwork.org/community/liechtenstein/post/smart-waste-system>

²² <https://cybersecurity.li/>

²³ <https://github.com/cybersecurity-li>

