



DG DIGIT

Unit.D2 (Interoperability Unit)

Open Source Software Country Intelligence Report

Croatia

2020

This research was carried out for the ISA² Programme by Wavestone’s European Services team. This report is based on publicly available information that was gathered through desk research.



Authors

Federico Chiarelli (federico.chiarelli@wavestone.com)

Vivien Devenyi (vivien.devenyi@wavestone.com)

Chloé Dussutour (chloe.dussutour@wavestone.com)

Clare O’Donohoe (clare.odonohoe@wavestone.com)

Eleonora Zoboli (eleonora.zoboli@wavestone.com)

Follow us



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



@OSOReu

Disclaimer

The information and views set out in this study are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Commission. This study has been carried out for information and consultation purposes only. It has not been adopted and should not be regarded as representative of the views of Commission staff. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on the European Commission’s behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.

© European Union, 2020



The reuse policy of the European Commission is implemented by the Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39). Except otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). This means that reuse is allowed provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated. For any use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not owned by the EU, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holders.

Updated in April 2020

Table of Contents

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

CROATIA

Executive summary

While Croatia does not have an appointed central entity for the development and supervision of open source software (OSS), there is evidence of a gradual shift toward promoting modernised ICT systems within the Croatian public administration. The Ministry of Administration¹, the Directorate for e-Croatia², the National Information Infrastructure Council³, and the Central State Office for the Development of the Digital Society⁴ all work in some capacity to promote the modernization of IT systems and policies throughout Croatia. The former President, Ivo Josipović, voiced support for the innovative spirit of the open source community, acknowledging the way in which OSS solutions can help to strengthen democracy.⁵

At present, there is only one example of a policy promoting the use of OSS in public administrations. The Free and Open Source Software Policy was launched in 2006, with the Croatian government issuing guidelines to help foster the development and use of OSS solutions within administrations.⁶ However, concrete actions implemented in the framework of the policy have not been made public. In a more positive development, the Croatian Regulatory Agency for Networking Activities and the Ministry of Administration developed an Open Data Portal in 2015⁷. The portal is based on a combination of two systems, both of which are open source. The source code is available on GitHub⁸.

Despite this general lack of policy or legal framework, there are several OSS-related initiatives in Croatia from the last two decades, signalling a gradual willingness among citizens and government staff to move away from proprietary software towards OSS solutions in public administrations. Various strategic actors such as the Croatian Society for Open Systems and Internet (HrOpen)⁹ and Code for Croatia¹⁰ work to support these initiatives and promote the use of OSS solutions nationwide.

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

¹ <https://uprava.gov.hr/>

² <https://uprava.gov.hr/o-ministarstvu/ustrojstvo/4-uprava-za-e-hrvatsku-1080/1080>

³ <https://uprava.gov.hr/o-ministarstvu/ustrojstvo/4-uprava-za-e-hrvatsku-108w0/vijece-za-drzavnu-informacijsku-infrastrukturu/14391>

⁴ <https://rdd.gov.hr/>

⁵ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/croatias-president-praises-c>

⁶ <https://www.linux.com/news/croatian-government-adopts-open-source-software-policy/>

⁷ <http://data.gov.hr/faq#7>

⁸ <https://github.com/datagovhr/data.gov.hr>

⁹ <https://www.open.hr/>

¹⁰ <https://codeforcroatia.org/>

government at all levels to raise awareness on OSS. In Croatia, there is no governmental body that is specifically responsible for OSS policies.

Policy makers

- The Ministry of Administration¹¹ is in charge of monitoring the use of human resources and the application of modern work methodologies in the state administration, with a particular focus on the use of computer and communication systems at work, and the introduction of new technologies in state administration offices throughout the country.
 - Within the Croatian Ministry of Administration, the Directorate for e-Croatia¹² is tasked with monitoring the computerisation of the state administration, interoperability, and the modernisation of the Croatian public administration more broadly.
- The National Information Infrastructure Council¹³, created in 2016, monitors and makes recommendations to the Croatian government to help develop and improve public administrations' IT policies and applications. The Council is also in charge of making recommendations for the future development of the State information infrastructure and improving the legal framework of electronic governance.
- The Central State Office for the Development of the Digital Society¹⁴ is tasked with supporting the Croatian government in the development of digital policies and services for Croatian citizens and public administrations.

Strategic players

- The Croatian Society for Open Systems and Internet (HrOpen)¹⁵, founded in 1992, is an association which promotes and encourages the development of open computer systems and OSS in Croatia, including the use and development of OSS solutions by young people. Furthermore, the Society organises training sessions for primary and secondary school teachers looking to use open systems and OSS solutions within the classroom.¹⁶
- Code for Croatia¹⁷ is an association which brings together developers, citizens, entrepreneurs and designers to build OSS for the public. Their goal is to design services to connect citizens and governments.

¹¹ <https://uprava.gov.hr/>

¹² <https://uprava.gov.hr/o-ministarstvu/ustrojstvo/4-uprava-za-e-hrvatsku-1080/1080>

¹³ <https://uprava.gov.hr/o-ministarstvu/ustrojstvo/4-uprava-za-e-hrvatsku-108w0/vijece-za-drzavnu-informacijsku-infrastrukturu/14391>

¹⁴ <https://rdd.gov.hr/>

¹⁵ <https://www.open.hr/>

¹⁶ <http://www.hiz.hr/english>

¹⁷ <https://codeforcroatia.org/>

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. The list is presented in a chronological order, starting from the most recent milestone.

- In July 2006, the Croatian government launched the Free and Open Source Software Policy and issued guidelines to help foster the development and use of OSS solutions within public administrations.¹⁸ However, the policy document is not available online, and concrete actions or initiatives implemented in the framework of the 2006 Croatian OSS Strategy have not been made public. Furthermore, representatives of the Croatian Linux Users Group Association shared their disappointment regarding the lack of implementation of the policy.¹⁹

Open source software initiatives

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

- Code Across Croatia, 2015²⁰: In February 2015, the Code Across Croatia Hackathon was organised by Code for Croatia. The event brought together computer scientists, developers, designers and students in order to solve challenges in increasing government transparency and to create new services.
- Open Data Portal, 2015²¹: In 2015, following an open public procurement procedure, the Croatian Regulatory Agency for Networking Activities and the Ministry of Administration signed an agreement to develop and implement an Open Data Portal. The portal is based on a combination of two systems, both of which are OSS solutions. Drupal forms the basis of the Content Management System and CKAN helps to manage the data and the metadata of the portal. The source code of the Open Data Portal of the Republic of Croatia is available on GitHub²².
- Environmental Protection Platform, 2015²³: In May 2015, the Croatian Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection launched two new OSS-powered service platforms on biodiversity and environmental protection that were built by the State Institute for Nature Protection. One is for

¹⁸ <https://www.linux.com/news/croatian-government-adopts-open-source-software-policy/>

¹⁹ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/egovernment/news/hr-cautious-start-open-s>

²⁰ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/open-government-innovation>

²¹ <http://data.gov.hr/faq#7>

²² <https://github.com/datagovhr/data.gov.hr>

²³ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/open-source-runs-croatias-ge>

the internal use of the Croatian government, but the other offers public access to biodiversity, habitat maps, protected areas and species distribution.

- OSS Manual, 2015²⁴: In November 2015, the Croatian Ministry of Veterans published a manual on the use of two OSS solutions, Linux and LibreOffice. Although the target audience is public administrations, the manual is accessible to all potentially interested users.
- Geospatial Laboratory, 2014²⁵: Croatia's first open source geospatial laboratory was established in January 2014, and it is located at the University of Zagreb, within the Faculty of Geodesy²⁶. Their mission is to support the development of OSS geospatial technologies, provide training sessions, and offer their general expertise in this area. The laboratory also supports open source geospatial software and makes important geospatial data freely available to all.
- Pension System, 2013²⁷: Since January 2013, Croatians can use an OSS solution developed by the Central Registry of Affiliates²⁸ which is linked to the national ID service in order to settle various administrative procedures.
- OSS Working Groups, 2013²⁹: In 2013, the Croatian government established working groups on OSS solutions and the use of open standards in order to give consulting services to ministries and other public administration bodies which would like to adopt OSS solutions. The group is hosted by the Ministry of Public Administration and the Directorate for e-Croatia.
- Open Systems Day, 2008³⁰: In 2008, the Croatian government organised the Open Systems Day. This was a three-day conference held in Zagreb in order to increase awareness on OSS solutions for the public and private sector.
- Software Workshops, 2006³¹: The Croatia School of Informatics (*Škola informatike, SOK*) organises ICT training sessions for students twice a year with a strong focus on using OSS and open source programming. Many past attendees have gone on to become active members of the free and OSS community, particularly with regards to using GNU/Linux.

²⁴ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/croatia-publishes-linux-lib>

²⁵ <http://www.geof.unizg.hr/mod/book/view.php?id=1165&chapterid=110&lang=en>

²⁶ <https://opensourcegeospatial.icaci.org/2016/09/geo4all-lab-of-the-month-university-of-zagreb-croatia/>

²⁷ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/open-source-streamlines-pensi>

²⁸ <https://regos.hr>

²⁹ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-government/news/croatian-government-creates-w>

³⁰ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/egovernment/news/hr-croatia-government-organi>

³¹ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/software-workshops-attract-cr>

