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Open Source Software Country Intelligence Report

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Table of Contents

HUNGARY	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
ACTORS.....	3
POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK	4
OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE INITIATIVES.....	5

Hungary

Executive Summary

The Hungarian eGovernment Open Source Software Competence Centre was established at the end of 2012, partially funded by the European Union. Its aim was to study and promote the possibilities of eGovernment and, in general, institutional and corporate use of open source software (OSS). From 2012 until 2014, the Centre actively held workshops in various municipalities, published case studies and documentation on governmental adoption of OSS. Numerous cities and districts in Budapest are actively using OSS such as LibreOffice and base their servers on Linux, since as early as 2004.

The government has also promoted the use of OSS in various legislation. In 2014, legislation mandated the government to unify electronic communication by installing open source software office suites. Then, in 2016, the Hungarian government aimed to install OSS that is available free of charge on the workstations of various governmental bodies, with the exception of the Ministry of Defence. OSS was also politically encouraged by the 2014-2020 National Infocommunication Strategy, by calling upon public administrations to standardised formats and solutions of open source codes.

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 Hungary, there is no governmental body that is specifically responsible for OSS policies.

Policy makers

- The Deputy State Secretary for Informatics in the Ministry of Interior (*Belügyminisztérium*)¹ is responsible for tasks related to policy and strategy-making in public administration IT infrastructure, eGovernment services, modernising public administration and the information society. The Ministry of Interior is the supervisory body of the National Information and Communication Services company (NISZ, detailed below) which has put in place various projects using OSS in public administrations.
- The Ministry for Innovation and Technology (*Innovációs és Technológiai Minisztérium*)² was established in 2018. The Deputy State Secretary for Digitalisation of the Ministry is responsible for tasks related to policy and strategy-making in the IT infrastructure development and the

¹ <https://www.kormany.hu/hu/belugyminiszterium>

² <https://www.kormany.hu/hu/innovacios-es-technologiai-miniszterium>

information society. The Ministry does not explicitly mention OSS among its responsibilities, however, it oversees the Digital Prosperity Programme³ (detailed below) which aims to disseminate OSS in public administrations.

Strategic players

- The state-owned National Information and Communication Services company (*Nemzeti Infokommunikációs Szolgáltató – NISZ*)⁴ provides services mainly to Hungarian public administration bodies and institutions. It strengthens the national ICT, continuously improves the quality of governmental services and facilitates users' access to modern eGovernment solutions. Its OSS projects include the Municipality ASP, eGovernment central systems and services, and transport IT systems.
- The Hungarian eGovernment Open Source Software Competence Centre (*E-közigazgatási Szabad Szoftver Kompetencia Központ*)⁵ aims to study and promote the possibilities of eGovernment and, in general, institutional and corporate use of free software. The Centre also aims to facilitate the enhancement of interoperability of systems in IT by using open source tools and open standards. The Centre was mostly active in 2013, with new activities in 2016 following national legislation, however, today, the Centre seems to not be in use.

Policy and legal framework

This section recapitulates the main OSS 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.

- Decree 1236/2016 on measures to disseminate open standards and open source software to the public⁶ requires the creation of "provisions to propagate software built on open standards and open source software in the public sector, while maintaining the efficiency of public administration" through inter-ministerial cooperation. The Decree also calls on NISZ to ensure that OSS, which is available free of charge, is installed on workstations of governmental bodies belonging to the central government IT service provider. State bodies were also called upon to set up a professional forum to disseminate open source, and the Minister of the Interior was declared responsible for setting up a monitoring system, the results of which are evaluated annually⁷. As a follow-up legislation, the government adopted Decree 1604/2016⁸ on the dissemination of open source software in the public sector and the measures necessary for the

³ <https://digitalisjoletprogram.hu/>

⁴ <https://nisz.hu/hu>

⁵ <http://szabadszoftver.kormany.hu/>

⁶ http://njit.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=195465.321739

⁷ The authors of the report have not uncovered these evaluations.

⁸ http://njit.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=198421.328902

dissemination of open source software based on open standards and in the public sector. (V. 13.) on certain tasks arising from the implementation of Government Decree 1236/2016.

- The Digital Prosperity Programme (*Digitális Jólét Program*)⁹ which begun in 2016, states that public administrations should strive to spread open source software. The government strongly supports the dissemination of open source or state-based software in public administration, which also serves Hungary's IT sovereignty.¹⁰
- The National Infocommunication Strategy 2014-2020¹¹ outlines the necessary objectives to achieve a digital state. Among these is "a stable and secure government IT background". The Strategy outlines that open source code applications should reach 15% for new software and applications installed in public administrations. Furthermore, standard formats and solutions with open source codes need to be further disseminated and encouraged in public administrations.
- Decree 1479/2011 on the format of electronic documents used by each administration and on the use of open source office software¹² mandates the effort of the government to unify the electronic communication of certain public administration bodies (exception of the Ministry of Defence and bodies under it) based on international standards, in order to improve the efficiency of cooperation and to increase the share of cost-effective open source office software.
- The Electronic Public Administration Operational Programme for the period 2007-2013¹³ described that open source software is not widely used in IT at local governments in Hungary. However, the Programme did aim to take open source into account when implementing software solutions, depending on the benefits that it offers in particular cases. The Programme also pointed out that open standards, architecture and service models will be regularly renewed, according to EU regulations and the good practices of other EU Member States.

Open source software initiatives

This section presents an overview of the main OSS related initiatives in Hungary. The list is presented in a chronological order, starting from the most recent initiative.

- Parliamentary Debates Open, 2018¹⁴: The tool, called K-Monitor, aims to make parliamentary speeches open and accessible covering Hungarian parliamentary debates from 1990 to 2017 at the moment. The scraped speeches (using Scrapy) are processed using Natural Language

⁹ <https://digitalisjoletprogram.hu/>

¹⁰ <https://www.kormany.hu/hu/innovacios-es-technologiai-miniszterium/digitalis-jolet-program/hirek/a-kormany-tamogatja-a-nyilt-forraskodu-szoftverek-kozigazgatasi-elterjeszteset>

¹¹ https://www.kormany.hu/download/5/ff/70000/NIS_EN_clear.pdf

¹² [https://net.jogtar.hu/getpdf?docid=A11H1479.KOR&targetdate=&printTitle=1479/2011.+\(XII.+23.\)+Korm.+hat%C3%A1rozat&getdoc=1](https://net.jogtar.hu/getpdf?docid=A11H1479.KOR&targetdate=&printTitle=1479/2011.+(XII.+23.)+Korm.+hat%C3%A1rozat&getdoc=1)

¹³ http://www.terport.hu/webfm_send/205

¹⁴ <https://k-monitor.github.io/>

Processing and Elasticsearch is used for search backend. The minimal viable product is a filterable dashboard for name, party, and date, returning the relevant speeches. Additional features will include topics (using Gensim), top lists, histograms and comparisons. Contribution to the project is open on GitHub¹⁵.

- Municipality Application Service Provider, 2017¹⁶: The Hungarian central Municipality ASP (*Önkormányzati ASP*) provides modern, integrated shared services for local administrative management, ensuring standardised internal operation and a common platform for eGovernment service provision on the local government level to the end-users. The project uses open source software by basing itself on the SUSE Linux Enterprise operating system and using OSS components for data storage and processing.
- EuroOffice, 2015¹⁷: The Eötvös University and Szeged University in Hungary are increasing their use of EuroOffice and the Open Document Format (ODF). EuroOffice is developed by MultiRáció, a Budapest-based ICT firm. EuroOffice is a free, open source office software, an alternative to Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint.
- Workshops on OSS, 2013¹⁸: At its inception, the Hungarian eGovernment Open Source Software Competence Centre held various workshops throughout the country where the Centre's functioning was explained and how OSS could help local administrations.
- VinGis, 2000¹⁹: VinGis is the former register of Hungarian vineyards. OSS was used for the development of VinGis, which was created to document the wine sector and reduce paper-based documentation. This was necessary ahead of Hungary's accession to the EU in order to manage the allocation of EU subsidies for vineyards. The independent institute ceased to exist, however, the units performing tasks related to VinGis are now part of the National Agricultural Centre (NFK).
- OSS in various Hungarian cities' local administrations:
 - OSS in Szeged²⁰: The city of Szeged was one of the first cities in Hungary to start using open source software in the field of public administration. In 2004, following a General Assembly decision, about 500 workstation computers gradually received OSS, however, a full transition was not part of the strategy.²¹ Changes included the use of OpenOffice

¹⁵ <https://github.com/k-monitor/parldata/blob/master/CONTRIBUTING.md>

¹⁶ http://www.asp-kozpont.hu/onkormanyzati_asp.php

¹⁷ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/hungary-universities-move>

¹⁸ <http://szabadszoftver.kormany.hu/workshopok/>

¹⁹ <http://www.vingis.hu/>

²⁰ <http://szabadszoftver.kormany.hu/letoltesek/tanulmanyok/Hazai%20esettanulm%C3%A1nyok.pdf>

²¹ Szegfű, L. (2009). FLOSS megoldások Szegeden. Előadás a Szabad szoftver az önkormányzatokban konferencián. (FLOSS solutions in Szeged. Presentation at the Free Software in Municipalities Conference.) Presentation available at: <http://szabadszoftver.bp18.hu/file/SzegfuLaszlo.odp>

(now using LibreOffice), then additional OSS such as Firefox web browser, to then switching to the Linux-based operating system by 2008. The city has continued to choose open source solutions to present.

- OSS in Miskolc²²: In 2009, Miskolc's Mayor's Office began the transition to open source software and open standards. The project aimed to reduce the cost of Microsoft licences, partially or fully replace the IT software infrastructure from proprietary to open source, in order to build an automated and secure system. The main migrations were to Linux and the use of LibreOffice. Furthermore, the focus was mainly placed on the servers and the replacement of server solutions such as mail, network and system maintenance.
- OSS in Budapest: The XI. District (Újbuda), in 2012, signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Justice in order for hundreds of employees to participate in training on open source software.²³ At the OSS Conference of 2013, Mayor Tivadar Karay explained the preference of OSS by Budapest city's management. The XVIII. district Mayor's Office has long used open source software. They have implemented Linux servers and workstations and the official office software is LibreOffice.²⁴
- OSS in Salgótarján²⁵: In 2012, the LibreOffice office suite, the Firefox web browser, the Thunderbird mailing system, and the Pidgin chat programme were installed on each of the city's workstations. Some of the workstations are also functioning with the Linux operating system.
- OSS in Törökbálint²⁶: The city of Törökbálint installed the same OSS as Salgótarján (above). In addition to the administration's office, the local House of Culture and library also received open source solutions.

²² <http://szabadszoftver.kormany.hu/letoltesek/tanulmanyok/Hazai%20esettanulm%C3%A1nyok.pdf>

²³ <https://kozigazgatas.ujbuda.hu/onkormanyzat/e-kozigazgatas-szabad-szoftverekkel>

²⁴ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/budapest-district-debunks-mis>

²⁵ <http://szabadszoftver.kormany.hu/letoltesek/tanulmanyok/Hazai%20esettanulm%C3%A1nyok.pdf>

²⁶ <https://jegyzo.hu/nyilt-szoftverek-a-kozigazgatasban-az-atallas-eredmenyei-torokbalinton-2008/>

