



DG DIGIT

Unit.D2 (Interoperability Unit)

# Open Source Software Country Intelligence Lithuania

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### Authors

Federico Chiarelli (federico.chiarelli@wavestone.com)

Vivien Devenyi (vivien.devenyi@wavestone.com)

Debora Di Giacomo (debora.digiacomio@wavestone.com)

Barbora Kudzmanaite (barbora.kudzmanaite.ext@wavestone.com)

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# Lithuania

## Executive summary

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In early 2010, there was some momentum around the implementation of open source software (OSS) across the public sector in Lithuania, with several NGOs and government institutions leading the movement. Lately, however, there appears to be no single institution advocating in favour of the use of OSS in public administrations and no strategic actors or NGOs specialising in this area.

Regarding the policy framework, Lithuania has adopted several initiatives focusing on OSS. The Lithuanian State Audit Office adopted an Information Technology Strategy 2015 – 2020, recognising the increased use of OSS as a welcome trend.

Despite the apparent lack of political and strategic actors leading developments in OSS across Lithuania, there are many initiatives at the local and municipal level that have been put in place in the last two decades, signalling a willingness among citizens and government staff to move away from proprietary software towards OSS solutions in public administrations.

## Actors

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

### *Policy Makers*

- Whilst there appears to be no single entity responsible for developing and implementing OSS policies in the country, the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania<sup>1</sup>, and its Digital Agenda Department<sup>2</sup> are responsible for promoting digitalisation within the government and society more broadly.
- The Information Society Development Committee<sup>3</sup>, a Committee of the Ministry of Interior, was responsible for advocating in favour of the use of OSS in public administrations in the early-2000s.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eimin.lrv.lt/en/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://eimin.lrv.lt/en/structure-and-contacts/ministry-contacts/digital-agenda-department>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ivpk.lrv.lt/en/>

<sup>4</sup> For example, in 2006, the committee organised a seminar on 'Open Code and Open Source – Myths and Reality', available at: <https://ivpk.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/kvietimas-i-seminara-atvirieji-standartai-ir-atviras-kodas-mitai-ir-tikrove>

### Strategic players

- Open Code for Lithuania (*Atvira Kodas Lietuvai*) was a non-governmental organisation working to promote the use and recognition of OSS across Lithuania. It also worked to ensure continuous access to OSS, updates, training and services from Lithuanian sources. Despite being a formerly active player and campaigner, it appears that the organisation is no longer active. Its website has not been updated since 2012 and many links have ceased to function.<sup>5</sup> However, the organisations forum for discussions on OSS in Lithuania is still a somewhat active community<sup>6</sup> and the community's GitHub<sup>7</sup> page has active contributors.

## Policy and legal framework

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This section recapitulates the main open source software-related policies and legal acts of the last ten years. The list is presented in a chronological order, starting from the most recent milestone.

- The 17<sup>th</sup> Government Programme of the Republic of Lithuania, implemented in 2016, set objectives in relation to the use of OSS in the public administration.<sup>8</sup> In the programme, Lithuania's government committed to conduct an in-depth risk analysis and cost-benefit analysis, and evaluate the feasibility of establishing an OSS-reliant service infrastructure. Finally, the programme also claims that the government will work to educate the general public about the benefits associate with using OSS.
- In 2015, the Lithuanian State Audit Office adopted an Information Technology Strategy 2015 – 2020<sup>9</sup>, recognising the growing use of OSS as a welcome societal trend. According to the strategy, 42% of state organisations used open source operational systems, 87% used open source internet browsers, 53% used open source office software and 36% used other types of open source software in 2015.
- In 2014, the thematic research report<sup>10</sup> prepared for Lithuania's Innovative Public Sector 2030 strategy identified OSS as one of the critical factors for fostering innovation. However, the strategy<sup>11</sup> itself does not contain explicit goals related to the increased use of OSS in Lithuania's public administration.
- The earliest Lithuanian policy related to OSS (albeit distantly) can be traced back to 2014. The Parliament (*Seimas*) of the Lithuanian Republic adopted a Resolution on the Approval of the Information Society Development Programme 'Digital Agenda of the Republic of Lithuania'.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> [www.akl.lt](http://www.akl.lt)

<sup>6</sup> <https://forumai.akl.lt/index.php?PHPSESSID=utv4cf5k62rc7q1sp89457tg1m&>

<sup>7</sup> <https://github.com/aklilt>

<sup>8</sup> <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/886c7282c12811e682539852a4b72dd4>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.vkontrole.lt/dokumentai/IT\\_strategija/IT\\_strategija\\_2015-2020\\_galutine.pdf](https://www.vkontrole.lt/dokumentai/IT_strategija/IT_strategija_2015-2020_galutine.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.lietuva2030.lt/lt/download/ffc4faf204a194e9dc92a1d9e2271d23eae1afd0bc14fbf56/1>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.docdroid.net/OHqeBsc/lietuva2030.pdf#page=4>

<sup>12</sup> <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/a66c0760b04011e3bf53dc70cf7669d9/IWBTfQFcEZ>

The amended version of the programme briefly highlights the need for the increased use of OSS for scientific research, innovation and the creation of new services.

## Open source software initiatives

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

- Code for Vilnius, 2018<sup>13</sup>: In July 2018, the Municipality of Vilnius launched its new portal based on WordPress. The city has its own GitHub page<sup>14</sup>, where it shares the source code for its 87 projects, solutions and services. The city also makes its budget and expense data publicly available. For example, the 'city debt'<sup>15</sup> portal is running on open source solutions such as the Nginx<sup>16</sup> web server. Finally, the municipality has established a volunteer-led Code for Vilnius initiative.<sup>17</sup> The initiative brings together programmers, analysts, designers, user interfaces and other professionals who want to help solve Vilnius' problems in a transparent and effective way.
- Memorandum on Open Data, 2017<sup>18</sup>: In 2017, several Lithuanian municipalities signed a Memorandum on Cooperation in the Field of Open Data, Analysis of Data and Decision-Making. The memorandum clearly states that any tools created by the co-signatories must be open source. Even if they are built on closed source platforms, the application code itself is to be embedded in GitHub or another open source version control system.
- LibreOffice at the Police Force, 2016<sup>19</sup>: In 2016, the Lithuanian police force switched to using LibreOffice for its operations. The OSS was installed on more than 8,000 workstations. A statement from a police representative claimed that the motivation for the switch was an increasing recognition of the importance and benefits of OSS and associated savings. In addition, the Commissariat of the Kelmes' Region switched to using the OSS operating systems Ubuntu in 2016, in conjunction with the installation of LibreOffice.
- Lithuania's State Information Resources Interoperability Platform (SIRIP), 2015<sup>20</sup>: SIRIP is the centralised shared service system used by public administrations in Lithuania. Launched in 2015, it is built with a mix of open source and proprietary components. It runs the open source Apache Tomcat Java application server, and also uses ZKOSS for building Java web applications.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> <https://atviras.vilnius.lt/iniciatyvos/code-for-vilnius>

<sup>14</sup> <https://github.com/vilnius>

<sup>15</sup> <http://atviras.vilnius.lt/finansai/skola>

<sup>16</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nginx>

<sup>17</sup> <https://atviras.vilnius.lt/iniciatyvos/code-for-vilnius>

<sup>18</sup> <https://sumin.lrv.lt/uploads/sumin/documents/files/AK%20tyrimo%20ataskaita-2018-06-13.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://policija.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/lietuvos-policija-pereina-prie-atviro-kodo-programines-irangos>

<sup>20</sup> <https://ivpk.lrv.lt/en/activities/sirip>

<sup>21</sup> <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/egovernment/news/lithuania-e-government-cloud>

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- Online public procurement catalogue, 2007<sup>22</sup>: In 2007, Lithuania's Central Purchasing Body developed an online public procurement catalogue, which is available to the public and private sectors to arrange and manage their orders of products, services and works online. The electronic catalogue is based mainly on OSS. Thanks to the use of OSS, users can easily add new functionalities to the existing version and use freely available software for updating the catalogue.<sup>23</sup> The system was created mainly using OSS to reduce costs and to make it possible for the Purchasing Body to install and launch the catalogue as soon as possible.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://katalogas.cpo.lt/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/e-procurement/document/post-award-e-procurement-catalogue-lithuania-aeu-cpolt-cpolt>

