European Commission

Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet

Kosovo

OSOR

1 General Information

Kosovo's ambitions to join the EU have been a key driver of its recent digital transformation efforts. In the past few years, the country has achieved widespread digital access, including in remote villages, and has digitised many public services. Although there is limited explicit policy support for open source and recent initiatives do not systematically prioritise it, the existing legal framework provides a conducive environment for positive future developments in this area. Additionally, the presence of an active open source community centred around FLOSSK creates promising opportunities for collaboration between the public sector and NGOs.

2 Actors

POLICYMAKERS

The Agency for Information Society (ASHI) is a government agency responsible for the digitalisation and information systems of public institutions. Its duties include overseeing the e-Kosova platform and the national open data portal.

STRATEGIC PLAYERS

Free Libre Open Source Software Kosova (FLOSSK) is an NGO that supports, promotes and develops free and open source software in Kosovo by organising events and contributing to public-policy development.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

DIGITAL AGENDA 2030

Adopted in 2023, the agenda sets out Kosovo's digital development strategy. The third objective includes a provision requiring software developed using taxpayers' money to be published under an open source licence. The strategy also aims to strengthen interoperability by implementing the guidelines of the European Interoperability Framework.

EDUCATION STRATEGY 2022-2026

In 2022, the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation adopted this strategy to develop Kosovo's education system. One of its objectives focuses on digitalisation and promotes the use of open source software among professionals and students to reduce costs.

E-GOVERNMENT STRATEGY 2023-2027

This strategy supports the implementation of Digital Agenda 2030 and focuses on the digital transformation of the public sector. It outlines nine principles, including 'open innovation', 'data-driven', 'interoperability by design', 'user-driven and inclusive', and 'trust and security'.

INTEROPERABILITY FRAMEWORK

Dating from 2013, the framework sets out how to achieve interoperability among the administration's systems, which is considered essential for EU integration. It includes provisions for institutions to create an environment conducive to the use of open source software and recommends establishing interactions through new IT projects based on open standards.

4 Open Source Software Initiatives

NATIONAL OPEN DATA PLATFORM

The platform was developed in collaboration with the NGO Open Data Kosovo and is based on the open source data management system CKAN. Managed by ASHI, it contains public datasets and aims to promote transparency in the work of the public administration.

OPENSTREETMAP, SINCE 2009

Since 2009, FLOSSK has contributed to the international OpenStreetMap initiative. In 2020, the NGO became an official local chapter and developed one of the most detailed maps of Kosovo, which is freely available online.