

«GreetingLine»

Hello and I hope you are well. I am writing to ask you to help us identify the critical open source software used within your organisation.

I work in the open source team in [DIGIT](#), at the European Commission where I am managing a new European Parliament sponsored and European Commission managed Pilot project called [FOSSEPS](#).

### **The need to identify critical software**

As you already know, using open source plays a central role in allowing European public administrations to deliver their services. Sadly, some of the software we use is in *a critical state of health*. This means the software is in danger of discontinuation, and ongoing software updates and bug fixes. Recent examples such as the [log4j vulnerability](#) highlight the need for alertness on heavily relied upon software. There is a clear and urgent need to identify such *critical software*, and strengthen the communities and/or explore other mitigation solutions.

### **What, again?**

You may recall that Trasys, our contractor, contacted you last year as part of the 2020 ISA<sup>2</sup> Sharing and Re-use action (2016.31) with a request for your *complete list of open source software*. That would have allowed us to identify your critical open source software. As the project progressed, we realised that many organisations, like yourselves, found the data extraction process challenging.

Sadly, the problem of identifying critical software remains, and this time we are asking directly for a much smaller *list of your critical software only*.

### **The FOSSEPS Pilot Project**

Given the importance, amongst its other objectives, FOSSEPS aims to *identify and create a catalogue of the most critical open source software used within European public services*. To collect this data, we have created a [Survey](#) and a [Help Guide](#).

### **Careful sampling**

To ensure we obtain a full European picture, we have carefully selected over a hundred national, regional and local public administrations across all EU 27 member states to fill in the survey.

Your participation is therefore vital to our efforts. Whilst some organisations will send us a full list, others may be hesitant due to the effort this exercise may take. In the worst case, even if you send us your top 10 critical software, we will be very thankful. This we believe will not take too long to do.

We are grateful for your time spent on this matter. Your input will help us protect critical software communities, European Public Services, and benefit the entire open source world.

### **Deadlines**

We are requesting participants to send us their data as soon as possible, so we can start to process the results. We aim to complete all information collection by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, and to help you we will send reminders every 2 weeks.

### **We are here to help**

This time we have engaged Deloitte and Inno<sup>3</sup> as consultants on this project, and they are ready to help you on a technical/process perspective via 1-1 calls and explanations. I also list below members of our open source programme office (OSPO) in case we can directly help you.

Kindly send all communication to [fosseps@inno3.eu](mailto:fosseps@inno3.eu), which reaches all of us including our consultants. To reach the OSPO only please use [DIGIT-OSPO@ec.europa.eu](mailto:DIGIT-OSPO@ec.europa.eu).

Our Consultants: Inno3: Mr. Camille Moulin (Open Source Expert), Deloitte: Ms. Irene Magnani (Project Assistant), Mr. Kris Zerafa (Project Manager)

EC OSPO Team: Mr. Miguel DIEZ BLANCO (OSPO Lead) and Mr. Saranjit ARORA.

Regards

**Saranjit ARORA**

Senior Consultant/Project Manager

Member of the European Commission OSPO (Open Source Programme Office)

Project Manager of [FOSSEPS](#) (Free and Open Source Software for European Public Services) Pilot Project

Previously Project Manager of the [EU-FOSSA 2](#) Project and the project dealing with Open Source Software Inventory, Security, Sustainability and Funding Initiatives for European Public Services within the 2020 ISA<sup>2</sup> [Sharing and Re-use action \(2016.31\)](#)



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