

Minutes of the EU OSPO network call, 29 November 2024

These are minutes of the monthly call of the EU OSPO network, for the call on 29 November 2024, from 14.00 to 15.00.

1. Welcome

We were joined by OSPO network members from Germany (1), France (2), Italy (2) Luxembourg (1), the Netherlands (2) and Sweden (1). From the Commission OSPO there were 3 participants.

We had invited two guests from the UN and ITU, who both joined at 14:00. A third guest, from OFE, joined at 14:45.

2. OpenTalk

Initially, we struggled a bit with OpenTalk: several participants had to log out/log in/reload in order to hear other / all participants. After the call, the EC OSPO suggests we should be looking for an alternative.

3. Network Updates

Participants reported on new developments:

Commission OSPO:

- The EC has launched a request for consultancy advise on the next

version of the EC Open Source Strategy. The EC intends to publish a new strategy in 2025.

Open Source and Digital Commons unit at DINUM, France:

- The Digital Commons EDIC project with contributions from the

Sovereign Tech Agency to reinforce the "EU Stack" through contributions to core open source libraries has been submitted.

- There is an update of the SILL, working toward a more generic FLOSS

solution for <https://github.com/codegouvfr/sill>. See this blog: <https://code.gouv.fr/fr/blog/500-logiciels-libres-au-sill/>

- <https://code.gouv.fr/sources> update: more reliable data on 24K

repository. See this blog: <https://code.gouv.fr/fr/blog/nouveautes-code-gouv-fr-sources/>

- Repos data are accessible through <https://ecosystem.code.gouv.fr> an instance of <https://github.com/ecosyste-ms/>

- There is now a list French public sector OSPOs, here :

<https://code.gouv.fr/fr/ospos/>

- BlueHats days at the Open Source Experience in december, see the programme: <https://code.gouv.fr/fr/bluehats/journees-2024/>

- Upcoming "projectathon" Zendis/DINUM (La Suite) on 12 - 13 December in Berlin.

- Upcoming FOSDEM devroom in preparation around Zendis/La Suite/+.

OSPO at MinBzk, Netherlands:

- On 1 January 2025, a new technical team will test the usability on

Ministerial system of the workplace solutions being built by other Member States. This should enable several pilots.

- Members of the team will go to Berlin on 12 - 13 December, and

hopefully the CIO-Rijk on behalf of the State Secretary for Digitalization can sign an MoU with France and Germany.

Zendis, Germany, via chat:

- confirm the activities mentioned by France and the Netherlands.
- invitation to submit proposals for the FOSDEM devroom:

<https://lists.fosdem.org/pipermail/fosdem/2024q4/003608.html>

DIGG, Sweden:

- DIGG supports Josef's open source work, and interactions with the network.
- DIGG is leading a working group to coordinate national digital

building blocks. This WG has decided it needs a code repository and solutions catalogue, similar to opencode.de. They hope to have a demo set up sometime in the first six months of 2025, and then work on next steps. This might help prepare a drive for a broader, national open source approach.

OSPO at the City of Paris, France:

- The Paris OSPO spoke to their peer at the OSPO at the City of

Munich, Germany. The latter wishes to join the network. A simple missing email prevented the representative of Munich to actually join this Friday. (We've reached out to set up a intro call.)

4. United Nations

The open source coordinator at the United Nation Office for ICT (OICT) and the sr coordinator at UN International Telecommunication Union updated the network on recent developments at the UN.

There was also a briefing on "Open Source United", the new name for the open source group at the UN.

The UN created an OS Community of Practice which includes all the UN agencies, funds and programme in order to coordinate the adoption of open source throughout the UN System.

- UN Open Source Policy framework
- The first catalogue of open source tools being used and/or produced

- A code hosting repository
- A UN Open Source portal to serve as the main gateway for all

interaction with the wider community

The group additionally delivered the UN Open Source Principles. They are designed to guide and support our efforts in adopting, developing, and contributing to open source solutions across the UN system.

Upon sharing these principles with the OS community, several foundations expressed their intention to endorse them.

The UN community of practice is open to discuss with any interested EU Member States if they would like to endorse these principles.

5. OSEE

We were updated on the "Open Source Ecosystem Enabler" or OSEE project. OSEE aims to establish a global network of Open Source Program Offices (OSPOs) to promote open source adoption and digital transformation in the Global South.

OSEE is in its second year. It has selected 2 countries where it will fully fund OSPO staff. Trinidad and Tobago, and then one country in Africa to be decided in early December. In year three it will create a knowledge hub, to disseminate all it has learned, and in year four (2027) it should end with lessons learned dissemination.

- Develop a common policy framework for OSPOs.
- Establish a global knowledge hub for OSPOs.
- Provide training and capacity-building programs for OSPOs.
- Foster collaboration and networking among OSPOs.

OSEE intend to establish a global network of OSPOs to promote open source adoption and digital transformation. One part it entitled: "OSPOs Standardization for Sustainable Ecosystem Transformation":

- Establish a global network of OSPOs in the global south, to

harmonise governance and standardise collaboration practices.

- GovStack
- Facilitate transparent reporting on contributions to Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) and international objectives.

- Accelerate the emergence and uptake of Digital Public Goods

and Digital Public Infrastructures.

6. European Open Source Awards

A policy advisor at Openforum Europe gave a briefing on the upcoming 'European Open Source Awards'. For the next three years (November 2024 to May 2027) DG Connect E2 is funding annual awards ceremonies to foster the recognition of open source (software as well as hardware).

- Showcase the value of open source software and hardware for Europe's

economy

- Encourage (in the EU) open source development and adoption
- Create a new generation of open source professionals (increasing

European skills in open source)

- Establish a prestigious and enduring institution "The European Open

Source Academy" - to help select the winners of the awards.

Main deliverables

- European Open Source Academy
- European Open Source Awards
- EU Open Source Week

and also:

- Study on enablers and challenges to the recognition of open Source
- Visualisation tool to drive awareness of open source projects in Europe
- Learning programme backed-up by a skills gap analysis
- Communication and outreach

The plan for the first year is to:

- Create the academy, outline its priorities, write the governance

charter and rules, and appoint the founding members

- Add 12 members, through a peer-to-peer nomination process
- Create the European Open Source Awards, prepare for the 2026 awards

Open Source Awards

- Annual ceremony hosted by the European Open Source Academy
- Awards individuals: Code contributors, community leaders, business

figures, policy advocates (note: other categories may be added in the future, similar to how the Nobel prizes added new categories)

- Ambition of global event nature (equivalent to the Nobel prizes)

And so, the Launch of the Academy will be on 30 January 2025, 18:30:

- the first awards ceremony, followed by a gala cocktail reception
- it also kicks off the "EU Open Source week"

All of the members of the EU OSPO network are invited to join the event on 30 January.

7. AOB

The Commission mentioned the OSOR handbook, <https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/osor-handbook>

and the draft editable version where comments can be made <https://mypads2.framapad.org/p/osor-9e2gnh9lc>.

The EC OSPO will keep an eye out on possibilities to meet during the 'Open Source week' in late January. The next call of the network will be at the end of February.