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February
2025

OSOR Handbook

A guide to open source in the public sector

interoperable
europe

OSOR



Open Source Software News

Articles on developments in the use of Open Source in public administration and monthly OSOR newsletter



Knowledge Centre

Reports, guidelines, research papers, case studies, and repositories useful for public administration and for all users of FOSS.



Community Events

OSOR community meets in workshops and events to exchange experiences, discuss common challenges, or share success stories.

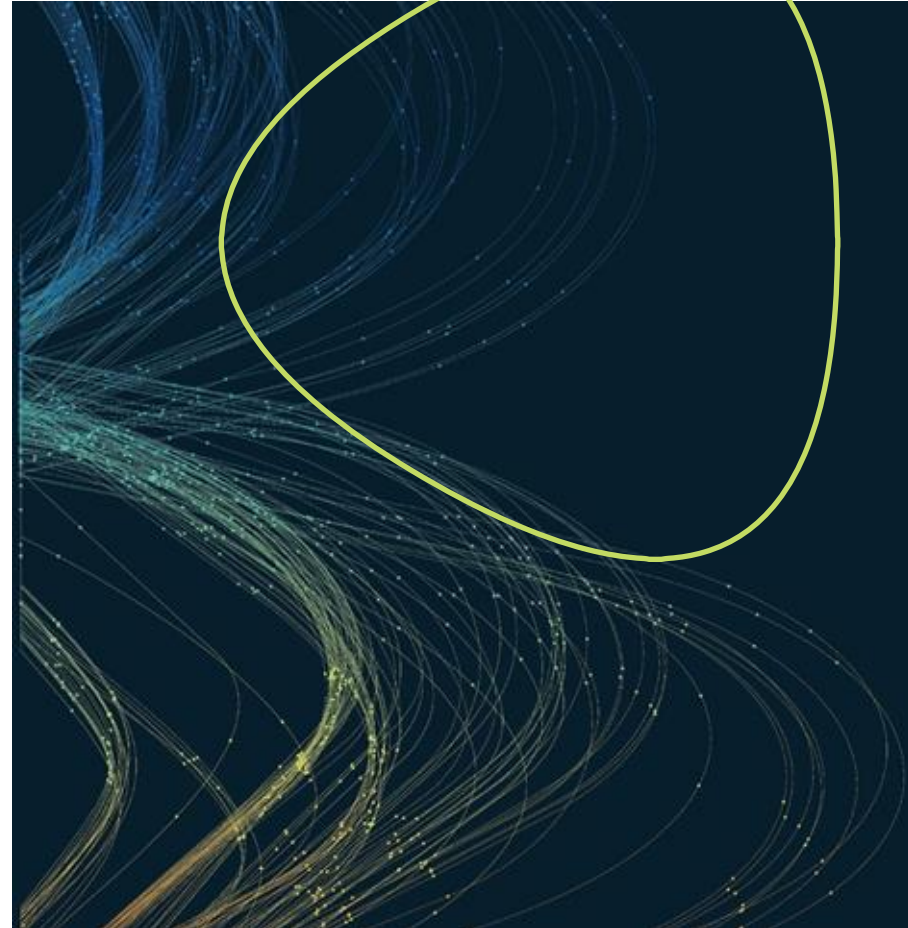


OSOR latest milestones

OSOR Handbook, new training courses, paper on policy and trends

The OSOR Handbook

- What is the OSOR handbook?
- Purpose and Audience
- Key Sections
- Main challenges



Chapter overview



Introduction



Finding and using OSS



Developing Software



Co-developing and participating in OSS communities



Specific aspects of open source funding



Legal Framework



Structuring the use of FOSS



Getting Help



First public consultation

A series of 3 closed workshops and 3 open webinars were held to discuss the needs of public sector users of open source



First draft of the handbook

After compiling the input received during 2022/2023, the OSOR team drafted a first version of the handbook.



Consultation and v1.0

After a month-long consultation and a workshop, the handbook is being reworked to integrate the feedback received.

Results of the consultation



Month of consultation

Consultation was held from 30 October to 30 November



Main contributors

Public sector representatives, open source advocates, associative and private sector are represented.



Comments and input

As well as numerous text changes, the input covers all chapters as well as the structure of the handbook itself.

Type of input received

12

Addition

New content, additional information, link to be added...

26

Clarification

Definition of notions or vocabulary, as well as general meaning of the sentence.

33

Modification

Readability, and clarification of certain grammatical choice as well as structural change to a paragraph.

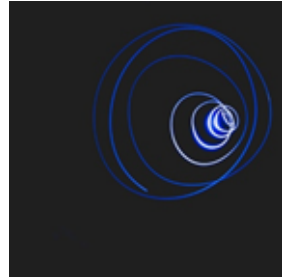
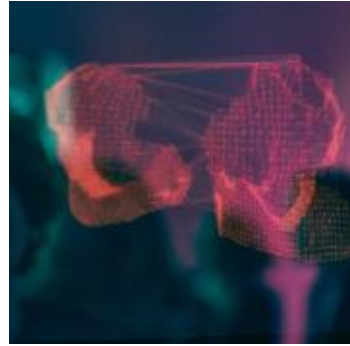
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General comments

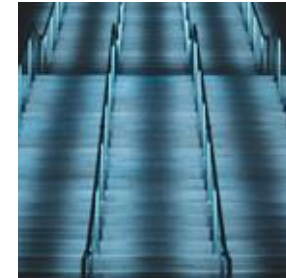
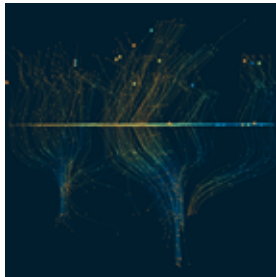
Discussion on the editorial choices of the Handbook, on its structure and miscellaneous.

Choices for the handbook revision were based on:





Lessons learnt from creating a guide on the use of open source



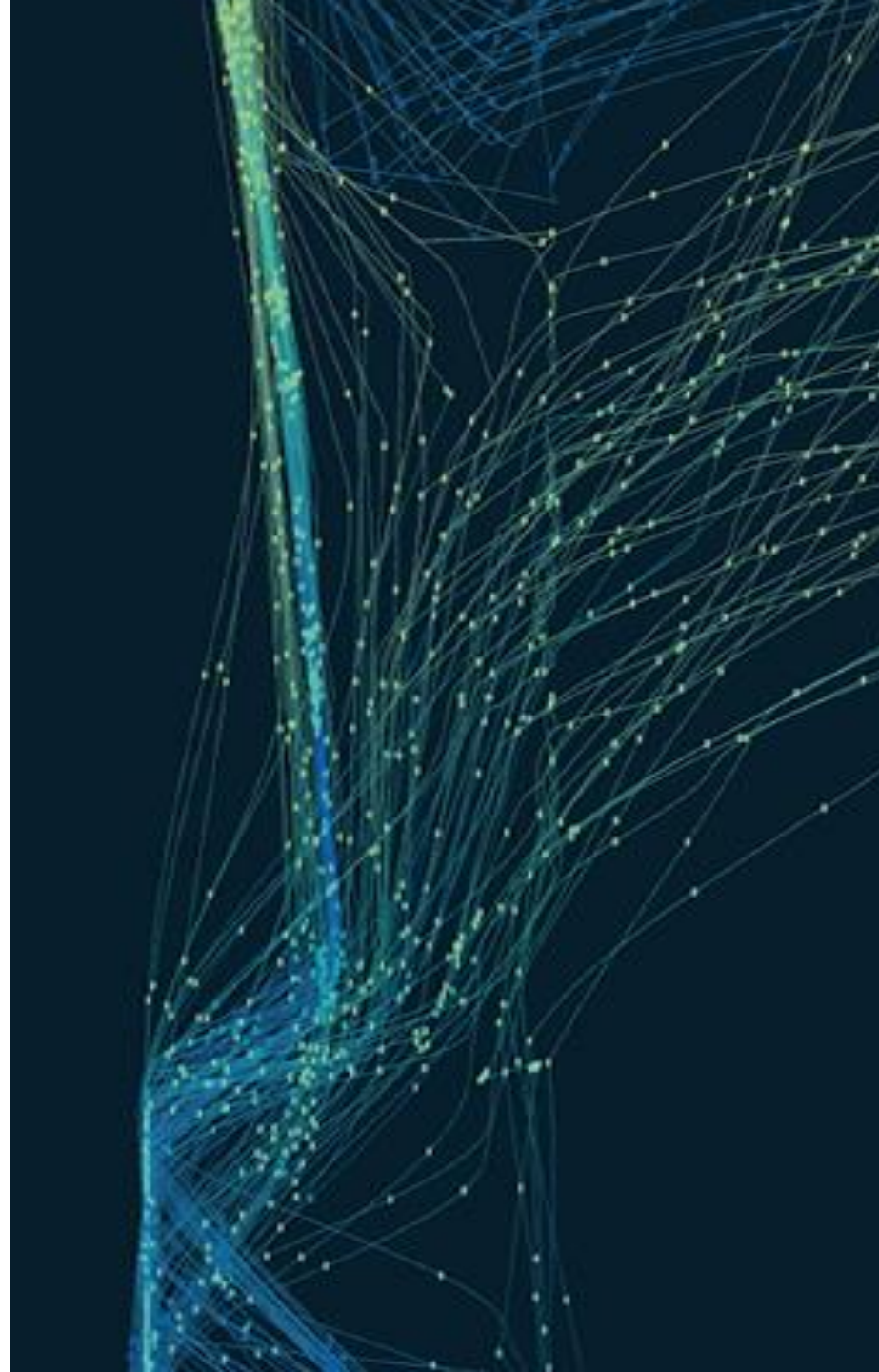
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Consultation



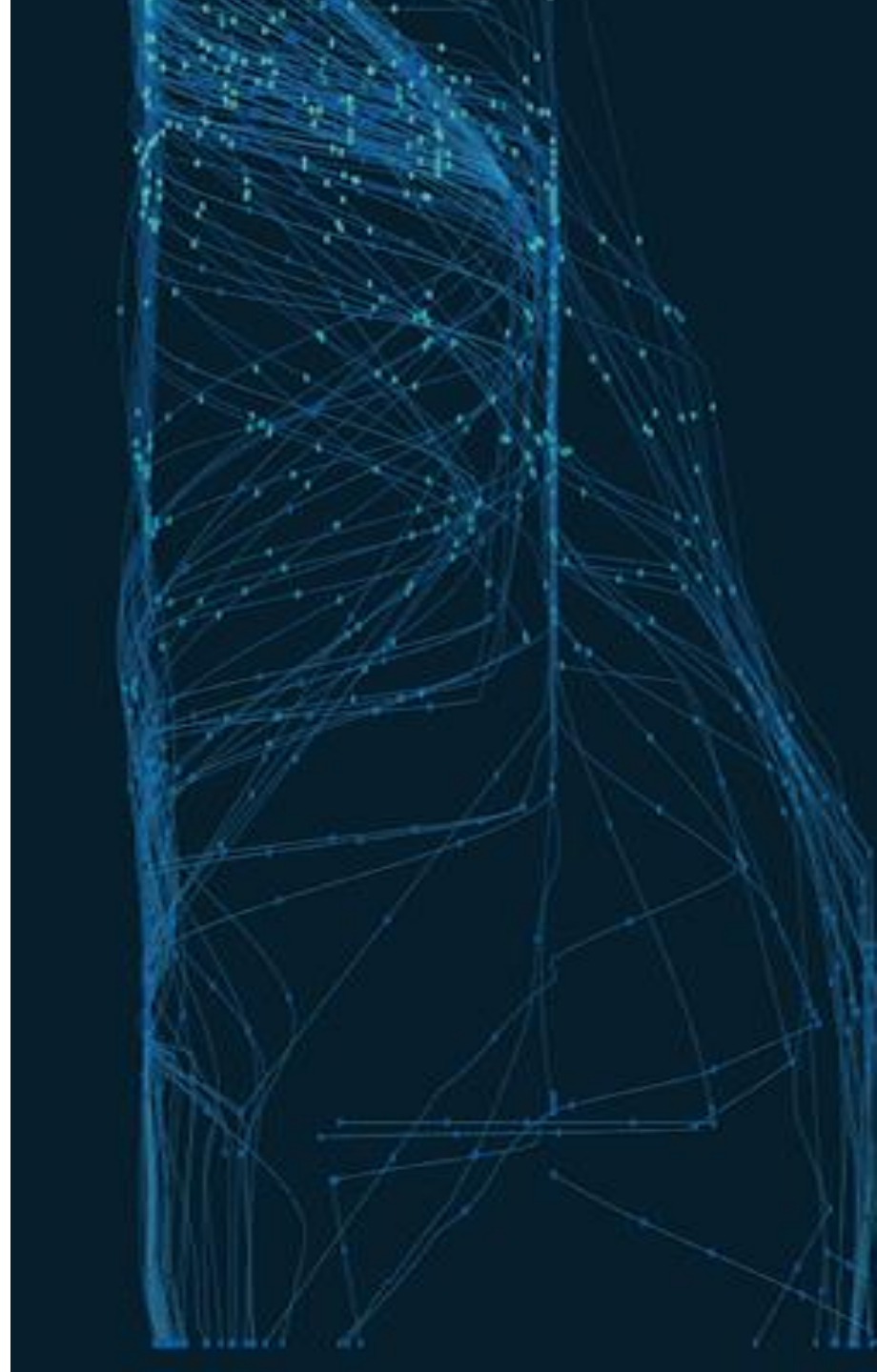
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Simplicity



3

Community



The background features a complex, abstract pattern of glowing green and blue lines and particles. The lines form a central, somewhat circular shape with two pointed ends extending horizontally. The particles are scattered around these lines, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blue, with vibrant green and blue highlights.

What is the one
resource you always
recommend?



interoperable europe

innovation ∞ govtech ∞ community

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<https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor>