Towards a Solid Theoretical and Empirical Foundation for European Open Source Policy

EU Open Source Policy Meeting

Mirko Boehm 31 January 2020





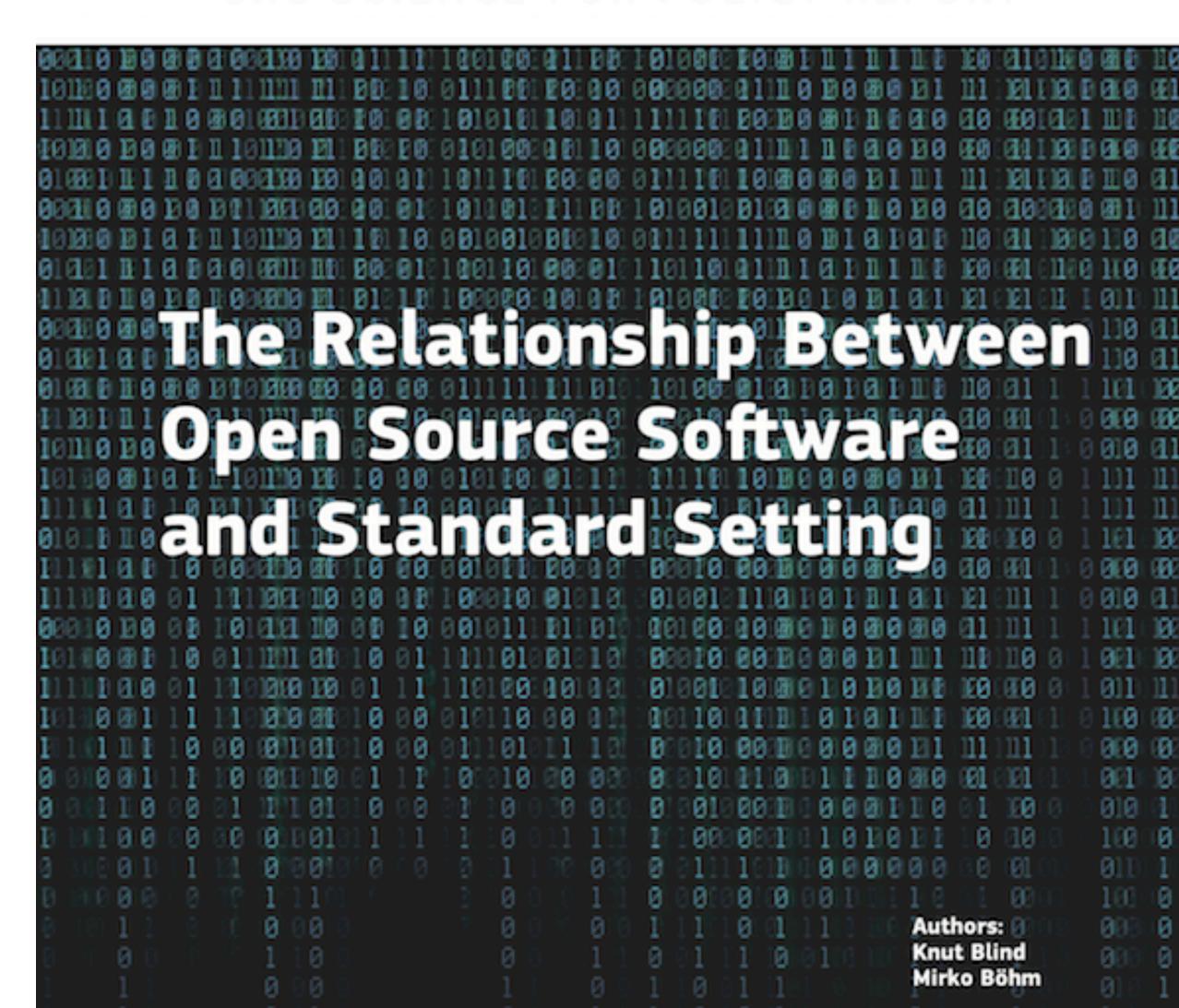
Looking Back

- "Impact of open source software on ICT sector in the EU", UNU-MERIT et al 2007
- "Standards and Open Source Bringing them together", OpenForum Europe 2017
- "The Relationship Between Open Source Software and Standard Setting", EC-JRC 2019





JRC SCIENCE FOR POLICY REPORT



"A rising tide lifts all boats."

John F Kennedy

Open Source enables participation driven by

increased transparency and reduced barriers to entry

in knowledge/academia, business and politics.

"Open Source communities are incubators for both technologies and people."

-Anonymous

Open Source as a Matter of Public Interest

- Open Source software is a public good that contributes positively to the common good.
- Ergo: There is a common interest in society to facilitate, invest in, protect and support Open Source software and communities.



Looking Forward

- Still work-in-progress is the development of a commonly accepted understanding of the economic and societal impact of Open Source software and communities,
- · ... of its interaction with related fields like standards development or patenting ...
- and the impact on related sectors (hardware, communication, logistics, ...) and fields of endeavour (creative works, research and science, political decision making, ...)



Perspectives: Individual

- Individuals engage in a mix of market and social transactions to benefit from Open Source.
- Social transactions include a sense of achievement and community from contributing. People derive personal value from it.
- Market transactions include the development of independent skills and the creation of a personal portfolio.
- · Amateurization blends these perspectives and challenges traditional professions.



Perspectives: Business

- Businesses (organisations) engage in a mix of market and social transactions to benefit from Open Source.
- A taxonomy based on revenue models, types of goods and differentiating factors can help with positioning businesses.
- Open Source engagement can only partially be explained by theoretical models solely based on market logic.



Perspectives: Society

- Open Source impacts regions, member states and the union in competition and collaboration.
- Increasing own competitiveness within the union may be a zero-sum game.
- Collaboratively creating communities and markets facilitates the emergence of a modernised ICT sector.
- Possible guidelines: The UN Sustainable
 Development Goals and a human-rights
 centred foreign, trade and innovation policy.



SUSTAINABLE GENALS





















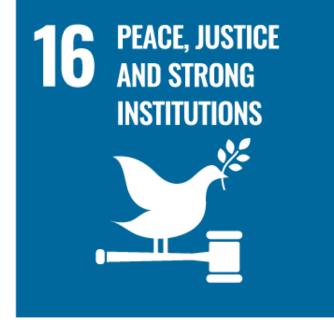
















































Outlook: Upcoming Research

- Topic: "The impact of open source software and hardware on technological independence, competitiveness and innovation in the EU economy"
- Consortium: Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research (Karlsruhe) and OpenForum Europe (Brussels)
- Results expected: EOY 2020
- How to participate: Surveys, workshops, general input. Watch this space.





What?

The impact of Open Source Software and Hardware on technological independence, competitiveness, innovation





Analysis of the economic impact:

- <u>Quantitative</u> of Open Source Software,
- <u>Qualitative</u> of Open Source Hardware,



Learning from experience:

- Case studies,
- Surveys.



Community



We don't want to reinvent the wheel.



Goal:

Policy recommendations



Long-term goal:

Evidence-based Open Source and Open Innovation policymaking.



Thank you.

euteam@openforumeurope.org

Mirko Boehm | Paula Grzegorzewska



