

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

EU Open Source Policy Meeting

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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
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“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 DEVELOPMENT GOALS







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**

How?

Analysis of the economic impact:

- Quantitative of Open Source Software,
- Qualitative of Open Source Hardware,

How?

Learning from experience:

- Case studies,
- Surveys.

How?

Community



How?

We don't want to reinvent the wheel.

Goal:

Policy recommendations

Long-term goal:

**Evidence-based
Open Source and Open Innovation
policymaking.**

Thank you.

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