



## Open Source activities under the IDABC programme

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## Disclaimer

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- I am not an official spokesperson of the European Commission
- This presentation provides information related to the IDABC programme for which my unit is responsible
- This presentation should not be considered as an official European Commission position on anything
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- The iDABC programme
  - What and why
  - The link between openness and interoperability
  - The importance of open specifications
  - The European Interoperability Framework
  - OSOR: the Open Source Observatory & Repository
  - EUPL: the European Union Public License
- Open source within the Commission
  - Open source as an alternative to proprietary software
  - Open source as a means to share the results of our work with others
- The future: the ISA programme

- <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc>
- Identify, support and promote the development and establishment of pan-European eGovernment services
- 2005-2009, 140 M€
- Actions defined in the iDABC work programme that are relevant within the context of the presentation:
  - Promoting an Open Document Exchange Format
  - Dissemination of Good Practice in Open Source Software
  - Open Source Software Repository

- Interoperability
  - Interoperability, within the context of European Public Services delivery, is the ability of disparate and diverse organisations to interact towards mutually beneficial and agreed common goals, involving the sharing of information and knowledge between the organisations, through the business processes they support, by means of the exchange of data between their respective ICT systems.
- Openness
  - Openness is the willingness of persons, organisations or other members of a community of interest to share knowledge and to stimulate debate within that community of interest, having as ultimate goal the advancement of knowledge and the use thereof to solve relevant problems.

- Specifications
  - Standards endorsed by recognised standardisation organisations or technical specifications made available by industry consortia or other standardisation forums.
- Open specifications
  - Open process, involvement of all stakeholders
  - Freely available to study and to share
  - Implementation is possible under different “business/development models”, including OSS
- Why
  - Level playing field, competition and innovation
  - Facilitates the sharing and re-use of solutions
- Open specifications • Open source software

- Full title: “European Interoperability Framework for pan-European eGovernment Services”
- Context: pan-European eGovernment Services
- Document prepared by the IDABC programme, in close collaboration with Member State experts
- Version 1.0 available since 2004
- Recommendations relevant to Open Source Software
  - Use open standards
  - Assess the benefits of Open Source Software
- Referenced in national interoperability frameworks worldwide
- Currently under review

# The Open Source Observatory & Repository

- <http://www.osor.eu/>
- Prime source of information about the use of Open Source Software within administrations
- News, case studies and guidelines
- Web 2.0 based platform for the collaborative software development and for the sharing of software under open source licenses
- Target public: public administrations – no competition for the “traditional” open source repositories on the internet
- Close collaboration with similar initiatives in Member States, including a “global” search function, searching in all associated repositories

## The European Union Public License

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- Made for internal use – to allow the distribution of software developed under the IDABC programme
- Approved by the Commission for that purpose
- Recognised as a genuine open source license by OSI
- Made available to others (copyright is with the Commission)
- Available in all EU languages and using European legal language
- May help public administrations in Europe to make their own software available for re-use

- The Commission's open source strategy:
  - Use Open Source Software where a clear benefit can be expected
  - ICT procurement: when offered, OSS solutions are evaluated as proprietary solutions (value for money)
  - Interoperability is a key issue and well-established open standards should be used
  - When deployment outside the Commission is envisaged, OSS is the preferred development and deployment platform
  - We work via product management – and again the same principles apply for OSS as for proprietary software (stability, business value, migration costs)

- Actual usage:
  - Supported LAMP stack, used to run Web 2.0 services
  - The Europa web server runs on Apache, the blogs and discussion forums run on a complete OSS stack
  - The Commission's authentication system (ECAS) is based on OSS (CAS)
  - Work is done to develop and provide under OSS license components to be used in Europe-wide large-scale pilots on authentication (STORK) and electronic procurement (PEPPOL)
  - Most new developments based on Java technology
  - Internal community of collaborating developers, supported by OSS development tool chain
  - Capable to handle ODF and OOXML documents

- <http://ec.europa.eu/isa>
- Objective: supporting EU policies via better public services – concentrating on interoperability and cooperation between European public administrations
- 2010-2015, 164 M€
- Frameworks, common services and reusable tools
- Assessment of ICT implications of proposed EU legislation
- Underlying principles
  - Technological neutrality and adaptability
  - Openness and re-use
  - Privacy and protection of personal data
  - Security

- IDABC:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc>
- ISA:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/isa>
- EIF:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/7728>
- OSOR:  
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