

OSS Workshop (UMIC)

September 29, 2004, *Porto Salvo, Portugal*

Promoting OSS for Europe: IDA policies and projects

Dr. Barbara Held
Interchange of Data between Administrations (IDA)
European Commission

Content

- **What is IDA?**
- **IDA policy approach to Open Source Software**
- **Creating awareness: The Open Source Observatory et other projects**
- **IDA projects on OSS basis**
- **Outlook: IDAabc**

The EU Commission

- **One of the original 5 EU-Institutions**
- **The executive organ of the European Union: (“Cabinet”)**
 - ◆ policies and negotiates international trade and cooperation guardian of the EU treaties
 - ◆ source of policy initiatives
 - ◆ manages agreements
- **28 different policy areas**
- **40 DG/Services (“Ministries”)**

The Commission's roles in the OSS context

■ Purchasing and using software

- ◆ Public procurement rules (Best value for money)
- ◆ Other aspects (transparency, interoperability, archiving)

■ Defining and implementing of policies on behalf of the EU (Lisbon Strategy)

- ◆ Competitive economy
- ◆ Knowledge driven
- ◆ Social cohesion



eEurope 2005

An Information Society for everyone ...

.. promotes the use of open source software
in the public sector
and
eGovernment best practice through exchange of
experience across the Union

Turning the European Union into the strongest
IT-based economic area by 2010



Other Documents

- **The Ministerial Conference on eGovernment** (in Como, 8 July 2003):
... « welcomed further exchanges of experiences [in open source] between their Countries and the Commission. »
- **The IDAabc Decision** (Decision 2004/387/EC) ... insists on the implementation of Open Standards and to
... « favorably consider » the use of Open Source Software

... in a few words

Community programme promoting the “Interchange of Data between Administrations”

- ◆ Facilitating the interchange of data by means of Trans-European telematic networks (TESTA, sTESTA)
- ◆ Funding sectoral networks in support of the implementation of Community policies
- ◆ Making available generic services and common tools in support of interoperability (“horizontal actions and measures”)

Unit in DG Enterprise

Funding: Ca. 25 Mio Euro per year

IDA initiates and finances projects

- ◆ developing of eGovernment applications
- ◆ producing studies, guidelines, recommendations

At the end of 2005 IDA will be superseded by IDAabc

- **Interoperability is based on → Open Standards + Open Interfaces (European Interoperability Framework / EIF)**
- **Open Standards according to the EIF are**
 - ◆ Well documented
 - ◆ Available to every interested party
 - ◆ Free of charge
 - ◆ Developed and maintained in a transparent process by a non-profit standardization body which is open to all interested parties
 - ◆ Reusable without restrictions
- ◆ **Open Source Software perfectly complies with the requirements of Open Standards**
 - ◆ **OPEN CODES** provide transparency to concerned parties (provided they have the knowledge)
 - ◆ and guarantee accessibility to the data for the future
 - ◆ Cost efficient through reusability-> helps IDA reduce its own development and maintenance costs
 - ◆ Reliable and secure through quality check by the OSS community

IDA is funding ...

- **projects to create awareness and promote knowledge on OSS in public administration**
- **projects building applications using OSS and being distributed under OSS licences**

<http://europe.eu.int/ida>

Projects promoting OSS

- **Open Source Observatory:** Webpage with general information and international news on Open Source Software
- **European Open Source Competence Center:** Networking national European Competence Centers
- **OSS Product Catalogue:** Catalogue displaying OSS-licensed software sponsored by public administration (work in progress)
- **Initiative for an Open Document Format for public administration**
- **OSS Migration Guide**

A Pan-European information platform for OSS initiatives and projects

- General information
- News
- Case studies
- Ressources
- Events
- FAQs



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address <http://europa.eu.int/ida/en/chapter/452>. The page features the IDA logo and navigation links. The main content area is titled "Open Source Observatory" and includes a description of the section's purpose, a list of links (Introduction, News, Case studies, Ressources, Events, FAQ), and a call to action to subscribe to the monthly news service.

Open Source Observatory

This section of the IDA website is dedicated to Open Source Software and is intended to encourage the spread and use of Best Practices in Europe. We introduce new users to the concept of Open Source and present interesting facts and references for experts. All content is being developed in an ongoing manner.

- [Subscribe to the Open Source Observatory's monthly news service.](#)
- [To e-mail your comments and suggestions: gposs@cec.eu.int.](mailto:gposs@cec.eu.int)

[Introduction](#)
An introduction to Open Source.

[News](#)
News about OSS-related government activities in Europe and abroad.

[Case studies](#)
Case studies zooming in on certain Open Source adoptions in Member States.

■ Facilitates information exchange between and informations about national, regional and local OSS competence centers all over Europe:

- ◆ Networking the national competence centers through workshops
- ◆ Displaying information on the OSS Observatory
- ◆ Drawing up booklet of organisations providing OSS support
- ◆ Providing guidance on how to work with the OSS community.

➔ **Work in Progress**

- **Study and Report on open document formats** (focus on comparing Open Office and MS Office 2003).
- **Recommendation from the Management committee of the IDA program (consists of senior public servants representing the EU MS) to encourage use of open standards in document exchange**
<http://europa.eu.int/ida/jsps/doc.jsp?2592>
- **Further objective: a public sector policy statement requiring an open document standard.**

- **Describes technical options for migration to OSS and cost factors**
- **Departure from client architecture (thin client concept)**
- **In October 87000 downloads, more than 1000 references in internet, volunteered translations into French and Spanish, interest of publishing house**

Projects using OSS and licenses

- **eLink**: Middleware for secure transactions between administrations and their communication partners
- **CIRCA Server**: tool for the online collaboration of working groups
- **eServices Tool**: software facilitation the implementation of multilingual websites (mainly for smaller administrations and institutions)
- **IPM – Interactive Policy Making**: web-based tool for the construction, programming and evaluation of online questionnaires

■ Building confidence

- ◆ Documenting market support
- ◆ Study on new GPL compatible OSS license (example: CIRCA)
- ◆ Study on the consequence of EU Directive on software patents

■ Becoming practical

- ◆ Study proposing business models for the interactions between administration and the Open Source Community
- ◆ Releasing more IDA-funded applications under the new IDA-OSS license
- ◆ Online publication of the inventory of shareable applications

■ Acting strategically

- ◆ Further actions to promote an open document format for the administration

IDAbc – a broader approach ...

“Interoperable Delivery of pan-European eGovernment Services to Public Administrations, Businesses and Citizens” – starting January 2005

- **Innovation** (SME share, Intellectual property rights ...)
- **Competition** (Marked structure, Lock-in)
- **Trade** (Standards,)
- **Competitiveness** (Regions, sectors)
- **Development** (Research, education)



Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Barbara Held

Email: Barbara.Held@cec.eu.int

<http://europe.eu.int/ida>