



IDABC OSS Event in Prague – 11 April 2006

The IDABC Open Source Repository (OSOR) for European eGovernment

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Overview

- ▶ **Policy background**
- ▶ **IDBC OSS activities**
- ▶ **The Open Source Repository**
 - **Preparations**
 - **IDABC first concepts**
 - **What is needed**
 - **How to realise it**



eEurope Action Plan 2005

An Information Society for everyone:

... the Commission will issue an agreed **interoperability framework** to support the delivery of pan-European e-government services to citizens and enterprises ... It will ... recommend technical policies and specifications ... It will be based on **open standards** and encourage the use of **open source software**



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



More recent policy papers ...

- ▶ **i2010 Initiative**
- ▶ **Manchester Ministerial Declaration:**
- ▶ **Communication on Interoperability for pan-European eGovernment Services:
*"A wealth of open source software ..."***
- ▶ **Forthcoming in April: eGovernment Action Plan i2010**

**... put a strong emphasis on "sharing"
eGovernment applications and experiences**



OSS in DG Enterprise

IDABC is funding and/or implementing:

- ▶ **projects to create awareness and promote knowledge on OSS in public administrations**
- ▶ **Projects producing practical advice for public administrations**
- ▶ **projects building applications using OSS and foreseen to be publicly distributed under OSS licences**

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



IDABC promoting OSS

- **Open Source Observatory:** Webpage with general information and international news on Open Source Software
- **European Open Source Competence Center:** Networking national and regional European Competence Centers
- **OSS Inventory:** Catalogue displaying OSS licensed software sponsored by public administrations
- **Open Document Format Initiative:** Promoting an ODF for European public administrations (studies, policy recommendation, workshops)

<http://europa.eu.int/idabc>



IDABC giving advice on OSS

- **European Union Public Licence (EUPL):** Study and Draft of an OSS Licence for releasing IDABC applications
- **Partnering with Public Administrations:** A short guide for OSS developer
- **Partnering with Open Source Developers:** Guideline for public administrations
- **Patents and open source software:** Basic information for public administrations
- **Pooling Open Source Software:** Study about re-using software in public administrations
- **OSS Migration Guide**

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IDABC using/producing OSS

- ▶ **eLink**: middleware for secure transactions between administrations and their communication partners
- ▶ **CIRCA Server**: tool for the online collaboration of working groups
- ▶ **eServices Tool**: software facilitating 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



The OSOR – objective

- ▶ **To create a platform to actively support the sharing of OSS-based eGovernment applications and experiences across Europe – connecting EU services and Member States**



The OSOR – first steps

- ▶ **Study Pooling Open Source Software: Requirements, success factors**
- ▶ **OSS Inventory: Taxonomy**
- ▶ **Call for Tender:**
 - **Feasibility study**
 - **Implementation of a prototype**
- ▶ **Workshops: Networking European national platforms**



The OSOR – tasks

▶ Information platform

- Website delivering news around OSS
- Providing commented links to and information on other European collaboration platforms in Members States and EU institutions

▶ Platform for uploading and downloading

- Registry and repository for download
- Processes for up-loading

▶ Platform for collaboration

- Supporting cross-border collaboration (technically and organisationally)



The OSOR – What is needed ...

▶ Technical Platform

- Website with adequate tools (for search, retrieval, collaboration, publishing, versioning etc.)

▶ Governance/Management

- Steering Committee
- Clearing Process

▶ Common policies

- Publishing processes
- Quality guidelines
- Licences

▶ Support for collaboration

- Networking / Displaying Communities
- "Helpdesk" / Consultancy



The OSOR – Open questions

- ▶ **Common policies**
 - Areas to be covered?
 - Compliance?
- ▶ **Governance/Management**
 - What should be the role of the Commission?
 - What should be the role of Member States?
- ▶ **Services to be provided**
 - Operational support
 - What else? Compatibility test? Certifications?
- ▶ **Collaboration**
 - Who should take part? Public administrations ...
- ▶ **Sustainability**
 - How to make the OSOR independent from IDABC



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