

Italian and Regional Laws for libre software in government

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Issues

- *Italian law on Open Source Software*
- *Regional laws on FLOSS and ODS*
- *The role of local public administration*
- *Experiences in implementing regulations*
- *Problems and Opportunities*

Before the law...

- *The Italian Minister for Innovation and Technologies (MIT) gave to a “Committee” the duty to study the Stat of the Art on FLOSS in Public Administration*
- *In the Committee where represented many Universities, Municipalities, Provinces, Regions and several Ministries*

The Committee

Angelo Raffaele Meo – Polytechnic of Turin - Chairman

Giorgio Ausiello – University “La Sapienza”

Maurizio Italo Balla – Head of Department, ISTAT

Carlo Batini – University “Bicocca” Milan

Alfonso Fuggetta – University “Polytechnic” of Milan

Giancarlo Galardi – Expert nominated by the Regions

Anna Maria Guerrini – Director General Department for Innovation and Technologies

Flavia Marzano – Expert nominated by the Union of Italian Provinces (UPI)

Alessandro Musumeci – Director General Ministry of Education, Universities and Research

Vittorio Pagani – Area Coordinator RUPA Technical Centre

Adelmo Lodi Rizzini – Expert from National Association of Municipalities

Italo Volpe – Head Legal Affairs Office, Ministry Economic Affairs & Finance

Survey on OSS in government

The primary goal of the Committee was to give policymakers elements to understand and define their own policies on FLOSS.

http://www.innovazione.gov.it/eng/news/allegati/OS_survey.pdf

Committee recommendations ⁽¹⁾

- Government **should not penalise/prohibit** the use of OSS. The criteria used when selecting a software package should be based on value for money.
- Custom software should be fully owned by government.
- Outsourcing contracts should include appropriate protection clauses.
- It is necessary to encourage and facilitate the reuse of custom software owned by government, as well as the dissemination of results and best practices throughout all Italian government bodies.
- All software licences owned by PA should be available for inspection and traceable by government.
- Government must be protected in the event a software provider is no longer able to provide support.

Committee recommendations (2)

- *Government information systems should interact through standard interfaces which are not bound to a single provider.*
- *Government documents should be available in a variety of formats. Of these formats, **at least** one must be open.*
- *The transfer of custom software and software licences between government bodies must be encouraged and free from limitations.*
- *Government should establish guidelines, planning tools, and support services for the software procurement process. This should be done through the optimisation and strengthening of the skills of those working for the government throughout Italy.*
- *It is necessary to define policies for the dissemination of technology research and innovation projects.*

Committee recommendations (3)

Open source for developing countries

“One final proposal concerns the creation of a network to distribute research results to developing countries and establish collaborative and training relations with them.

As in the proposals for e-government projects at the national level, a particular focus will be placed on the use of open source in e-government, especially in the “e-Government for Development” projects that the Minister for Innovations and Technologies is working on as part of the Government’s international cooperation activity.”

Italian “law” on OSS ⁽¹⁾

Directive 19th December 2003

“Development and use of computer programs from Public Administrations”

(Published on “Gazzetta Ufficiale” n. 31 del 7-2-2004)

The main goal is to give to Public Administration technical and operational criteria to better manage the acquisition of software and the main suggestion is to consider, in buying software, the complete offer on the market included FLOSS.

It is not so obvious... before this norm Public Administration could exclude FLOSS products from “call for bid”!

Italian “law” on OSS ⁽²⁾

Buying software applications

Public Administration must follow also those criteria:

- *Transferability of acquired solutions to other PAs*
- *Interoperability between administrations*
- *Independency from unique supplier and/or unique proprietary technology*
- *Availability of source code at least for inspection and traceability*
- *Exportability of data, documents in many formats (at least one must be “open”)*

Italian “law” on OSS ⁽³⁾

Buying software applications

Public Administration must follow also those criteria:

- *Administration must consider any software solution included FLOSS*
- *Administration must own the software developed under its own specifications and it can be able to transfer sw licences to other administrations without any further cost*
- *Whenever it is possible, Public Administration must allow the reuse of software*

Regional laws on FLOSS ⁽¹⁾

- *Toscana*
- *Emilia Romagna*
- *... more to come!*

Regional laws on FLOSS ⁽²⁾

Toscana: Regional Law N.1/2004

It is defining an open source code: a program whose licence allow to user to access to source code in order to study it, to modify it, to maintain it, to extended it and to redistribute it.

Regional laws on FLOSS ⁽³⁾

Toscana: Regional Law N.1/2004

The Region promotes, sustains and suggests to use preferably solutions based on FLOSS (principle of technological neutrality) in order to enable interoperability, reuse of products and solutions and in order to optimise resources and assure the full knowledge of the data process treatment.

Regional laws on FLOSS ⁽⁴⁾

Toscana: Regional Law N.1/2004

The law is pushing the education to an aware use of advantages connected to FLOSS solutions.

The law is also stressing the importance of ODS.

Regional laws on FLOSS ⁽⁵⁾

Emilia Romagna: Law 24/05/2004 N.11

“The Regional Structure must program the introduction of FLOSS, Open Data Standards and open/free communication protocols.

Regional laws on FLOSS ⁽⁶⁾

Emilia Romagna: Law 24/05/2004 N.11

Goals of Region through FLOSS:

- *interoperability*
- *accessibility* and *availability* of *data*

Regional laws on FLOSS ⁽⁷⁾

Emilia Romagna: Law 24/05/2004 N.11

To ensure citizen freedom to access and use public data, the Region promotes competitiveness and market transparency through pluralism and freedom of choice in computer platforms acquisition.

The Region promotes software reuse and it is committed in removal of technical “barriers” like non standard formats pushing the use of Open Formats and FLOSS.

The Italian Provinces ⁽¹⁾

- *Asti: Management of “Merloni Law” procedures, database*
- *Cremona: All provincial departments use SendMail for emailing, Twiggi for groupware and PuTTY for terminal emulation. The data processing centre uses the Linux OS, the Open Office suite, MySQL for DB servers and Webmin for system management. The Municipalities Portal in the province uses Linux OS architecture, the Apache Webserver and DB MySQL.*

The Italian Provinces ⁽²⁾

- *Ferrara: development of “ProFeTA”, an electronic network that links the local branches and offices of central government that are located in the province. It includes a Web-based reporting system that allows all users to verify their consumption before billing. A monitoring system for the castles. The software for library management and inter-library lending (Sebina and OPAC).*
- *Genova: ICTE-PAN and COSPA*

The Italian Provinces ⁽³⁾

- *Imperia: provincial intranet based on Linux/Apache/PHP/MySQL architecture. A project under the Italian Law 68/1999 (referring to the disabled) based on open source architecture (Linux).*
- *Lucca: PCs with Open Office. Evaluation of MOSAICO, an application to help the procurement department manage suppliers' orders. The use of GHOST for the creation of PDF files. The activation of a Linux server for the management of internal email.*

The Italian Provinces ⁽⁴⁾

- *Pescara: Following a motion approved by the provincial government on 7 May 2002, it has been agreed to purchase open source software for use in school construction and public education. The products earmarked for purchase include: Linux, Open Office, Mozilla/Phoenix and Gimp*
- *Prato: The provincial government is currently using the many FLOSS packages*

The Italian Provinces ⁽⁵⁾

- *Reggio Emilia: The province's Information Technology Service uses SAMBA for file management, and OpenOffice for office automation on the Linux OS. The DNS used by the provincial government is based on Linux.*
- *Treviso: The provincial Information Technology Services use the following OSS solutions: Linux and Samba for network/file servers Squid as a proxy server Qmail as the email server.*

The Italian Provinces ⁽⁶⁾

- Pisa:

- A thesis, prepared with Bocconi University, on the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) in passing from MS Office to OpenOffice;
- the use of FLOSS in knowledge and content management;
- first forum on “Open and Free Knowledge in Public Administration” SALPA
- Doc-Transformer converts documents into “open formats”: <http://www.provincia.pisa.it/doctransformer>;
- First Italian University Master in Open Source management www.master.netseven.it;
- COSPA...

COSPA



- *The Province of Pisa (as well as the Province of Genoa), adhered to COSPA, a Consortium for studying, evaluating, and supporting the introduction of Open Source software and Open Data Standards in Public Administration; COSPA is a project funded by the EU 6th framework program.*

www.cospa-project.org

www.cospa-project.org/observer.html

How many politicians?

“...the introduction of e-Government is not easy. Providing user-centred services and cutting red tape (i.e. unnecessary administrative burden), requires that information is shared across departments and different levels of government (e.g. between the local and national level). More often than not this implies organisational change. It requires willingness to rethink established ways of working. This often leads to resistance.”

The Role of eGovernment for Europe's Future
Brussels, September 2003

“It is not a matter of going fast...

it is important to keep going!

Confucio

Thank you for your attention

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