

AHOY!

EU alternative to app stores

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Overview

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Member & Quaestor of the European Parliament

- European Parliament (Member since 2019)
 - Member of the Bureau 2019–
 - Vice-President 2019–2022
 - Quaestor 2022–
 - Committees
 - Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)
 - Culture and Education (CULT)
 - Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA)
- Czech Pirate Party (Member since 2010)
 - 1st Vice-President (2022–)

FREE AND OPEN SOURCE
TECHNOLOGIES

FREEDOM ON THE
INTERNET

TRANSPARENCY

INDEPENDENCE OF MEDIA



EU applications

More by European Union



What's the problem?

- Public money → public code
- EU institutions should lead by example
- Apps developed for public money are dependent on app stores from big tech
- High barrier for smaller providers to enter the market
- Less choice for consumers



Pilot Project

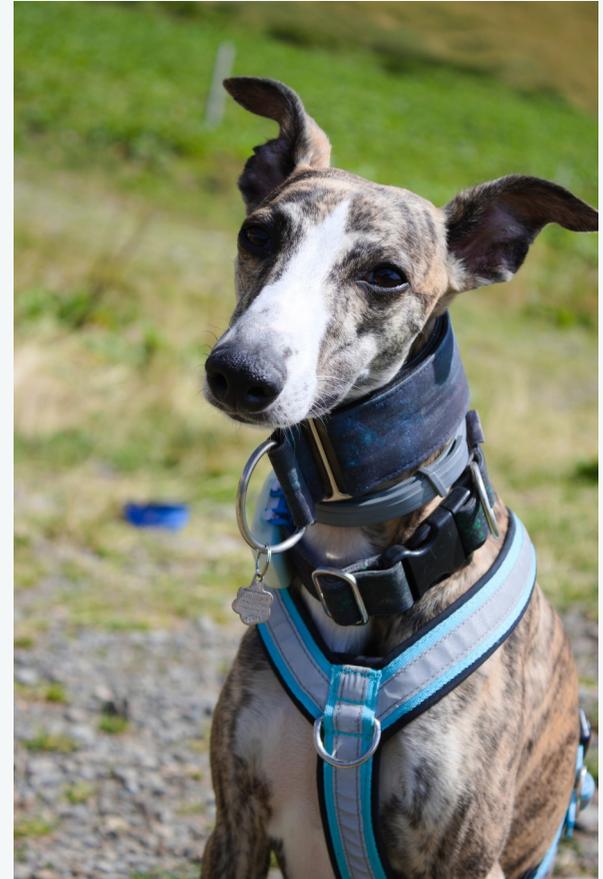
Pilot projects and preparatory actions (PP/PAs) are tools introduced in the EU budget that aim at **testing new policy initiatives** and/or **preparing the ground for the adoption of future measures**. Such PP/PAs give MEPs the possibility to initiate innovative policies and fund them in advance of a legal basis being set. Both new PP/PAs and those continued from previous years must be included in the EU budget through the annual budgetary procedure.

The Union can make a budgetary commitment for a PP for **max 2 consecutive financial years**. Budgets for a PA, which often follows a PP, are limited to a **max 3 years**.



Pilot Project

Sounds great! What can we do with that?



Pilot Project

- De-monopolized access to EU applications

Item PP 02 23 02 — Pilot project — De-monopolized access to EU applications

Draft budget 2023		Council's position 2023		EP's position 2023		Revised Draft Budget 2023		Conciliation 2023	
Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments
				500 000	250 000			500 000	125 000

Remarks:

Modern smartphone, tablet and (increasingly) desktop environments have established marketplaces, such as Google Play Store or Apple App Store, for the installation and maintenance of apps. These market places offer convenient and curated apps that come at the cost of high barrier to entry on the market for smaller providers and less choice for consumers. Recent antitrust cases (AT.40437 Apple - App Store Practices (music streaming)) have highlighted the problem with app stores, and the Commission have proposed the Digital Markets Acts regulation in order to create more



Pilot Project

contestability on the market. Despite the legislation and antitrust cases, EU institutions themselves don't offer consumers free choice to use or move away from dominating marketplaces. For instance all android apps released by the Commission are only available on the Google Play store (Events@EU, Eurostat myregion etc)(1).

The pilot project aims at extending the EU technical infrastructure to release, maintain and promote EU applications without further strengthening the market position of gatekeeper app stores. The focus of the pilot project includes EU institutions releasing their apps on existing alternative app stores, including f-droid that aims at promoting apps released under open source licenses. It would also include releasing the source code of the apps for people to build the apps on their own and to release the apk files for side-loading without the use of an app store. This work is consistent with the Commission decision C(2021)8759 on the open source licensing and reuse of Commission software and other overarching policy goals of Commission and Parliament.

<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14783-2022-ADD-5/en/pdf>



Potential opportunities

Objectives:

1. EU institutions releasing their apps on various repositories that aim at promoting apps released under Free and Open Source Software licenses
2. releasing the source code of the apps for people to build/study/improve the apps



Potential opportunities

Implementation:

- by European Commission (not the Parliament)
- Commission's website for funding and tenders

<https://ted.europa.eu/TED/main/HomePage.do>

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>



Potential opportunities

Warning:

- eligibility criteria and admissibility requirements: *“The tenderers must have the necessary **technical, professional, economic, and financial** capacity to execute the contracts”*
- But: joint tenders and subcontracting are allowed



Thank you!



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