

# Some updates on public code in Germany

A glowing neon sign that says "open" in red, green, and blue. The sign is suspended by two chains from above. The background is dark, suggesting it's nighttime, with some blurred lights visible through a window.

## A summary of recent developments

# Motivation

Readers edition  
of this slide ;)

- The term “open source” is omni-present in German public administration and politics
- No one talks about “free software”
- Term “open source”: source code is published, focus on practical benefits
- Term “free software”: empowering aspect, emphasizes freedom of users
- **Hardly any information** on the use of free software in public administration
- Hardly any knowledge in public administration about how the free software model works
- Hardly any statistics on development and use of free software in public administration
- **Impression:** Everyone talks about Free Software, hardly anyone does it.
- A lot is happening right now.
- We desperately need efforts by the administration to achieve **better results** with **fewer resources** through free software and floss software development practices.

# Are we FLOSS yet?

State of FLOSS laws and regulations in Germany

## 13. Prinzip des Servicestandards

June 2020

"The **source code** from the realization of **digital services** (custom-built software) is **made available as open source** [...]"

- Principle 13 of the service standard on the implementation of Germany's "public sector online services act" (OZG)

**Non-mandatory.** Only 15 out of 221 respondents **give high priority** to the service standard in their own project.

## Obligation from the economic stimulus package:

Verwaltungsabkommen  
zur Umsetzung des Onlinezugangsgesetzes

- "The source code will be **made available as open source wherever possible**"

"The Federal Ministry of the Interior does **not yet keep track** of which services release source code as open source."

-- Minor interpellation in the Bundestag, August 2022

<https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/20/031/2003140.pdf>



November 2021

**"Development contracts are generally commissioned as open source, and the corresponding software is always made public."**

- Coalition agreement, German Federal Government

# But...

- 4.8 billion EUR investment in proprietary cloud infrastructure + 1.3 billion EUR Microsoft
- <1% investment in open source ecosystem
- Planned financing for ZenDiS (Germany OSPO) cut by nearly half (from 48 to ~24 million EUR)
- Still no FLOSS procurement regulations

source: <https://fsfe.org/news/2023/news-20230829-01.de.html>,  
<https://mdb.anke.domscheit-berg.de/2023/12/pressemitteilung-bund-hat-milliarden-fur-rahmenvertrage-mit-us-konzernen-aber-nur-05-prozent-fur-open-source/>, <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/20/096/2009641.pdf>

# Policies in federal states

- Priority for free software if “technically possible and economical”
- In-house developments: Open license, as long as not used for “security-relevant tasks”

May 2018



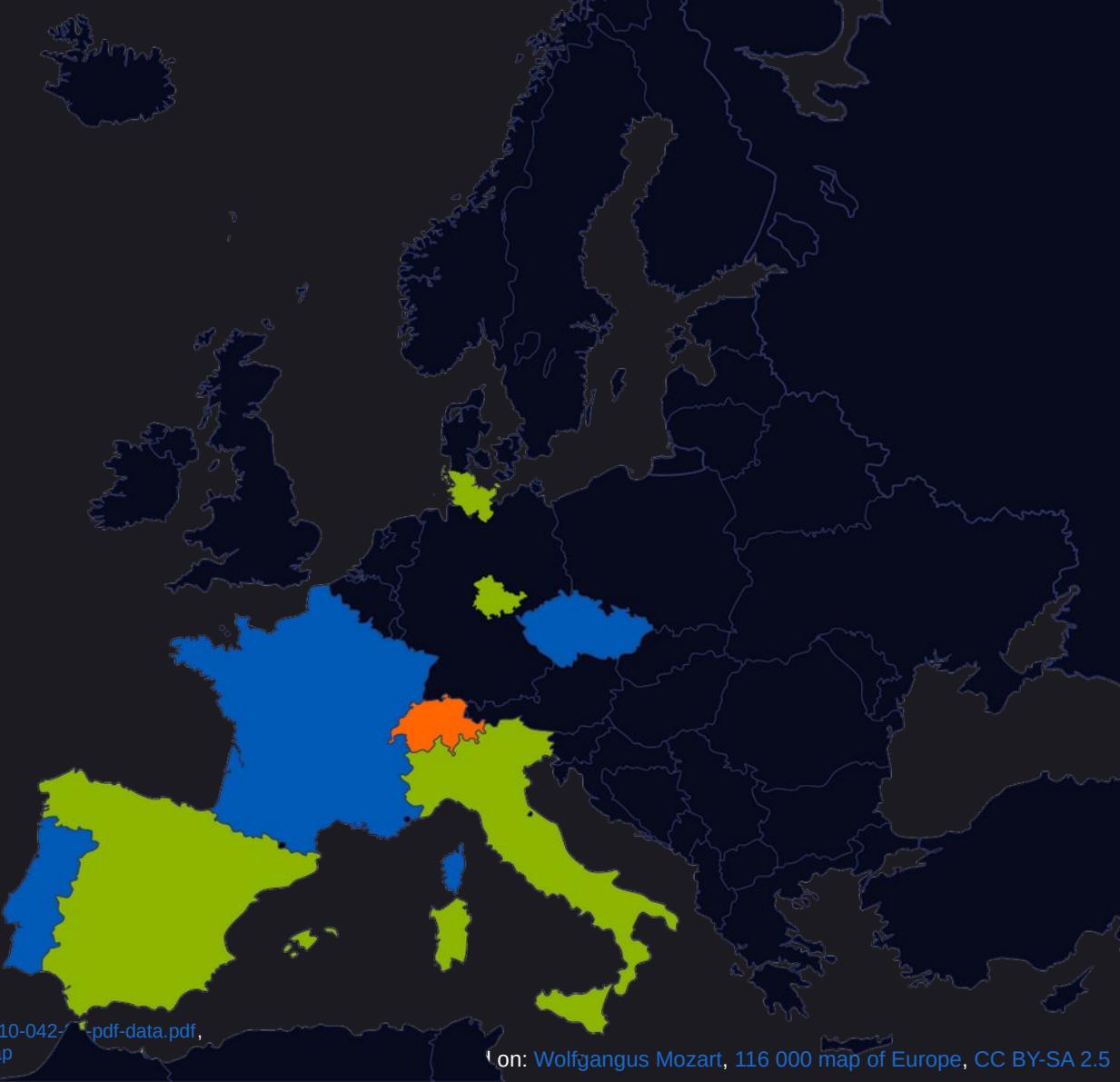
Thuringia

February 2022



Schleswig-Holstein

# State of free software law in the EU



source: Report of the Bundestag's scientific services / EU Interactive Resource Map  
<https://www.bundestag.de/resource/blob/944586/edbfcfd79cb197d945da98fdae691fef8/WD-10-042--pdf-data.pdf>,  
<https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/interactive-resource-map>

on: Wolfgangus Mozart, 116 000 map of Europe, CC BY-SA 2.5

# FLOSS in practice...

Political objectives are ignored.

# Open-washing

„presenting something as open, when it is not actually open“

# Open-washing

The screenshot shows the BGR website with a sidebar menu including 'LEISTUNGSPORTFOLIO', 'IT-LÖSUNGEN', 'DIGITALE MISSION', 'DAS ITZBUND', and 'KARRIERE'. Below this, a section titled 'Government Site Builder (GSB)' is displayed, featuring a sub-menu with 'Vorstufe', 'IT-Lösungen', 'Standardslösungen', and 'Government Site Builder (GSB)'. A small image of a person working on a computer is visible at the bottom.



The landing page features a circular logo with a network-like pattern. The text reads: 'Technologische Basis: 100 % Open Source ab Version 10'. Below this, a bulleted list highlights the following features:

- ✓ Leistungsstarke und voll integrierte Apache Solr-Volltextsuche
- ✓ Social Media-Integration über „Shariff“-Share-Leiste
- ✓ HTML 5 und CSS 3 konform, auf Basis des responsiven Frameworks „Foundation“



The page contains the following text:  
HIER GEHTS ZUM GSB  
Für Einrichtungen der Bundesverwaltung ist die Nutzung des GSB kostenfrei. Auch Behörden in Ländern und Kommunen können mit dem GSB arbeiten. Hier finden Sie alle Informationen zum Bezug.  
↗ SO KÖNNEN SIE DEN GSB BEZIEHEN



The form has the following fields and buttons:

- Input field for 'Benutzername' (Username) with placeholder '\_'
- Input field for 'Passwort' (Password)
- Buttons: 'Abbrechen' (Cancel) and 'Anmelden' (Login) in a blue box

„based on  
open source“

# Why is that?

Public administration still has little experience...

- ...with **public procurement** of free software
  - ...with **releasing own code as free software**
- little incentives to invest in existing free software      → little incentives to **release own code** and to **collaborate** on code

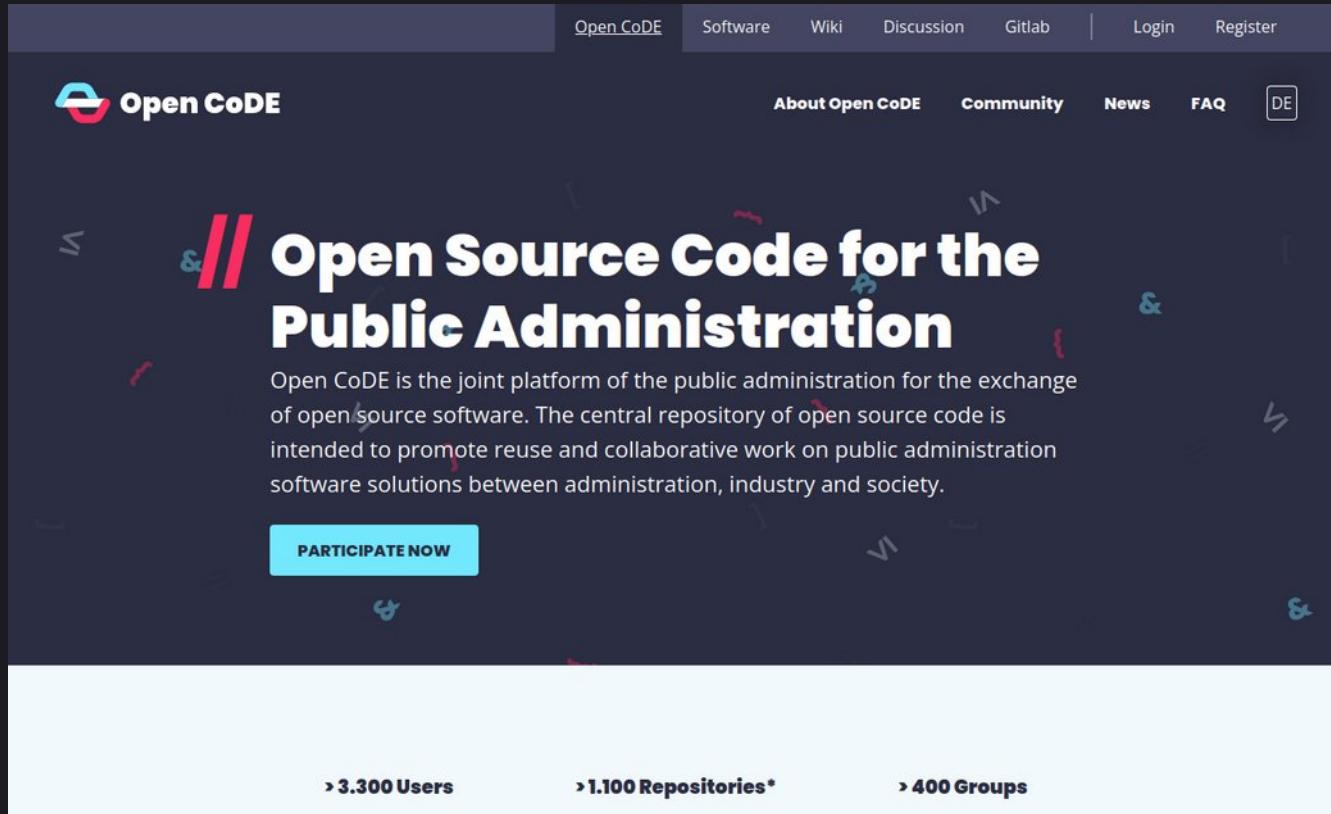
Application of the floss model **still heavily depends on individuals!**



Let's talk about wins!

February 2022

# Germany's OpenCoDE platform



The screenshot shows the homepage of the OpenCoDE platform. At the top, there is a dark header bar with the "Open CoDE" logo, navigation links for "Software", "Wiki", "Discussion", "Gitlab", and user options "Login" and "Register". Below the header, the main content area has a dark background with white and light blue abstract shapes. The title "Open Source Code for the Public Administration" is prominently displayed in large, bold, white font. A subtitle explains that Open CoDE is a joint platform for the exchange of open-source software between administration, industry, and society. A blue button labeled "PARTICIPATE NOW" is visible. At the bottom, three statistics are listed: "3.300 Users", "1.100 Repositories\*", and "400 Groups".

Open CoDE

About Open CoDE Community News FAQ DE

## & // Open Source Code for the Public Administration

Open CoDE is the joint platform of the public administration for the exchange of open source software. The central repository of open source code is intended to promote reuse and collaborative work on public administration software solutions between administration, industry and society.

PARTICIPATE NOW

> 3.300 Users    > 1.100 Repositories\*    > 400 Groups



publiccode.yml

# Germany got an OSPO!

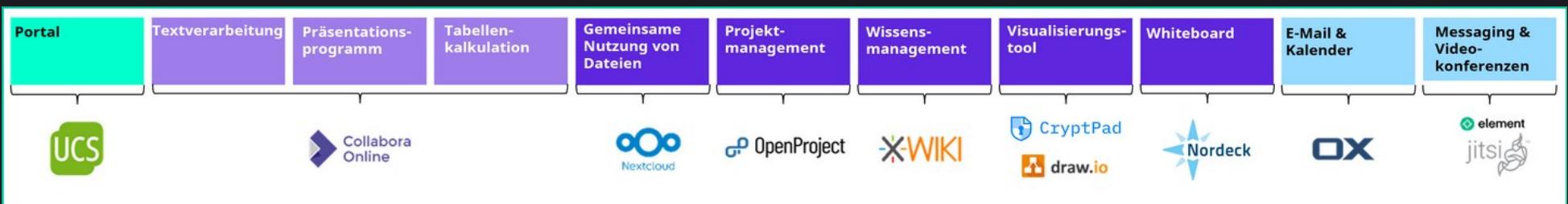
December 2022

**Zentrum  
Digitale  
Souveränität**

IT is a public good

# Open Desk

open**Desk**  
Der Souveräne Arbeitsplatz



<https://gitlab.opencode.de/bmi/opendesk>

# KoliBri

KoliBri Dokumentation Blog v1.6.0-rc.2 Bundesministerium der Finanzen

## KoliBri - Public UI

Die barrierefreie Web Component Bibliothek

Get Started - 5min Dokumentation

Informations  
Technik  
Zentrum Bund

Barrierefreier Standard

https://github.com/public-ui

theke für die Barrierefreiheit" und wurde vom  
zur Wiederverwendung und Weiterentwicklung freige-  
geben.

# KERN Design System



Topics: Design System Barrierefrei... Webcomponent + 2 more

Community-Arbeit rund um den KERN UX-Standard: Informationsaustausch, Planung und Durchführung von Treffen/Workshops/Konferenzen mit Interessierten und Aktiven.

## Quicklinks:

- Aktuell: [neues Diskussionsforum](#)
- Produktvision
- Unsere Werte
- Warum eigentlich Fach-Community und wie beteiligen?
- Code of Conduct

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**Herzlich Willkommen in der KERN Fach-Community!**

<https://gitlab.opencode.de/kern-designsystem>

Ihr könnt ihr euch jetzt im **KERN** Deutschland zum Thema UX-

tzer:innenzentrierte digitale

Verwaltungslösungen effizient zu entwickeln. Dies gelingt nur zusammen mit einer länderübergreifenden KERN Fach-Community, die von der Kommunal-

# opensource.muenchen.de

Munich Open Source

Home Use Improve Publish Overview Principles

ZA



Landeshauptstadt  
München

## Munich Open Source

### More transparency from our IT

Discover the open source projects developed,  
commissioned or sponsored by the City of  
Munich.



Use

The Free Software ecosystem offers



Improve

Not all free software can be used



Publish

If we cannot use or improve existing free

# National Documentation Portal

## Das Föderale Entwicklungsportal

Willkommen im Föderalen Entwicklungsportal, dem zentralen Ort für technische Dokumentation, Entwicklungsressourcen und Implementierungsbeispiele zu Standards und Schnittstellen der föderalen IT-Infrastruktur von Bund und Ländern.

[Zu den Entwicklungsressourcen](#)

<https://docs.fitko.de>



What does it take for free software  
to become the standard in  
public authorities?

# Challenge 1/3

- Release custom-built software
  - **regulation** is very important here
  - **FLOSS knowledge and skills** need to be built up in the administration



<https://publiccode.eu>

# Challenge 2/3

- FLOSS software procurement
  - spending money on Free Software related services needs to become easier
  - procurement law needs a reform



“10 % of hosting fee has to be **re-invested into development** of software + components (according to SBOM)”



# Challenge 3/3

- Statistics on Free Software
  - there are **hardly any statistics** on free software
  - **mandatory use of a searchable software catalog** would help

The screenshot shows the 'Software' section of the Developers Italia website. The page title is 'Software' and it describes the open source catalogue at the Public Administrations disposal. It features a grid of software projects:

- Most recent software:**
  - LibreOffice
  - GlobalLeaks
  - IO (Italian National Research Council)
- Most active projects:**
  - NextCloud Server
  - OpenProject
  - Audacity
  - IO
- Most virtuous administration:**
  - Regione Piemonte
  - UNIVERSITA' DELLA CALABRIA
  - Regione Emilia-Romagna
  - Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri



# Offene Verwaltung

Ressourcen zur Nutzung von Freier und Open-Source-Software in der öffentlichen Verwaltung.

## Warum Freie Software / Open Source?

Die öffentliche Verwaltung ist in ihrem Handeln an den Grundsatz der Wirtschaftlichkeit gebunden. Bei der Entwicklung von Software konkurrieren Behörden i.d.R. nicht untereinander, sondern können von ihren Bemühungen gegenseitig profitieren. Freie und Open-Source-Softwarelizenzen bilden einen standardisierten Rahmen für eine gemeinsame, wirtschaftliche Nutzung und Entwicklung von Software durch Behörden, Zivilgesellschaft und Industrie. Durch den Erwerb und Einsatz von Freier und Open-Source-Software reduziert die Verwaltung Abhängigkeiten zu einzelnen Unternehmen (sog. „Vendor Lock-In“). Behörden können sich durch Veröffentlichung von oder Mitarbeit an Freier und Open-Source-Software einen guten Ruf erarbeiten, was sich nicht zuletzt auch positiv auf die Bestrebungen zur Gewinnung von talentierten Fachkräften auswirken kann.

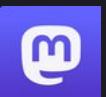
<https://codeberg.org/opengovtech/foss-verwaltung>

Hintergründen und  
mmunen – Ein

Baustein für mehr Digitale Souveränität: Bericht der Kommunalen Gemeinschaftsstelle für Verwaltungsmanagement (KGSt)

- Ankündigung von Do-FOSS dazu
- Strategische Marktanalyse zur Reduzierung von Abhängigkeiten von einzelnen Software-Anbietern ("Microsoft-Studie") des BMI
- Dokumentation Software-Rebellen - Die Macht des Teilens (ARTE)

# Thanks for listening!



@marco@darmstadt.social



@marcoh\_\_\_:tchncs.de



#egov-de:tchncs.de

# Usage and development of free software in governments

A) re-use existing  
free software

B) release own code  
as free software

# A) re-use existing free software



“10 % of hosting fee has to be **re-invested** to software development”



administration uses free software and **contributes back**

*“free software model”*

public administration uses proprietary software

*vendor lock-in*

Administration *uses* free software  
*no vendor lock-in*


# B) custom-built software

administration  
commissions software  
development,  
contractor retains full  
copyright

„release dumps“

coding in the open



administration claims  
full copyright but does  
not make use of it

multi-vendor strategy

collaborative  
software development

# More infos about German government IT

## awesome-egov-de

A curated list of resources on e-government in Germany.

Pull requests and feedback via issues welcome! Get in touch via the [matrix](#) chat at [#awesome-egov-de:chncs.de](#)

## opengovtech.de

### Communities

Places to ask questions and find other community resources.

- [eGov AfterWork meetup](#): monthly meetup of the [eGovernment Podcast](#) community
  - [Matrix chat](#)
  - [Twitter](#)
- [N3GZ Nachwuchsnetzwerk Digitale Verwaltung](#): junior network for people working in public administration, industry and science
  - [eGov-Wiki](#)
  - [mailing list](#)
  - [Twitter](#)
- [Code for Germany](#): civic tech open government network
  - [Twitter](#)
- [bund.dev](#): civic tech community that documents government APIs

# publiccode.yml

README.md

## The publiccode.yml Standard

A metadata description standard for public software that is easy to use both for developers and people with less technical background in order to make the software developed by Public Administrations and Public Organisations easily discoverable.

[release v0.3.0](#) [Slack channel #publiccode](#) [slack get invite](#)

[Charter](#) | [Voting procedure](#) | [Contributing](#)

### What this file is for

Many great software projects are developed by public administrations, however reuse of these projects is very limited. Some of the reasons for low uptake of such projects is a lack of discoverability and that it is hard to find out what project can actually work in the context of a different public administration.

The `publiccode.yml` file is meant to solve all those problems. It is an easily readable file for civil servants that are trying to figure out whether a project will work for them, and easily readable by computers as well. It contains information such as:

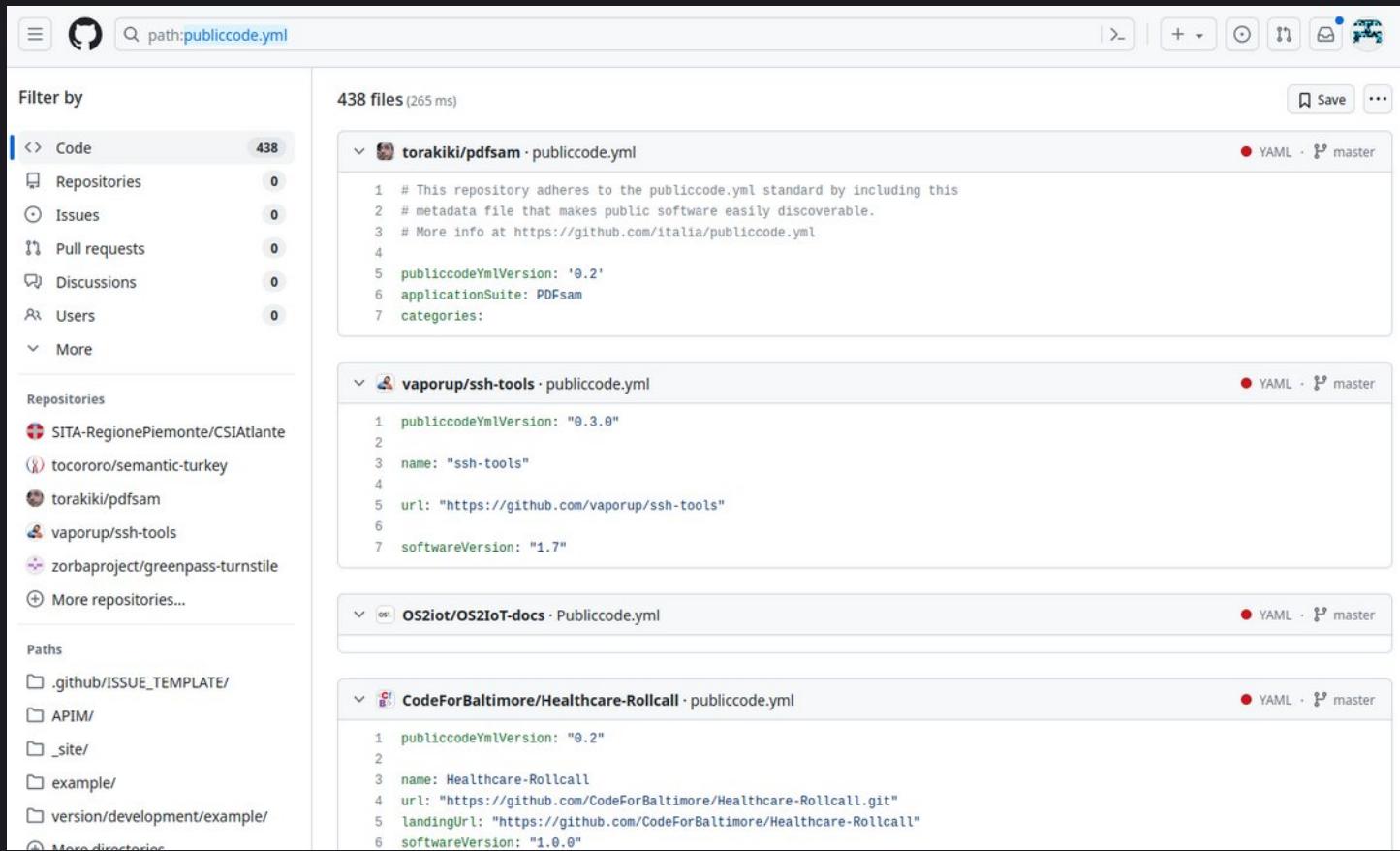
- the title and description of the project in English and/or other languages;
- the development status, e.g. `concept`, `development`, `beta`, `stable`, `obsolete`;
- which organisation developed the project;
- who is caring for the maintenance and when this expires;
- who to contact for technical or support inquiries;
- what national and local legal frameworks the project is designed for;
- what software dependencies the project has.

Code Blame 70 lines (65 loc) · 1.86 KB

Raw

```
1  # This repository adheres to the publiccode.yml standard by including this
2  # metadata file that makes public software easily discoverable.
3  # More info at https://github.com/italia/publiccode.yml
4
5  publiccodeYmlVersion: '0.2'
6  categories:
7    - document-management
8    - digital-citizenship
9  dependsOn:
10    open:
11      - name: JsonForms
12        optional: false
13        version: ''
14        versionMax: ''
15        versionMin: 2.5.0
16  description:
17    it:
18      features:
19        - QR code generation
20        genericName: Web form suite
21        longDescription: |
22          FormPA evita l'esperienza dei PDF al cittadino trasformandoli in semplici
23          form WEB
```

# publiccode.yml



A screenshot of a GitHub search results page for the query "path:publiccode.yml". The results show four repositories that contain a "publiccode.yml" file:

- torakiki/pdfsam** · publiccode.yml (YAML · master)

```
1 # This repository adheres to the publiccode.yml standard by including this
2 # metadata file that makes public software easily discoverable.
3 # More info at https://github.com/italia/publiccode.yml
4
5 publiccodeYmlVersion: '0.2'
6 applicationSuite: PDFsam
7 categories:
```
- vaporup/ssh-tools** · publiccode.yml (YAML · master)

```
1 publiccodeYmlVersion: "0.3.0"
2
3 name: "ssh-tools"
4
5 url: "https://github.com/vaporup/ssh-tools"
6
7 softwareVersion: "1.7"
```
- OS2iot/OS2IoT-docs** · Publiccode.yml (YAML · master)
- CodeForBaltimore/Healthcare-Rollcall** · publiccode.yml (YAML · master)

```
1 publiccodeYmlVersion: "0.2"
2
3 name: Healthcare-Rollcall
4 url: "https://github.com/CodeForBaltimore/Healthcare-Rollcall.git"
5 landingUrl: "https://github.com/CodeForBaltimore/Healthcare-Rollcall"
6 softwareVersion: "1.0.0"
```

The left sidebar shows filters for Code (438 results), Repositories (0), Issues (0), Pull requests (0), Discussions (0), Users (0), and More. It also lists repositories like SITA-RegionePiemonte/CSIAtlante and vaporup/ssh-tools, and paths like .github/ISSUE\_TEMPLATE/.

# publiccode.yml

Softwareverzeichnis

Entwicklungsstand ▼

Plattform ▼

Kategorie ▲

- Abrechnung und Rechnungserstellung
- Buchhaltung
- Agiles Projektmanagement
- Anwendungsentwicklung
- Asset-Management
- Aufgabenmanagement
- Sicherung
- Beschaffung
- Besuchermanagement

OSS-Allowlist ▼

Suche... Sortieren ▾



**Open Source Rep.. > ✓**

Open Source Repository



**bayernID-Plugin.. > ⓘ**

Plugin für Keycloak/RH-SSO zur Anbindung der BayernID.



**BvC - Kubernetes.. > ⓘ**

IG BvC - Konformitätstest



# Are we FLOSS yet?

Thoughts about FLOSS in Germany's  
administration

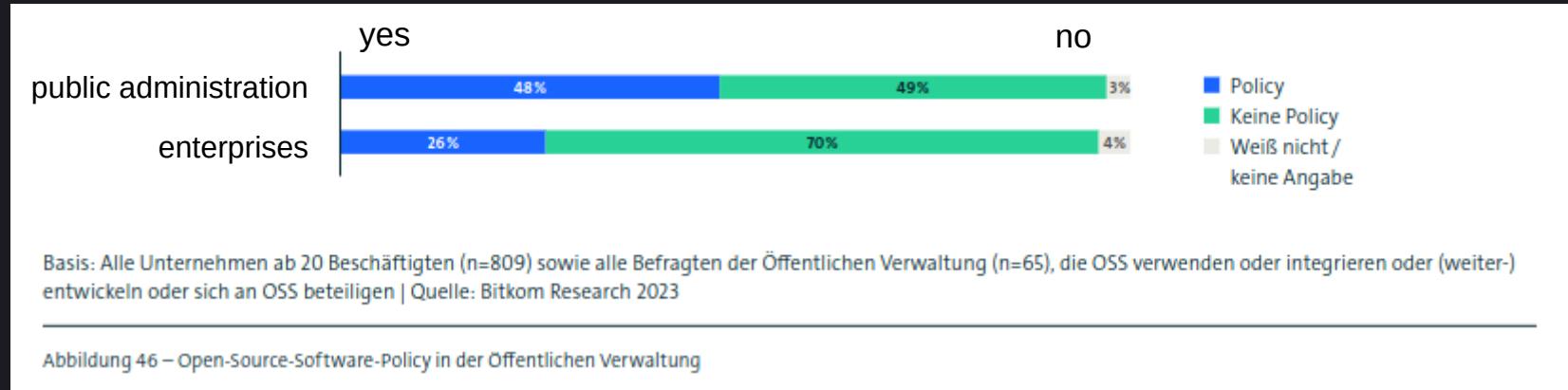
# What is your organization's / company's general position on OSS?

September 2023



bitkom Open-Source-Monitor 2023

# Does your organization / company have an OSS policy?



„It is important that software with a standardized SBOM is delivered.“

