

# **Open sourcing democracy**

**Using FLOSS and Access To Information to  
surface bugs in your government**

# Getting in touch

- MaDada.fr
- @laurents:fsfe.org
- laurent@where.tf
- Laurents on git things
- alaveteli.org

# Access To Information (ATI)

- Aka. FOI, FOIA, ATD...
- Ask the State / government / ...
- Maybe get an answer :)
- A debugger for government

# ATI laws around the world

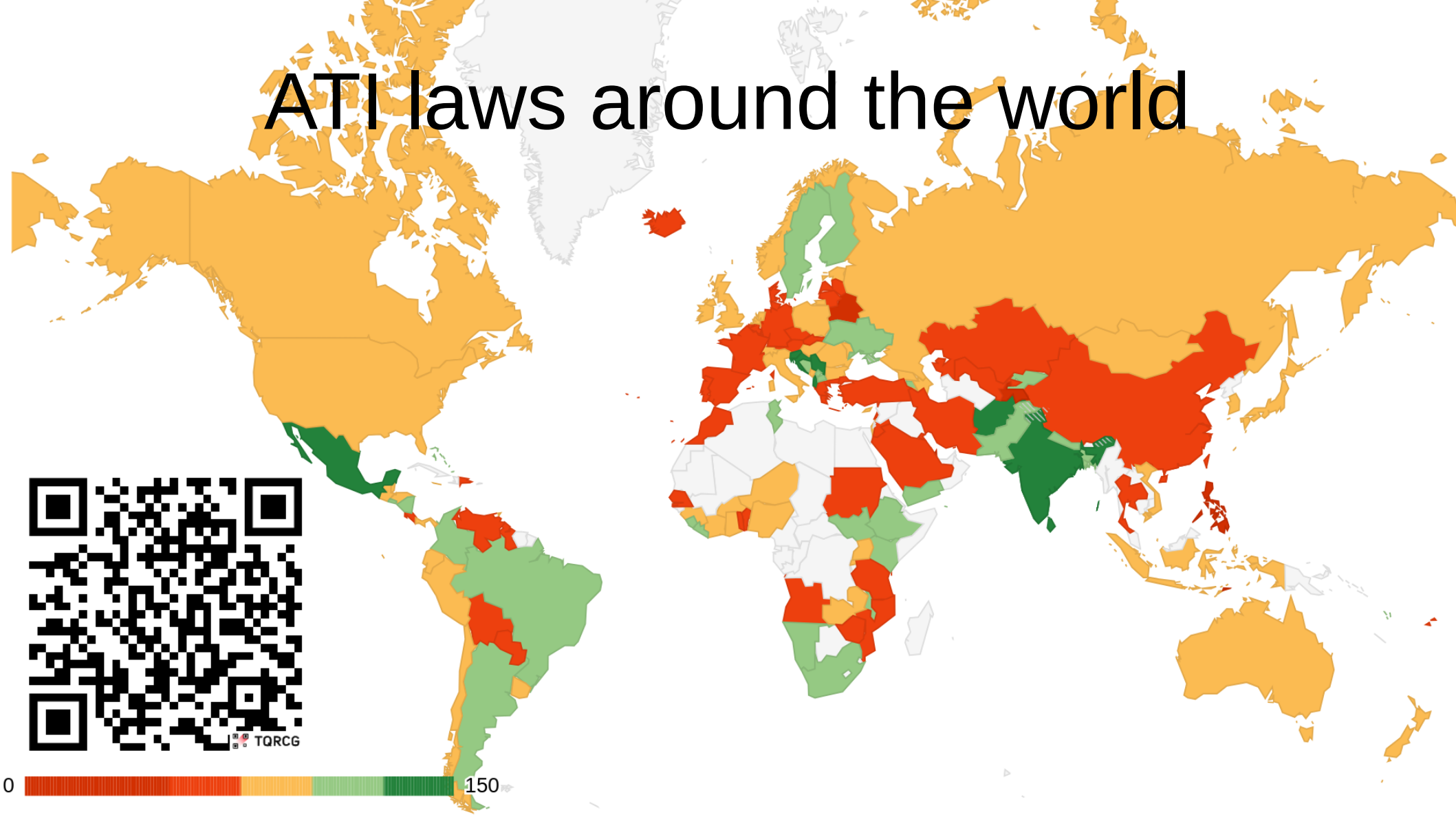


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# Alaveteli

- Web app
- Simplify requests
- Make the process public
- Just a GUI: ATI works **without** Alaveteli



# Alaveteli – tech

- Born 2007, Ruby-on-Rails web app
- Postgresql / redis / postfix|exim / opendkim / dovecot / rspamd...
- A lot of emails

The code →

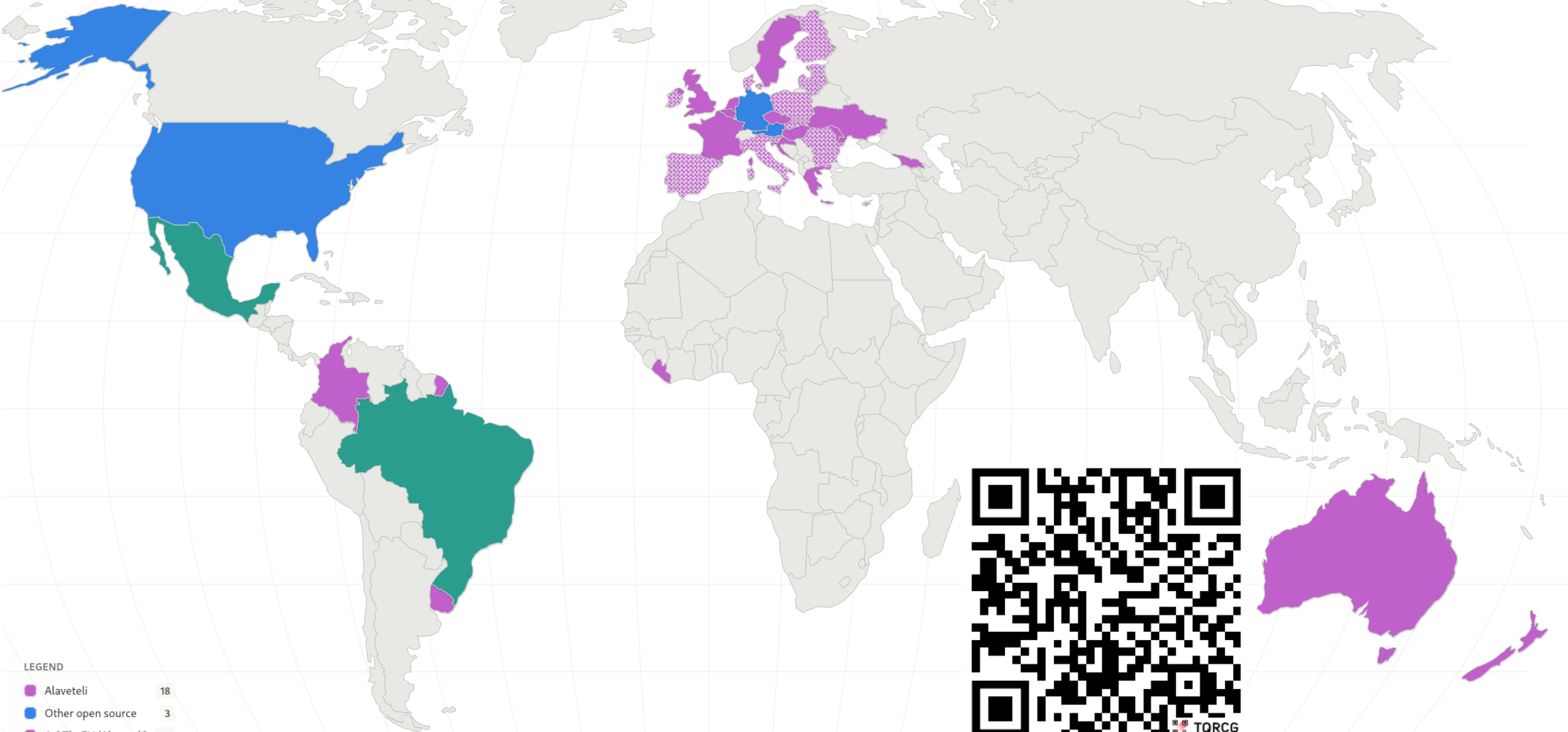


# The future

- Easier GDPR compliance (thanks NGI0!)
- World class search
- Statistics
- More automation
- Nix packaging



# Alaveteli in the world



## LEGEND

- Alaveteli 18
- Other open source 3
- AskTheEU (Alaveteli) 27
- State run portals 2



# A bug in your government?

- Money
- Decisions
- Missing data

# Bugs found with ATI

- Post Office Horizon scandal
- France 2025, mayor expenses
- Video surveillance in Belgium
- EU lobbying against action on PFAS



# Bugs that are harder to track

- Exceptions to the laws
  - GDPR
  - Business secrecy
  - National security

# Bugs for FOSDEM attendees

- Cost of software used by your government
- Source code for various apps, sites, tools
- GDPR assessments for official apps

# Beyond software

- anything that the State takes care of
  - Environment
  - Health
  - Education
  - Transportation
  - Security
  - ...

# Why it matters

- Our rights only wear out if we don't use them
- AI, fake news, distrust in government
- Defend our democracies

# Thank you!

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Find your country here

