

Do translations make us happy? How localization builds open source communities

FOSDEM - 1st of February 2026
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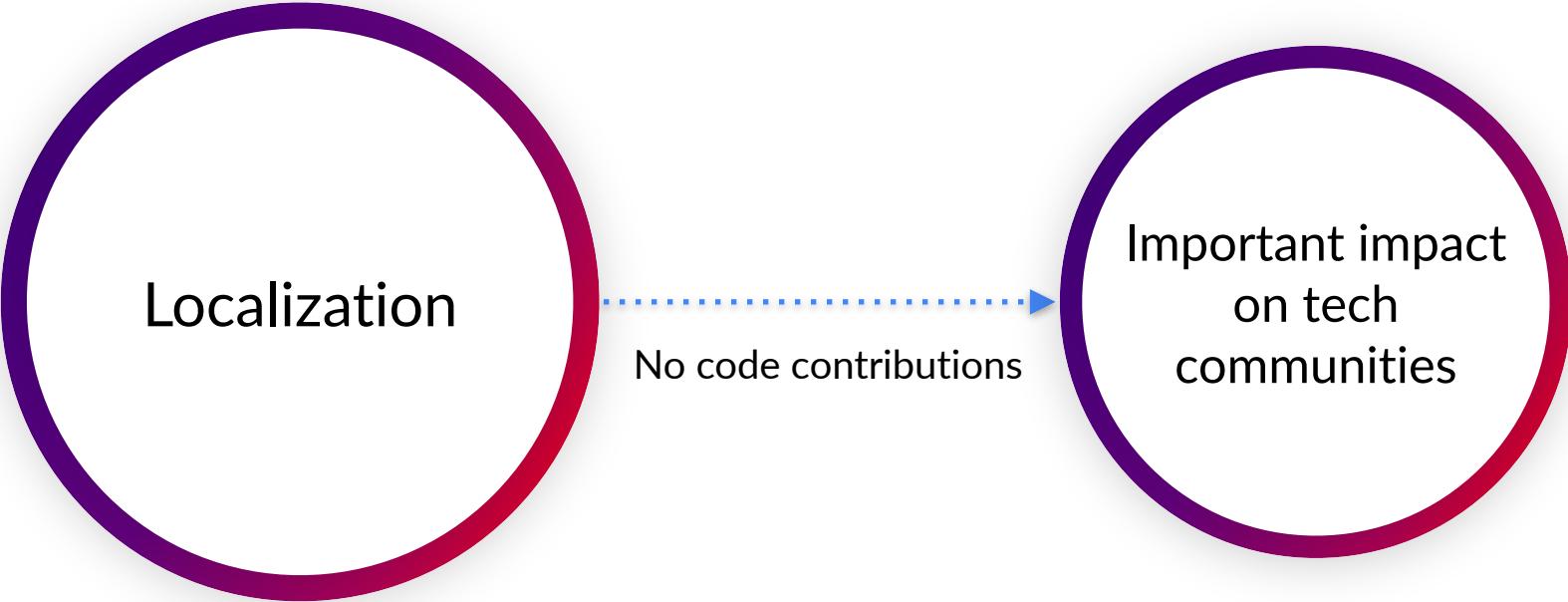


OpenTelemetry member and contributor

Cloud Native Days Romania organizer

Co-lead CNCF Merge-Forward Neurodiversity

Diana Todea
DX@VictoriaMetrics | Observability
SME | OpenTelemetry docs localizatio...



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graph LR; A((Localization)) -- "No code contributions" --> B((Important impact  
on tech  
communities))
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Localization

No code contributions

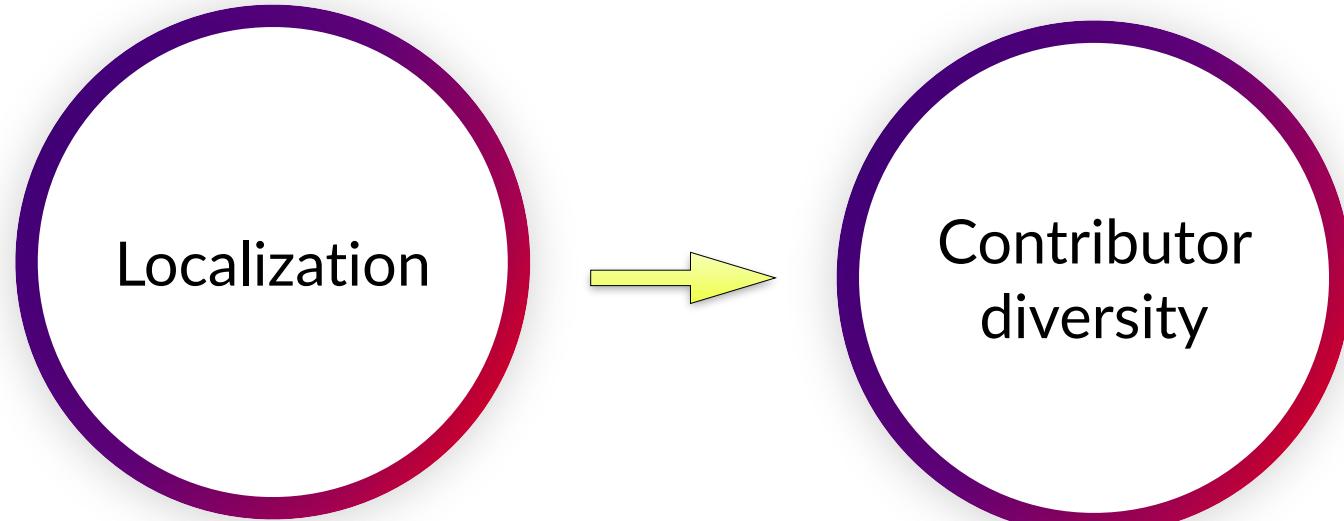
Important impact
on tech
communities



Localization

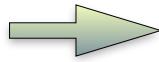
- Derives from documentation projects
- Sits at the intersection between Developer Productivity+OSS sustainability+global contributor growth
- Not owned by a specific team (not DevEx, Comms, Documentation)
- Used for scaling no code contributions
- Very popular within first time OSS contributors
- Addresses a gap in the documentation: reduce errors in native languages, remove English-first developer experience





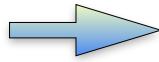
CNCF projects

Kubernetes

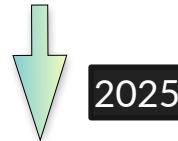


15 languages in total

OpenTelemetry



9 languages in total



2025

- 74,825 lines of translated content
- 483 localized files
- 523 localization-specific commits
- 65 unique contributors across languages



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Localization introduces standardization

- Standardize tooling and workflows
- Provide one translation platform
- Helps sustain and scale documentation in developers' native language
- Translation becomes an automated workflow
- Localization creates and sustains an entire community: technical writers, polyglots, developers embracing accessibility and inclusivity
- Feedback on documentation is a lot more efficient based on localization efforts



Docs

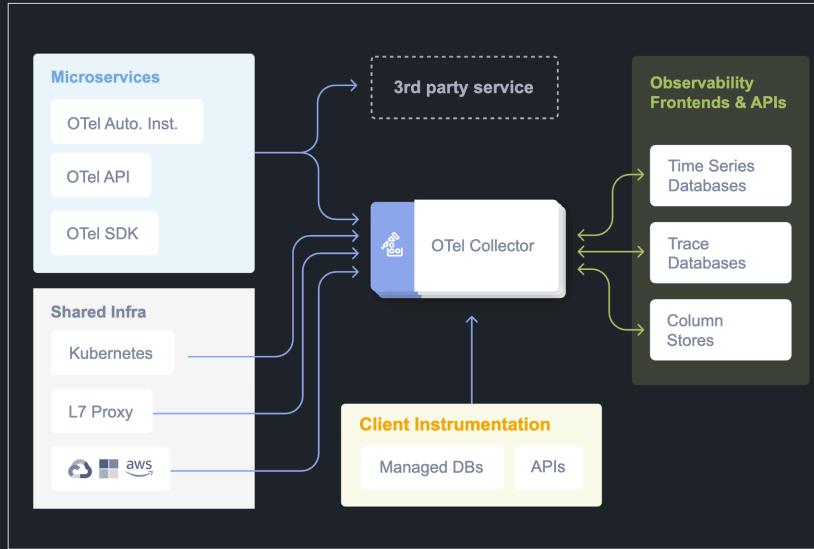
Ce este OpenTelemetry?

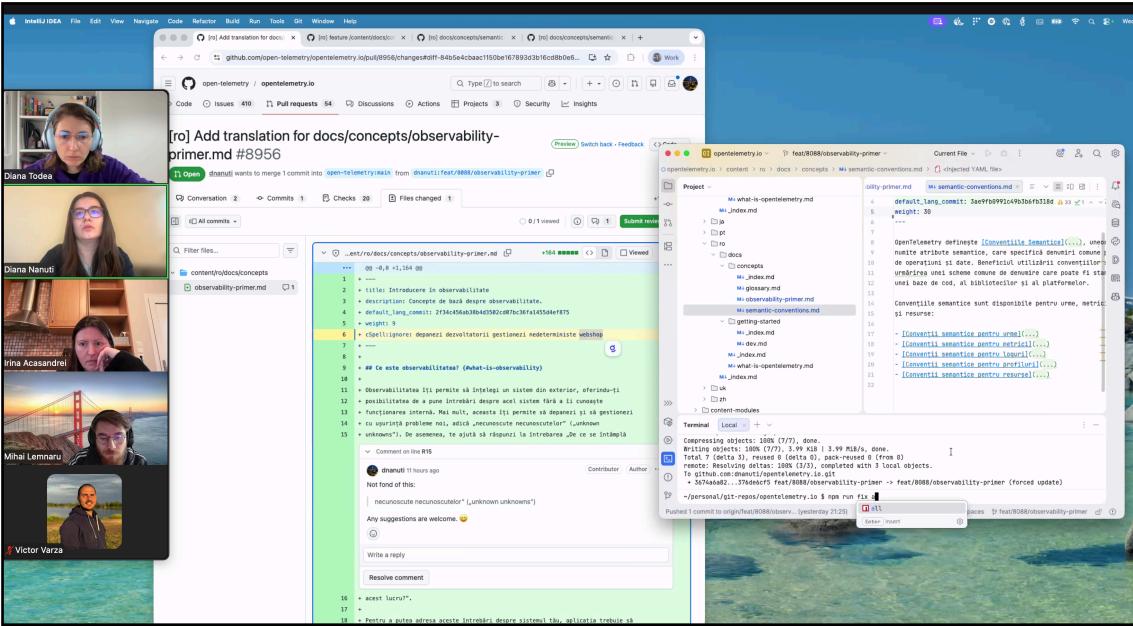
- ▶ Notiuni de bază
- ▶ Concepts
- ▶ Demo
- ▶ Language APIs & SDKs
- ▶ Platforms
- ▶ Zero-code Instrumentation
- ▶ Collector
- ▶ Migration
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Contributing

Documentație

OpenTelemetry, de asemenea cunoscut ca OTel, este o arhitectură de [Observabilitate](#) open source neutră față de furnizori folosită pentru instrumentarea, generarea, colectarea și exportul de date de telemetrie cum ar fi [urmări](#), [metrii](#), și [jurnale](#).

Ca standard industrial, OpenTelemetry este [susținut de peste 90 de furnizori de observabilitate](#), integrat de numeroase [biblioteci, servicii, și aplicații](#), și adoptat de [numeroși utilizatori finali](#).





CNCF Slack:
#otel-localization-ro



Start contributing to OTEL

What next for localization?

- Better automated workflows: integration with AI and search
- Expand the communities around localization: attract more new contributors
- Prioritize localization within OSS communities
- Organize more specific knowledge transfer
- Add observability around localization projects and their impact
- Directly involve the non-English speaking OSS communities in providing feedback



Take-aways

- Create a safe and welcoming space for new OSS contributors
- Explain technical and non-technical concepts to new contributors
- Create best-practice workflows for localization
- Create recurring meetings for the SIG
- Allow and embrace different opinions on specific localization content
- Motivate the community and gather feedback on the created content



Resources

<https://kubernetes.io/docs/contribute/localization/>

<https://opentelemetry.io/docs/contributing/localization/>

<https://opentelemetry.io/blog/2026/2025-year-in-review/>

CNCF Slack: #otel-docs-localization, #sig-docs-localizations

Thank you!

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