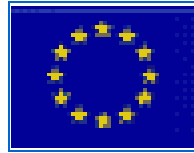


::: About tOSSad



tOSSad project (www.tossad.org) aims to improve the outcome of F/OSS communities throughout Europe by supporting the coordination and networking of these communities by means of state-of-the-art studies, national program initiations, usability cases and curriculum development.

::: tOSSad partners



tOSSad is a truly European project - it has members from all over Europe, including Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Belgium, Estonia, UK, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Malta, Norway, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine.

::: tOSSad workshop has been held in Como



tOSSad project hold a "tOSSad workshop" featuring more than 16 seminars in 5 distinct sections in Como, Italy on June 10, 2006. Workshop proceedings book with more than 140 copies has also been published and distributed to more than 75 participants. During the workshop activities, more than 300 3-fold leaflets have been handed to attendees.

Also, tOSSad Workpackage 4 partners have gathered in the context of "tOSSad workshop on governmental, educational, usability, and legal issues towards open source software adoption in an enlarged Europe". The "2nd Workshop on F/OSS in Education" was held with the aim to discuss and assess a roadmap for developing a vendor neutral F/OSS curriculum (with shared objectives, prerequisites, goals,

suggestions). The focus of the workshop was on finding the best F/OSS training and learning methodologies and systems, discussing issues and possibilities while developing F/OSS curricula for K12s, NGOs, youth empowerment centers, university graduate and post graduate studies.

::: New report online: Usability test of Linux

In this report, tOSSad workpackage 3 (F/OSS usability study), partners have tested 28 subjects (the focus group) in order to analyse the usability issues of the open source office suite, OpenOffice.org 2.0. Our work focused on interviewing and timing the test subjects as they complete a predefined given test schema. Analysis of the data has allowed a more complete picture of user interactions with the OpenOffice.org software suite to be presented. The report can be downloaded from tOSSad web page [1].

::: Paper submission in eChallenges

A paper by Manon van Leeuwen, Julia Velkova, and Bülent Özel titled "How to avoid the transformation of barriers to OSS adoption in Public Administration into barriers for regional development" has been accepted and will be presented at eChallenges 2006 to be held between 25-27 October 2006 Barcelona, Spain. e-Challenges is an annual conference supported by the European Commission and regularly attracts over 550 delegates from leading commercial, government and research organisations around the world to share knowledge, experiences, lessons learnt and good practices.

::: tOSSad at Wizards of OS

tOSSad is a partner of Wizards of OS 4 Conference [2] and will have a joint booth with Public Voice Lab (PVL) in Berlin, Germany between 14-16 September, 2006. Moreover PVL will also make a speech about tOSSad project as well. See you in Wizards of OS Conference!

::: tOSSad interview: Catalonia Government and Open Source

We had the chance to interview Mr. Carlos González Calderón head of the Technical Office of FLOSS of the Secretariat of the Information Society of FLOSS of the Government of Catalonia.

“Our task is to coordinate the actions for a normal process to populate FLOSS as new technological opportunity for Open Information and Knowledge Society”



Catalonia leading the OSS revolution

By Lennart Kiil, Science Journalist and Msc. (ZenSCI.com)

The efforts by Catalonia to adopt Open Source Software in all sectors of society are so thorough that they can easily serve to inspire other countries wishing to change to Free Software. Catalonia's strategy is holistic and reach from translation of seminal books by pioneer authors like Lawrence Lessig to training of personnel and actual implementation.

The change from proprietary software to free / open source software is a long process. Fundamentally it is about creating an environment that is receptive to F/OSS. This means creating a culture around the purely technical aspects of the change, explains Carlos González Calderón, who is one of the architects behind the Catalanian transition.

“In fact, we have made sure that all major books in the field are available in Catalan. For example Lawrence Lessig's Free Culture and many others. We are also overseeing a Creative Commons big Jazz production – a World First, we believe.”, he says.

These steps will help to create a positive spirit of change and an understanding of the sharing philosophy of F/OSS among the personnel. For whom the transition otherwise would simply entail new software including the nuisance of having to learn it.

“The creation of an active, enthusiastic and welcoming spirit amongst Personnel is the key and also one of the biggest challenges”, says Carlos.



The practical work starts with the public administrations to serve as a good example of adopting F/OSS. The PA project has been going on for two years in more than a thousand municipalities. From there it will be extended into the educational sector and finally to the business sector and civil society. Carlos stresses that dialogue is very important in the extension, but also internally in the Public Administration:

“There is a lot to be learnt from feedback we get Voluntary collaboration is at the heart of OSS so dialogue is essential to a successful implementation.”

Developments in the Educational sector are already seeing a lot of progress with a school pilot

project seeing this September – preparation and training has been ongoing for more than a year now.

Currently the Free Software adoption project is seeing an overwhelming amount of political goodwill and support. That is nice. Ultimately though, F/OSS must be able to stand on its merits. And it can.

“Political support is good to have, but we want to stress that many aspects of changing to OSS are in fact independent of fluctuating political climates. OSS has the advantage economically, regardless of who happens to be in political power”, Carlos tells us.

This is an important lesson for all involved to learn, especially politicians. If this is not realized, and F/OSS is just seen as an opportunity to profile your political party, the risk of losing large investments is very serious.

As Open-Source and Creative Commons get more widespread into Civil Society we can expect some confusion on legal aspects. This is one thing Carlos would like to see addressed in a more proactive manner.

“We do not really have a legal body that is prepared for this at a large scale. This is something we must address – starting at the University Law courses”, Carlos explains.

So although the legal issues are part of the general framework it is important to give this particular aspect some more consideration as F/OSS settles into the less rigid, less governed and less self-sufficient Civil Society.

The interview was sponsored by CONSEN Euro-Group IST/OS cluster (CONSEN.org), tOSSad EU-FP6 project (tOSSad.org) and zenSCI scientific web-news company (ZENCI.com).

Links:

[1] <http://www.tossad.org/tossad/publications>

[2] <http://www.wizards-of-os.org>

**Keep an eye on tOSSad activities!
“Your tOSSad team”**

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info@tossad.org](mailto:info@tossad.org)

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