



Community frameworks and governance

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Context & Definitions



What is an OSPO?

An OSPO (Open Source Program Office) is a team, or person, supporting, managing and promoting open source best practices within an organisation.

As open source is omnipresent, OSPOs become increasingly common in the industry, in the public sector, and in the academic world.

Defining and implementing a consistent strategy, from **usage** to **contributions** and **participation**.

Ultimately, make open source a strategic asset of the organisation.

The OSPO Alliance



- **Founded in 2021** by 4 not-for-profit European organisations.
 - Now with approx. 50 members.
 - Low barrier entry, no fees, no commitment, vendor-neutral.
- **Goals:**
 - Provides a safe place for OSPOs to exchange ideas, assets, share experiences.
 - Promote OSPOs and open source best practices in events and groups.
- Hosts various initiatives:
 - The **Good Governance Handbook**.
 - The **FLOSS-PSO network** (for Public Sector OSPOs).

Roles of an OSPO



- **Establish streamlined processes**

Provide easy, straightforward answers and solutions.

- For procurement – the open source you use.
- For publication – the open source you produce.
- Well-documented established processes for collaboration.
- Document acceptable licences, rights and duties.
- Ultimate goal for contributions: **yes by default**.

- **General awareness & education**

Work with the whole organisation to **align policy, processes and communication**.

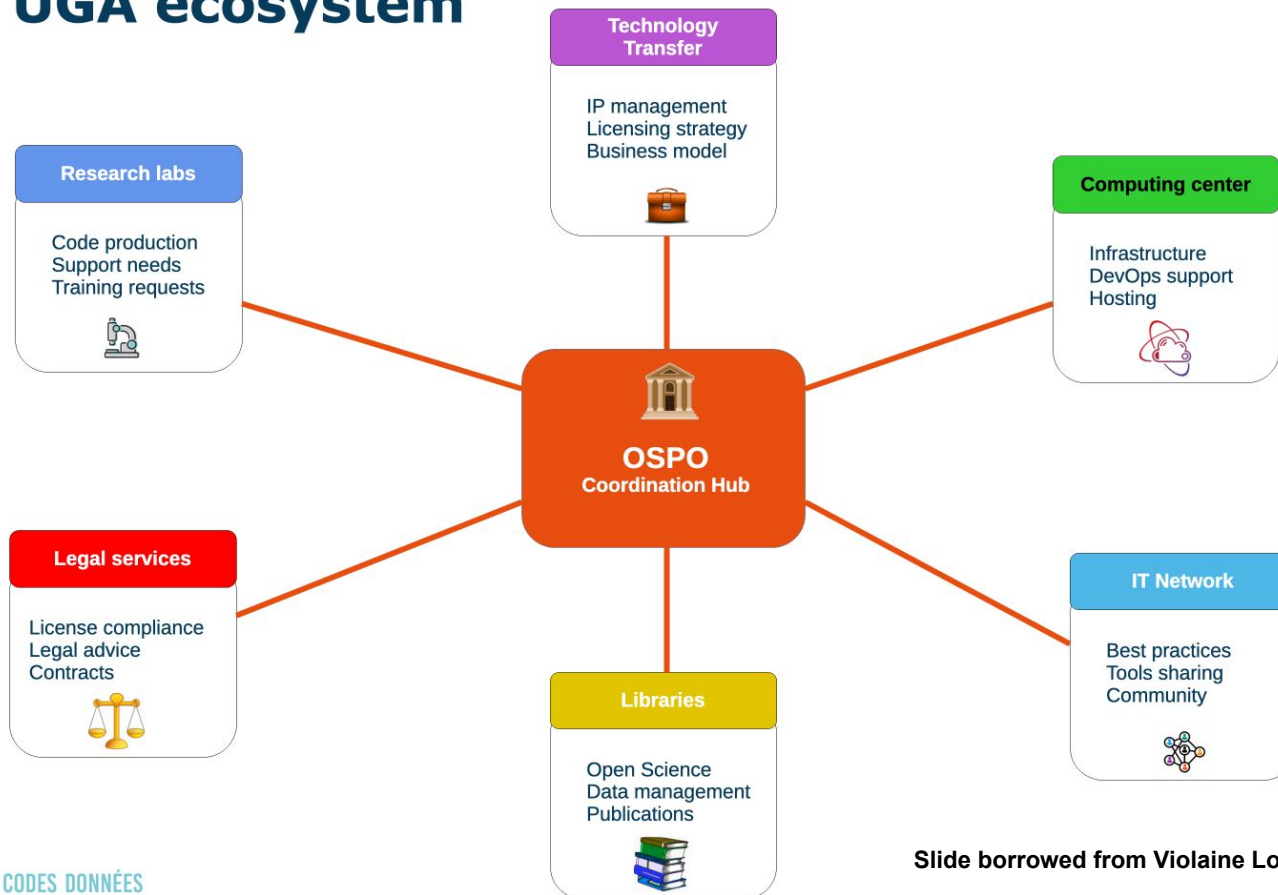
- Make the link with the legal, marketing, IT, support..
- Get **executive support** to ensure sustainability of the initiative
- Access to trainings, educational material, FAQs..

Roles of an OSPO – 2/2



- **Community building and dissemination**
 - Harness the power of community!
 - Open source is about a lot more than the source code.
 - Foster a diverse community to make research widely used.
- **Start the discussion on interoperability and cross-fertilisation**
 - Work on tools – reduce lock-in by using standards, open protocols and platforms.
 - Work on formats – e.g. Open Document.
- **Communication**
 - Publish an **official policy** to state the organisation's commitment.
 - Power up your reputation and reach, attract talents.

OSPO UGA ecosystem



Slide borrowed from Violaine Louvet, UGA OSPO

You are not alone



- **In-house knowledge and skills**

Universities and research labs have been involved in open source from the start.

- **Networks of peers and friends**

CURIOSS, OSPO Alliance, Eclipse Foundation, Apache Foundation, Apero Foundation. Bring experience, skills, facilities, and established communities (dev/users). Can help with industrialisation of new technologies.

- **Extensive documentation and resources on OSPOs**

- Online communities and resources.
- Conferences & workshops.
- OnRamp sessions – <https://ospo-alliance.org/onramp>
- The Good Governance Handbook from the OSPO Alliance

The Good Governance Initiative



Published by the **OSPO Alliance**, the **Good Governance Handbook** is your one-step shop:

- A **method and framework** to help organisations **plan and build their OSPO**.
 - For any shape and size of organisation (private, public, ngos..).
 - Practical, field-tested guidelines and recommendations.
- Provides **25 activities** to plan and act, step by step.
 - From scratch (do you have any OSS, really?) to mastery (it's a strategic asset).
 - With description, opportunity assessment, tools, resources, practical hints.
 - Comes as a template, to be adapted to your context.
 - Comes as a deployable project in GitLab or GitHub.
- Freely available – <https://ospo-alliance.org/ggi> (HTML, PDF)
- Has been translated in 8+ languages (FR, DE, NL, IT, ES, PT, Zh_Hans, Zh_Hant).



Thank you!

Foundations – services



IP Management



Marketing



Specification
Development



Community
Management



IT Infrastructure



OSS Development
Guidance

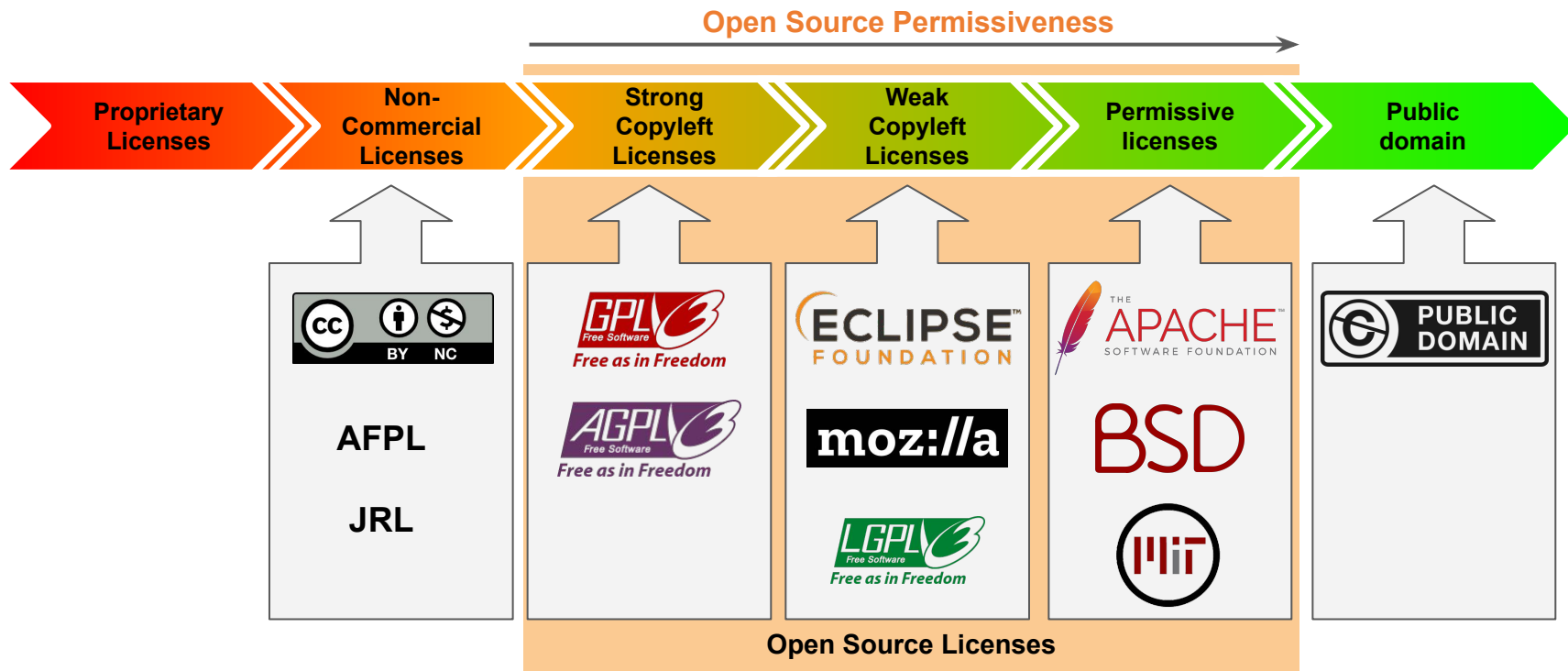


External
Contracting



Research projects
dissemination

The License Spectrum



Open Source is Innovation at an Industrial Scale

Requirements
& Use Cases



Competition

Commercial Adopters focus resources on rapidly building differentiating features

Value Line

Product-Ready
Technologies



Collaboration

Technology Producers jointly define roadmap and build core capabilities



Governance

The Eclipse Foundation provides an open, vendor-neutral environment to enable collaboration

20€+
billion

of shared
investment
to date

Foundations: A Guardian of the commons



**No unwanted change
in licencing**

E.g. Terraform, Redis,
Sentry, MongoDB..



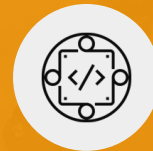
**We host the code
and collaboration
tools**

No disruption of
hosting or access



**We hold the
trademark**

The name is bound
to the project.
Forever.



Enforce governance

Vendor Neutral,
Open, Transparent.
No bypass.

Define an Open Source Governance

By following Ostrom 8 "**design principles**" of stable local **Common Pool Resource** management:

- Clearly defined **boundaries**;
- Rules** adapted to local conditions;
- Open** decision-making **process**;
- Effective **monitoring**;
- A scale of graduated sanctions;
- Cheap and **easy conflict** resolution;
- Self-determination** of the community;
- Multiple nested layers for scalability.



(Aug. 7, 1933 – Jun. 12, 2012)