



Institutional implementation. Setting up an OSPO: lessons from the field

European Informatics Leaders Summit 2025

Grenoble Alpes University



- **Students**

- 57,000 students, including 11,000 international students
- 150 nationalities

- **Staff**

- 10,500 employees including 2,550 from national research organizations

- **Research**

- 69 research centers and 1 teaching hospital
- All scientific disciplines
- 2,900 doctoral students

- **Synergies between research and industry**

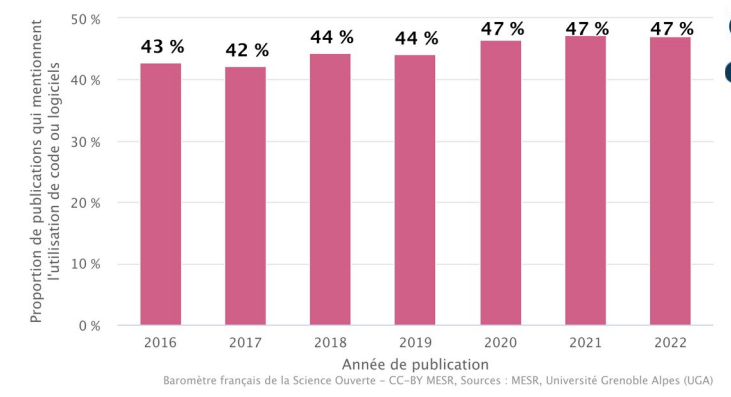
- **International laboratories and instruments** : ESRF, ILL, EMBL, GHMFL, IRAM
- **National research organizations** : CNRS, CEA, Inria, Inserm, INRAE, CRSSA, IRD, CHU Grenoble Alpes
- **Major companies** : Sun Microsystems, HP, Orange, STMicroelectronics, Schneider Electric, Alstom, Xerox, Thales...



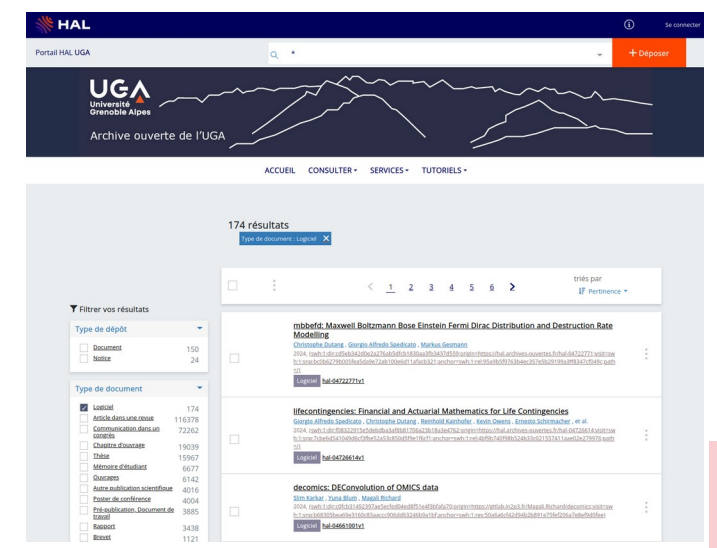
Research Software @UGA

- Some metrics of the **importance of software development** activity in laboratories
 - ▶ 174 software notices in the UGA's Open Archive Portal
 - ▶ 11000 users, 20000 projects (2600 public ones) on the gitlab forge of the university
 - ▶ Only about **40 % of the public projects** with software have a **licence!!**
 - ▶ Nearly half of all publications mention the use of software

Université Grenoble Alpes (UGA) : Proportion de publications de l'université Grenoble Alpes qui mentionnent l'utilisation de code ou logiciels par année de publication

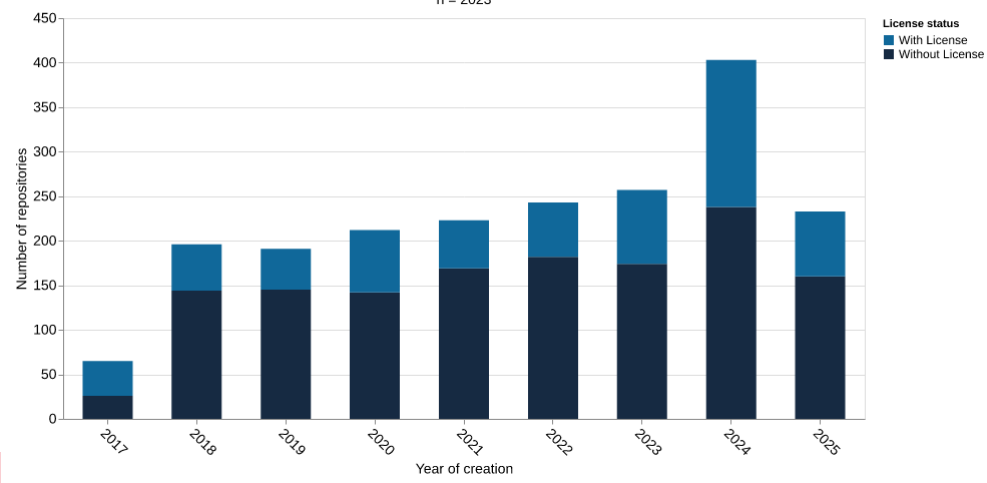


Open Science Barometer of UGA

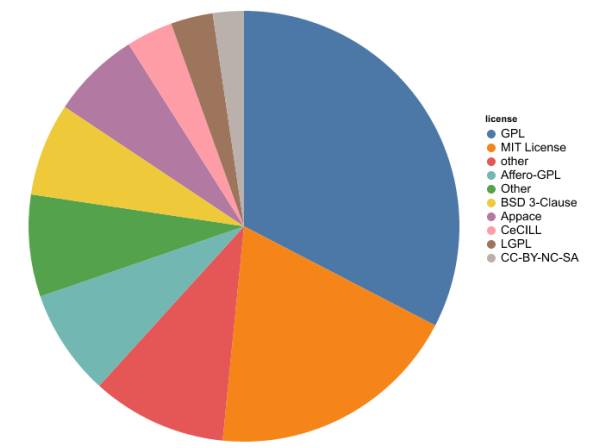


Open Archive Portal of the University

Number of public repositories by year of creation with and without a license n = 2023



Most frequently used licences in public repositories 25% of repositories have a license



Open Research Software Monitor at UGA

Needs of scientific communities

Diverse and Recurring Needs

- Frequently raised in discussions (mailing lists, workshops, conferences, professional networks ...)
- **Legal concerns:** which license to choose, who to contact, etc.
- Support needs **for software valorization:** APP (European organization for the protection of authors and publishers of digital creations) registration, consortium building, etc.
- **Technical challenges:** which forge to use, where to host private runners, etc.
- **Community building:** supporting the creation and animation of software communities, governance setup, IP guidance
- Need for **institutional contact points** and resource persons
- **Tools and services** with related training: static code analysis, license identification for included pieces of software, etc.
- A **clear and strong institutional position** on open-source software

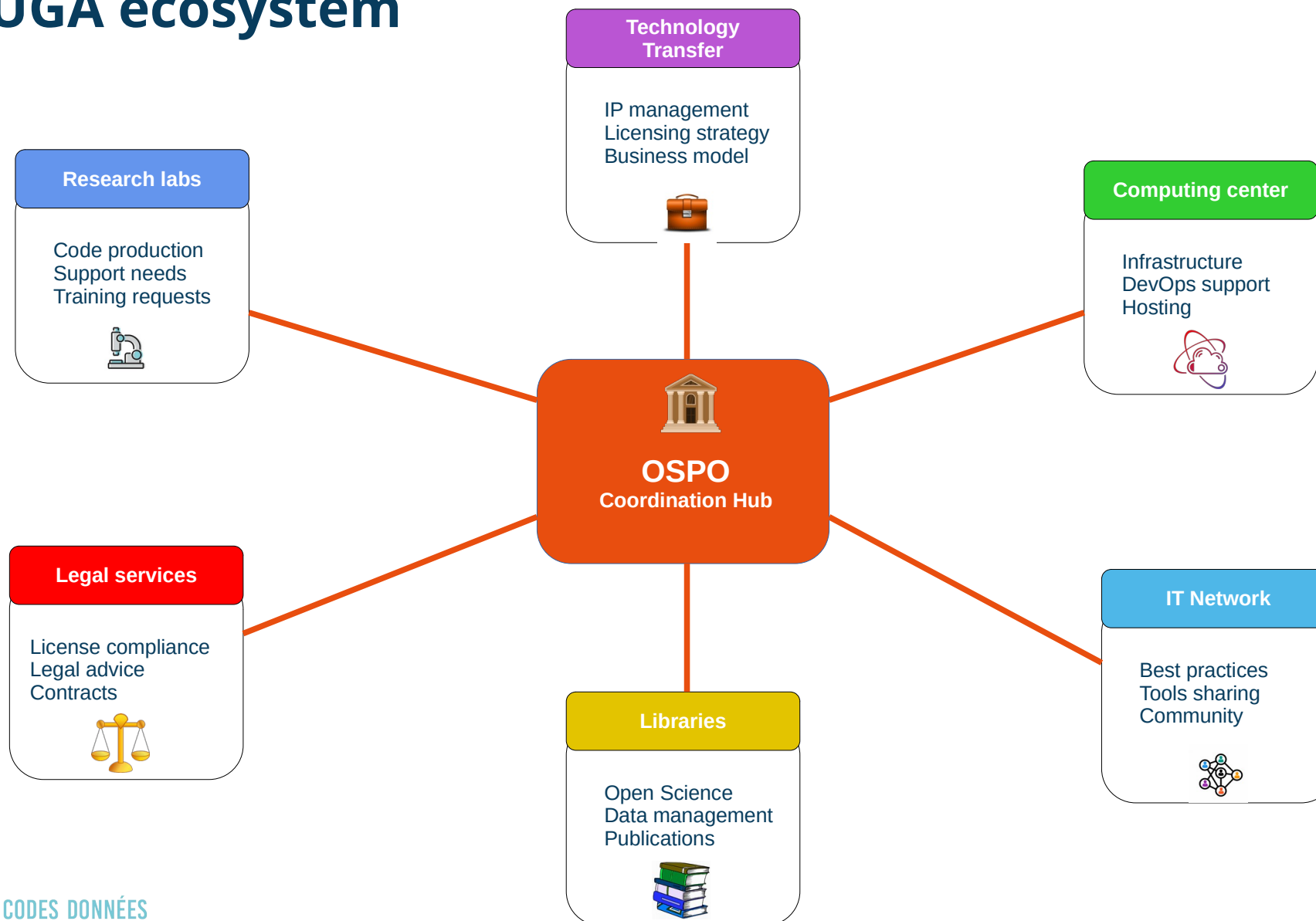
■ Academic OSPO

- **CURIOSS** (Community for University and Research Institution OSPOs) Definition:

An academic OSPO is defined as an organizational construct, situated in an academic research institution, supported by one or more individuals that acts as a convener, community steward, and center of competency for open source software.

- OSPOs are quite common in **large companies**, and also increasingly so in public administrations.
- But **emerging in academic area**.
- **@UGA**: Support for the software has been available for many years, particularly within the framework of the supercomputing centre.

OSPO UGA ecosystem



OSPO@UGA : implementation

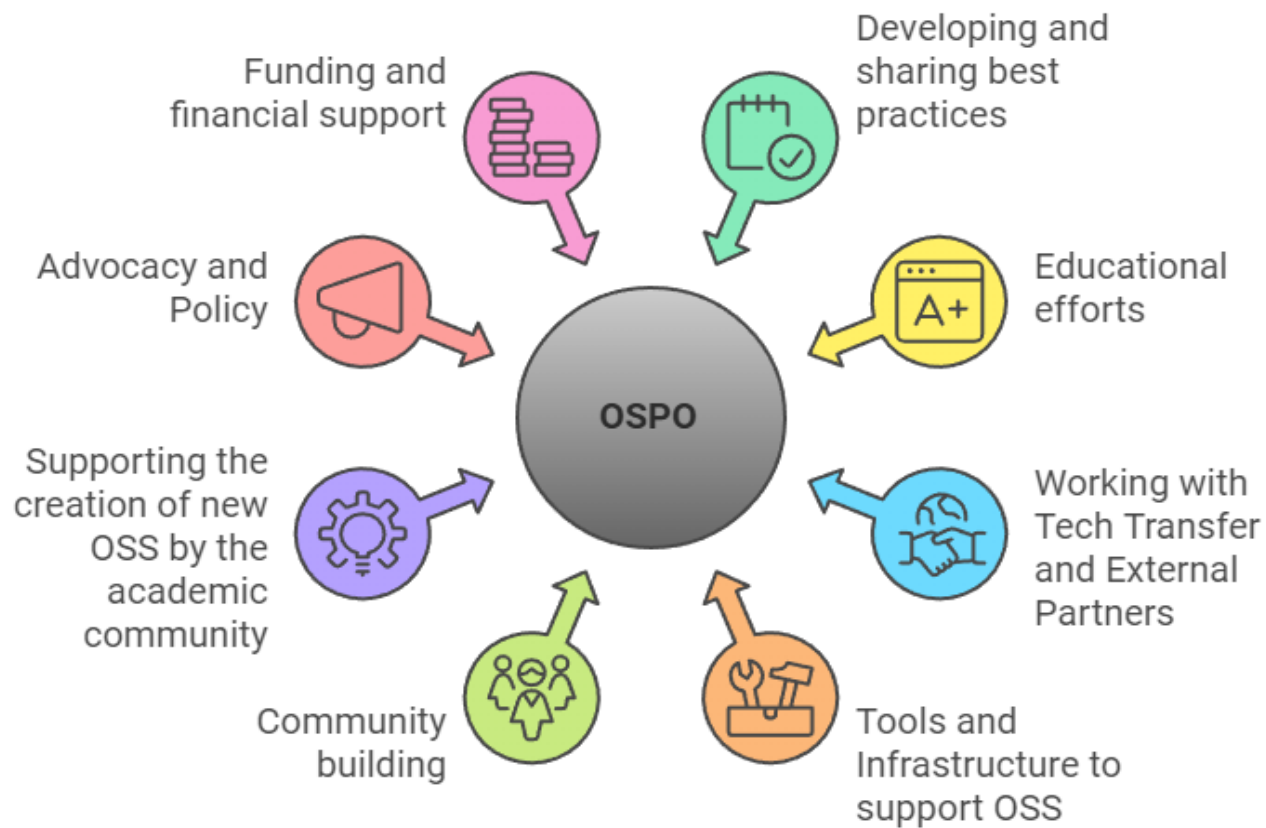


- **Support for the scientific community in software development** related to High Performance Computing has existed since the creation of the computing center.
- It was naturally integrated when **research data support services** were developed in 2019.
- The **Code Data Grenoble Alpes unit** therefore brings together all services related to research data and research software.
 - It is made up of members from **GRICAD** (the computing center), the university libraries, and some research laboratories
 - It combines both **technical and documentation expertise**.
 - It was recognized as a Data Management Cluster in 2022 within the national ecosystem for research data, **Recherche Data Gouv**.
- Other key stakeholders play an important role:
 - The **technology transfer and innovation services** of the institutions on the site
 - The **professional network** of IT specialists on the site



Activities of an academic OSPO

Activities of an Academic OSPO



Activities of OSPO@UGA: let's take some examples

- **Best practices** are a key aspect of open source development.

- ▶ **Support communities**, helpdesk: sos-codes-recherche@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr
- ▶ **Exchanges within and between communities**: seminars, webinars

- **Educational efforts**

- ▶ **Training doctoral students**

- Digital module: git, gitlab, cmake, compilation, parallelisation
- Open science module: software (best practices, dissemination, legal issues, etc.), reproducibility

- ▶ **Train on a large scale**

- Floss@UGA: thematic school about the legal framework of open source software (2025)
- In 2026, a new thematic school on free software communities

Activities of OSPO@UGA: let's take some examples



• Working with Tech Transfer

- ▶ The technological transfert and legal departments play a **key role** in the area of software
- ▶ Some of them have relatively **little overall expertise** in the area of open source software.
- ▶ **Close collaboration with Tech Transfer services** involves an active working groupe on licences, guidelines, training, etc.



• Tools and infrastructures

- ▶ It is essential to provide tools and infrastructure that are **tailored to the needs** of communities.
- ▶ In particular, access to a **software forge** is crucial.
 - This must be provided with the right tools and support.
 - CI/registry/GitLab pages are also important.
 - It should also have shared runners and accept private runners.

Activities of OSPO@UGA: let's take some examples



• Community building

- ▶ **Floss mailing list:** A discussion list for exchanging ideas about free software in Grenoble
- ▶ **Software and open science information:** a dedicated web site compiling information on open science included publications, data and software
 - <https://scienceouverte.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/codes-et-logiciels/>



• Advocacy and policy

- ▶ Adopting **open science** at an institutional level is an essential first step.
- ▶ In 2022, the University of Grenoble Alpes (UGA) voted on its [open science charter and master plan](#), which included the issue of software alongside data and publications from the outset.
- ▶ The aim is to build on this foundation by promoting recommendations, particularly with regard to theses. The OSPO makes **proposals to the governance** on these subjects.

Key Takeaways and Future Outlook

- Supporting the development of open-source software on a site like Grenoble is a **multifaceted challenge**.
- We must first be able to address both **technical and legal** questions.
 - The open-source world has its own framework that needs to be understood - and colleagues need guidance to navigate it.
- **Close collaboration** with legal and technology transfer services is essential.
- Strong involvement is also required at the level of **infrastructures and tools**.
- **Training** - as well as **building and sustaining communities** - is at the heart of the effort.
- Finally, **complementary expertise** is key: technical, open-source, legal, librarian, and more