

**SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
PRIORITY 2
INFORMATION SOCIETY TECHNOLOGIES**



FLOSSWORLD

**Free/Libre and Open Source Software:
Worldwide Impact Study**



D43: Workshop Report International 1

Project Reference: 015722
Kind of Project: Specific Support Action
Start Date: May 2005
End Date: June 2007



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-MERIT

Authors:

Maika Diaz (FUNDECYT)

Luis Casas Luengo (FUNDECYT)

Pop Ramsamy (FUNDECYT)

CONTENTS

- 1. *Attendees***
- 2. *Workshop agenda***
- 3. *Report***
- 4. *List of presentations***

1.- ATTEENDEES

Rishab Aiyer Ghosh
Coordinator
UNU-MERIT, NL

EJ Helsper
Researcher
University of Oxford , UK

Luis Casas
Managing Director
FUNDECYT, Government of Extremadura, ES

Gregorio Robles
Researcher
University of Rey Juan Carlos , ES

Norberto Torrera
Director **USUARIA, Argentina**

Federico Heinz
Director
Fundación Vía Libre, Argentina

Ivana Fastic-Pajk
CARNET, Croatia

Tomislav Medak
Director
Multimedia Institute MI2, Croatia

Julia Velkova
Technical FLOSS Coordinator
Internet Society Bulgaria , Bulgaria

Kim Tucker
OpenMentor Leader
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research , South Africa

Enver Ravat
Researcher
University of Western Cape , South Africa

Maoke Chen
China Education Research Network , China

Wenjun Shi
China Standard Software, Co., Ltd. China

S. Sasikumar, R&D In-Charge (Mumbai)
Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, India

Hans Liesenberg
Coordinator Information Advisory Commission
University of Campinas , Brasil

Renato da Silveira Martini
President
National Institute of Information Technology, Brasil

N.N.
MIMOS, Malaysia

Carlos González Calderón
FLOSS Specialist
Government of Catalonia , Spain

2.- WORKSHOP AGENDA

Agenda

Day 1 - Wednesday April 26, 2006

- 09:00 - 09:10 **Welcome**
Javier Velasco Mancebo
Government of Asturias, Spain
- 09:10 - 09:30 **Presentation of FLOSSWorld Rishab**
Rishab Aiyer. FLOSS leader, UNU-MERIT, the Netherlands
- 09:30– 11:00 **EU presentation Open Source Issues**
Jesus Villasante
- EU collaboration Unit**
Thierry Devars, INCO
- EU floss case study**
Ignacio Sánchez Amor Vice-President of the Government of Extremadura,
Spain
- Questions / feedback
- 11:00 - 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:15 – 12:15 **Session 1: East Asia Regional Workshop results**
Maoken Chen. China Education Research Network/Tsinghua University
Beijing, China
- Discussion / feedback / recommendations
- 12:15-13:45 Lunch
- 13:45-14:45 **Session 2: Southern Asia Regional Workshop results**
Dr. M Sasikumar.R&D In-Charge (Mumbai)
Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, India

Discussion / feedback / recommendations

14:45-15:45

Session 3: South Eastern Europe Regional Workshop results
Julia Veloka and Dragoslava Pefeva, Technical FLOSS Coordinators,
Internet Society Bulgaria, Bulgaria

Discussion / feedback / recommendations

15:45-16:00

Coffee break

16:00-17:00

Session 4: Africa Regional Workshop results
Kim Tucker, OpenMentor Leader, Council for Scientific and Industrial
Research, South Africa

Discussion / feedback / recommendations

Day 2 - Thursday, April 27, 2006

09:30 - 10:30

Session 5: Latin America Regional Workshop results
Norberto Torreta, Director USUARIA, Argentina

Discussion / feedback / recommendations

10:30 - 10:45

Coffee break

10:45 – 11:00

**Expert talk on human capacity building / skills development in open
source developer communities.**
Martin Michlmay

11:00 - 12:15

Discussion, comments and experience sharing with Experts on the
FLOSSWorld Track 1 Discussion Questions (Human capacity building)

12:15 - 13:45

Lunch

- 13:45 - 14:00 **Expert talk on inter-regional differences in software projects**
 Javier Solá Co-director WordForge project, Coordinator Khmer
 Software Initiative and FOSS localisation tools
- 14:00 - 15:15 Discussion, comments and experience sharing with Experts on the
 FLOSSWorld Track 2 Discussion Questions (inter-regional differences in
 software projects)
- 15:15 - 15:30 Coffee Break
- 15:30 - 15:45 **Expert talk on government usage/attitudes to open source and open
 standards / interoperability**
 Ruediger Glott and Rishab Aiyer Ghosh. Patterns of FLOSS adoption in
 European local governments
- 15:45 - 16:00 Discussion, comments and experience sharing with Experts on the
 FLOSSWorld Track 3 Discussion Questions (government and FLOSS)
- 16:00 - 17:00 Round table discussion on FLOSSWorld and international collaboration in
 the area of FLOSS (Partners, external collaborators and observers)
- 17:00 - 17:15 Conclusions & Close of the meeting

Day 3 - Friday, April 28, 2006

Closed meeting for FLOSSWorld project partners

- 09:00 - 12:00 - Mangement Issues
 - Financial Issues
 - Activity management assessment
 - All cognate activities and issues
- 12:00 - 13:00 - Issues / concerns regarding procedures
 - Direct communication between non-EU partners and EC project officer

3 . REPORT

Below a summary of the presentations and contributions of workshop attendees, organized in as much as possible in terms of the set of questions of the report template.

This first international workshop of FLOSSWorld brought together all consortium partners (17 in all), additional participants from their countries, and observers from the organisations listed as having provided letters of support to the FLOSSWorld project. Registered FLOSSWorld Observers have also participated; a limited number of places has been reserved for the general public. Last but not least, representatives of EU governments, universities, business associations and the European Commission took part in the workshop.

Three research tracks have been treated in the workshop:

Track 1: Study of human capacity building / skills development in open source developer communities

Track 2: Study of inter-regional differences in software projects

Track 3: study of government usage/attitudes to open source and open standards/interoperability

The skills development study/ capacity Building
--

Questions for workshops and discussions:

What role do informal open source communities, universities and other HEIs, and businesses play in the development of skills related to the software sector?

How important are secondary skills (such as knowledge of licensing legal issues, teamwork and management) to software development, and how and where are these skills best learnt?

How do attributes such as demographics and gender affect interest from participants?

What is the impact on businesses – such as better skills and cost savings – of skills learnt through (unfunded) participation in open source communities? What are the specific benefits to small and medium enterprises (SMEs)?

What is the consequent impact on employment generation and employment levels?

How, if at all, should universities and formal HEIs respond to maximize the skills provided in their environments, to best incorporate further skills learnt informally through open source communities?

How, if at all, should governments respond?

Description and process

- Most companies depend on doing business with the Government which is using mostly proprietary software.
- Students hardly earn money therefore they find more convenient to make money with proprietary software which generates lack of good FLOSS developers in some countries.
- There are some FLOSS communities in the universities that are promoting or implementing FLOSS. The communities are mainly formed by students who are fans of FLOSS and want to share the idea and their skills.
- Adpatation to own languages.

1 Inter-regional differences in software development

Questions for workshops and discussions:

What local free software projects can be observed in target countries?

How do these local projects differ between regions and countries?

How much do target countries participate in major global open source projects?

Are projects in target countries funded differently from each other, or from Europe? E.g. the existence of “prizes” or “bounties” for writing specific software modules (sponsored by Shuttleworth in South Africa, Red Hat in India) is not seen in Europe.

What is the demographic composition (including gender break-up) of the free software community, how developers in target countries think, what motivates them and how do they structure their activities – does this differ from country to country, and does it differ from Europe? Comparisons with previous studies such as FLOSS, FLOSS-US, FLOSS-Japan.

How are local Open Source activities in target countries related with other institutions (public administration, companies, schools, universities, etc.)?

What is the present and possible future impact of Open Source activities on the labour market,

education, governance, and the economy of developing countries?

Description and process

In general, there are initiatives and cooperation between FLOSS activities and institution at certain level in all the target countries. However, it is difficult to make clear differences between these initiatives because the governments usually follow ICT strategies and plans which do not include FLOSS usage, and aim at achieving the developing objectives and activities in ICT. The majority of measures for usage of FLOSS are developed by non governmental organizations, SMEs, communities of Floss, Universities, etc. Therefore, the actions for usage of FLOSS are individual actions implemented on the regions or local areas that are rarely supported for Private Institutions or Public Administrations.

The cooperation among the communities can make them stronger and more dynamic and should be encouraged. There are make an emphasis on international experience from other FLOSS communities.

Questions for workshops and discussions:

What, and how large, is the role of government in the ICT sector in target countries?
What is the degree of IT use in government authorities?
What are the main hindrances to increased and effective IT use in government? E.g. cost, availability of support, choice of vendors...
What is the awareness of open source and open standards?
What is the behaviour towards open standards and interoperability in practice?
What is the extent of open source usage?
What policies do local and regional government authorities want to adopt?
What is the relation between international, national, regional and local policies and actions towards open source and open standards/interoperability?

Description and process

- The governments are still resistant to FLOSS but there is a change in the attitude from absolutely negative to curious and negotiable. However, in order to have any success, recommendations, surveys and data has to come from renown authorities or organisations and not by the FLOSS community members or projects.
- Many legal documents are adopted regarding the usage of open standards and FLOSS, but nothing is done in practice so the recommendation is to focus on happening the things in the reality.

4. LIST OF PRESENTATIONS

- 1.- East Asia Regional Workshop Results by Maoke Chen
- 2.- Southern Asia Regional Workshop Results by Dr. M. Sasikumar
- 3.- South Eastern Europe Regional Workshop Results by Julia Veloka.
- 4.- Africa Regional Workshop Results by Kim Tucker
- 5.- Latin America Regional Workshop Results by Norberto Torreta
- 6.- Skills Development in Floss communities by Martin Michlmay
- 7.- Localisation of Free and Open Source Software by Javier Solá
- 8.- The usage of Open Source Software in government by R. Glott and Rishab Aiyer Gosh

