

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



FLOSSWORLD

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



D44: Workshop Report International 2

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



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1.- ATTEENDEES

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Technical FLOSS Coordinator
Internet Society Bulgaria , Bulgaria

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2.- WORKSHOP AGENDA

Agenda

Day 1 - Thursday May 10, 2007

- 09:00 - 09:30 **Registration**
- Welcome**
 Javier Velasco Mancebo
 Government of Asturias, Spain
- 09:30 - 09:45 **Welcome to FLOSSworld**
 Rishab Aiyer Ghosh
 FLOSS leader, UNU-MERIT, the Netherlands
- 09:45 - 10:30 **Carlos Castro Castro**
 Information Society General Director, Regional Ministry of
 Infrastructures and Technological Development, Spain
- 10:30 - 10:45 Coffee break
- 10:45 – 12:45 **East Asia Regional Workshop findings**
 Maoke Chen, China Education Research Network/Tsinghua University
 Beijing, China
- Southern Asia Regional Workshop findings**
 Aparna Ramamurthy
 Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), India
 & Agnes Ng, MIMOS Bhd, Malaysia
- 12:45-14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 - 15:30 **Africa Regional Workshop findings**
 Enver Ravat & Pumeza Ceza
 University of the Western Cape and Meraka Institute, South Africa
- 15:30-17:00 **Inter-regional differences in Software projects**
 Presentation, and comments from regional workshop rapporteurs

Day 2 - Friday, May 11, 2007

- 09:00-10:30 **Human capacity building / skills development in open source developer countries**
Presentation, and comments from regional workshop rapporteurs
- Presentation of SELF project**
Wouter Tebbens
SELF Project leader
- 10:30 - 10:45 Coffee break
- 10:45 - 12:45 **Latin America Regional Workshop findings**
Norberto Torreta, Director USUARIA, Argentina
- South Eastern Europe Regional Workshop findings**
Julia Veloka, Technical FLOSS Coordinator, Internet Society Bulgaria, Bulgaria
- 12:45 – 14:15 Lunch
- 14:15 - 15:45 **Government usage / attitudes to open source and open standards / interoperability**
Presentation, and comments from regional workshop rapporteurs
- 15:45 - 16:45 **General discussion on FLOSSWorld and Round table on future collaborations**
- 16:45 -17:15 **Conclusions & Closure**
Rishab Ghosh

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.

The workshop was the second international workshop of FLOSSWorld with participation from 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, and a limited number of places were available to the general public. Finally, representatives of EU governments, universities, business associations and the European Commission have taken part in the workshop.

The main topics were:

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

Study of inter-regional differences in software projects

Study of government usage/attitudes to open source and open standards/interoperability

Participants were invited to address local issues relating to these themes in discussing the regional workshop findings.

The workshop lasted two days and involved between 50-70 persons, using presentations, round tables and plenary debate talks.

This international workshop:

1. provided all international partners a chance to meet each other
2. provided summaries of the 5 regional FLOSSWorld final workshops
3. further discussed the FLOSSWorld research goals and discussion
4. draw together global findings
5. provided final conclusions

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

There are large number of developers aware of open source softwares and are using it. They are also ready to contribute their work to the community. It is further noted that the Open Source developers and users get good positions in companies.

University system plays an active role in FLOSS-related skills development, fostered, among other factors, by the high degree of FLOSS utilization within the educational system as well as by the national government policy favouring use of FLOSS in the Public Sector.

Many large companies like IBM, Red hat, Novell are encouraging the use of FLOSS. They are also trying to incorporate Open Standards in the development of software to make them acceptable all over the world.

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

The Governments have started to make some recommendations for favour the FLOSS.

Also there are local activities. Councils, associations, communities have decided to promote activities of usage of free Software because they knew its advantages, there were not bureaucratic problems for applications and they had budget for their execution perhaps local decisions are more flexibility when they have to do their actions and Public Administration, big Companies, Schools and universities depend of hierarchy system for decision making.

2 Government authority

3

4

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

- Strategy problems: political changes tend to provoke drastic changes in ITC activities and priorities.
- Organizational (structure) problems: lack of clear responsibility and accountability lines (makes it hard to enforce policies and act on results) , hierarchical decision making not in tune with the needs of IT work (rigid and slow, prevents a more horizontal knowledge management)
- Operational problems: inadequate coordination among government offices, bureaucratic procedures.
- Motivational problems: difficult cooperation among government areas
- Communication problems: employees are often uninformed of the introduction of IT affecting their work environment.
- Financial problems: cost / budget restrictions.
At the local level, cost / budget constraints are often mentioned as the most frequent hindrances.

4. LIST OF PRESENTATIONS

- 1.- East Asia Regional Workshop findings Maoke Chen
- 2.- Southern Asia Regional Workshop finding by Aparna Ramamurthy
- 3.- South Eastern Europe Regional Workshop finding by Julia Veloka.
- 4.- Africa Regional Workshop findings by Enver Ravat and Pumeza Ceza
- 5.- Latin America Regional Workshop finding by Norberto Torreta
- 6.- SELF project by Wounter Tebbens

