



Open Source Observatory Policy Factsheet Portugal

OSOR

1 General Information

The use of open source software solutions in public administrations in Portugal has advanced over the last years in certain areas. The Common Model for Design and Development of Digital Services (Mosaico) established the principle “Make new code open source” when public administration creates digital public services, and the Decree Law 107/2012 still obliges public administration to consider open source in the public ICT procurement procedures. As a result, Portugal has developed key open source projects such as their public services portal, open data, and digital identity middleware.

2 Actors

POLICYMAKERS

The Administrative Modernization Agency (AMA) is responsible for promoting and developing administrative modernisation in Portugal in three areas: Digital Transformation, Omnichannel Public Service and Administrative Simplification. AMA runs the government’s Citizen and Business Portals and develops infrastructure projects such as the Citizen Card or the interoperability platform

STRATEGIC PLAYER

Association of Portuguese Open Source Software Companies (ESOP) is the Portuguese open source business association. It represents 13 Portuguese companies engaged in open source software development. They provide open access to best practices, instructions about legislation applicable, case studies, and dedicated events.

3 Policy and Legal Framework

COMMON MODEL FOR DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL SERVICES (MOSAICO)

AMA created this framework that sets up the principles that public administrations must follow when creating and developing digital public services. It established the “Make new code open source” principle. It includes an explanation of the benefits of open source software, the applicable legislation - Law no. 36/2011- and a list of best practices

DECREE LAW N. 107/2012 OF 18 MAY

This legislation establishes the duty of information and prior opinion to public ICT procurement procedure in the information and communication technologies field. AMA elaborates the prior opinion, where they have to assess if there are alternative “free or open source software” solutions



4 Open Source Software Initiatives

PORTUGUESE PUBLIC SERVICES PORTAL

Gov.pt is the online point of contact for public services built with Liferay DXP, designed to replace the ePortugal, and can be accessed from any device. The portal covers more than 3,046 public services across 14 categories, including 1,150 services for companies.

DADOS.GOV

This is the national open data portal built on the uData platform, created by Etalab (part of the French public administration). The Portuguese-specific theme and integration (including SAML login, SmartId integration, branding, etc.) is in the ‘amagov.pt/govt’ repository on GitHub under the AGPL-3.0 license

DIGITAL IDENTIFICATION MIDDLEWARE

Portugal’s digital identification ecosystem, Citizen Card (Cartão de Cidadão) and the Chave Móvel Digital, uses open source middleware components such as OpenSSL and Poppler. These open source solution aligns with the functional requirements set by AMA.

PARTICIPA.GOV.PT

This open source participatory platform allows citizens to submit proposals and decide through their vote in the decision making process. The only requirement to participate is having a highly secure eID mechanism. Nowadays, the platform includes six initiatives such as SIMPLEX 2025, Youth National Agency, and participatory budgeting in the municipality of Reguengos de Monsaraz.