

**PRESS RELEASE**

## Open source will boost economy and increase digital autonomy, EU study says

The [study](#) on the impact of Open Source Software and Hardware for the European Commission found that open source software and hardware are key for the region's digital transformation and can be a major boost to the EU's GDP.

**BRUSSELS, 6/09/2021** Today, the European Commission published a study on the impact of open source software (OSS) and open source hardware (OSH) on the European economy, conducted by Fraunhofer ISI and OpenForum Europe. [Full report is available here](#). The study estimates that open source software contributes between €65 to €95 billion to the European Union's GDP and promises significant growth opportunities for the region's digital economy. To achieve that, the EU should actively engage in a transition towards more openness in its political and investment culture.

Sachiko Muto, the CEO of OpenForum Europe: "Open source offers a greenfield advantage for policymakers and Europe has the chance to lead."

The report recommends the EU to pursue a dedicated open source industrial policy and to include it in its major policy frameworks, such as the European Green Deal and the AI Act. It also recommends setting up a European network of governmental units dedicated to accelerating the use of open technologies, providing substantial funding to open source support mechanisms and projects, e.g. through the flagship Horizon Europe program with a total budget of €95.5 billion for 2021-2027, and following the direction of open innovation in the bloc's quest for digital autonomy.

To put the results into context, the economic value of open source software in the EU is equivalent to both air and water transport combined<sup>1</sup>. EU governments and companies have already noticed the potential of Open by investing over €1 billion in open source development in 2018 alone. The data predicts that if open source contributions increased by 10% in the EU, they would generate an additional 0.4% to 0.6% (around €100 billion) to the bloc's GDP. To reap these benefits, the researchers point to a need for a profound culture switch and significant investments in open technologies. Several Member State governments and EU institutions have already taken their first steps in this direction, and now the study equips policymakers with necessary evidence to scale up their efforts for the benefit of the EU economy and citizens.

## About OFE

OpenForum Europe (OFE) is a not-for-profit, Brussels-based independent think tank which explains the merits of openness in computing to policy makers and communities across Europe. Originally launched in 2002, OFE covers topics such as: Open Source, Open standards, Digital Government Government, public procurement, Intellectual Property, cloud computing and Internet policy. OFE also hosts an independent global network of OpenForum Academy Fellows and works closely with the European Commission, the European Parliament, national and local governments, both directly and via its national partners.

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<sup>1</sup> according to [Eurostat](#)

# Study on the impact of Open Source Software and Open Source Hardware

Official publication by the European Commission available [HERE](#)

If you would like to share the news about the publication, feel free to use materials below, ask us additional questions or add your insights in your communications. We would appreciate spreading the word.

The full study is available on the [European Commission's website](#). Please always include the link to the official European Commission publication.



Download the visual [HERE](#)

## 1. Sharing in an email or a newsletter

You can use this content for inspiration for a newsletter announcement, a message to your colleague or your favourite open source mailing list.

## Version 1

Hello/Dear XYZ,

Today the long-awaited study on the impact of Open Source Software and Hardware was published by the European Commission:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/study-about-impact-open-source-software-and-hardware-technological-independence-competitiveness-and>.

The study conducted by Fraunhofer ISI and OpenForum Europe says that open source software contributes between €65 to €95 billion to the European Union's GDP and promises significant growth opportunities for the region's digital economy. The report recommends that the EU should increase its involvement in industrial policy related to open source and include it in its major policy frameworks, such as the European Green Deal and the AI Act. It also proposes setting up a European network of governmental OSPOs (Open Source Program Offices) dedicated to accelerating the use of open technologies; providing substantial funding to open source projects, e.g. through its flagship Horizon Europe program with a total budget of €95.5 billion for 2021-2027; and following the direction of open innovation in the bloc's quest for digital sovereignty.

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/study-about-impact-open-source-software-and-hardware-technological-independence-competitiveness-and>

## Version 2

### **Full report on the impact of Open Source published [today] by the European Commission**

The study recommends setting up Open Source Program Offices in European governments and providing more official funding towards OS. It found that if there was a 10% increase in OS contributions in the EU, the region would see additional €100 billion in its yearly GDP.

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/study-about-impact-open-source-software-and-hardware-technological-independence-competitiveness-and>

## 2. (Re)tweeting

You can either retweet our posts at [@OpenForumEurope](#) or publish your own.

### Version 1

Today, @FraunhoferISI and @OpenForumEurope's study for the @EU\_Commission on the impact of Open Source is out.

It recommends setting up a network of OSPOs and prioritising openness in its major policy files like the #EUGreenDeal and #AIAct.

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/study-about-impact-open-source-software-and-hardware-technological-independence-competitiveness-and>

### Version 2

#OpenSource contributed between €65 and €95 billion to the EU's economy, @EU\_Commission study finds. The report recommends the EU to consider industrial #OpenSource policies, to set up a network of OSPOs and to provide funding to OSS support mechanisms and projects. More by @FraunhoferISI and @OpenForumEurope.

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/study-about-impact-open-source-software-and-hardware-technological-independence-competitiveness-and>

### Version 3

#OpenSource contributed between €65 and €95 billion to the EU's economy, @EU\_Commission study finds. The report recommends the EU governments to use the opportunity to lead the digital innovation through openness, collaboration and investment in open tech. More in the full report by @FraunhoferISI and @OpenForumEurope

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/study-about-impact-open-source-software-and-hardware-technological-independence-competitiveness-and>

You can tag the members of our study team and the European Commission's DG CNECT at @DigitalEU:

@KnutBlind and @FraunhoferISI

@sivanpaetsch

@p\_grzegorzewska

@mirkoboehm

@andrewjskatz

### 3. LinkedIn

Today, the @european-commission published the study on the impact of #OpenSource conducted by @OpenForum Europe and @fraunhofer isi.

The study estimates that open source software contributes between €65 to €95 billion to the European Union's GDP and promises significant growth opportunities for the region's digital economy.

The study recommends the #EU to increase its involvement in industrial policy and to include Open Source in the bloc's major policy frameworks, such as the #EuropeanGreenDeal and the #AIAct. The report also recommends setting up a European network of #OSPO (Open Source Programme Offices) aimed to accelerate the use of open technologies, providing substantial funding to open source projects, e.g. through its flagship #HorizonEurope program with a total budget of €95.5 billion for 2021-2027, and following the direction of open innovation in the bloc's quest for #DigitalSovereignty.

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/study-about-impact-open-source-software-and-hardware-technological-independence-competitiveness-and>

You can tag the members of our study team and the European Commission at @European-commission:

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