



Government of Malta

Reference: **GMICT P 0097:2010**

Version: **1.0**

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Open Source Software Policy

This document is part of the GMICT Policy Framework

<http://ictpolicies.gov.mt>

Underlined terms are defined in the **Vocabulary Standard**.

Purpose

This Policy seeks to encourage the adoption of cost-effective and non-disruptive Open Source Software (OSS) throughout Government. It also seeks to maximise re-use of procured software by enabling the distribution of Government solutions as OSS under the European Union Public Licence (EUPL), where appropriate.

Scope and Applicability

This Policy covers the procurement of Open Source Software and the adoption of related Open Source Business Models throughout the Public Sector to facilitate re-use of Government procured software.

1 Policy

1. Government shall actively consider and pursue the adoption of Open Source Software (OSS) that is cost-effective and non-disruptive. All direct and indirect costs, including total cost of ownership, support, exit and transitions costs, will be taken into consideration when calculating the cost-effectiveness of OSS. Non-disruptive OSS should meet the business requirements, and adopt Government's operational and security principles in terms of scalability, promotion of desktop agnostic concepts, support and manageability.
2. Government expects that solution providers consider, in part or in full, the use of OSS to minimise long term costs and provide flexibility.
3. Where applicable, Government shall seek to promote the adoption of an appropriate Open Source Business Model that enables the software code to be distributed on an open source basis.
4. Government shall accept Open Source licences that are in line with the Open Source Definition¹ (OSD) of the Open Source Initiative (OSI) and that are already approved by OSI. The EUPL², GNU GPL³, FreeBSD⁴ licences are deemed to conform to the OSD. The Government shall accept the latest version and up to one previous version of the open source licences. The licence shall:
 - allow the free redistribution of the solution and manuals, including the source code
 - allow the solution to be modified in part or in full and be used in other solutions
 - permit the integrity of the Author's Source Code and prevent discrimination against persons, groups or fields of endeavour

¹ <http://www.opensource.org/docs/osd>

² <http://www.osor.eu/eupl>

³ <http://www.fsf.org/licensing/licenses/gpl.html>

⁴ <http://www.freebsd.org/copyright/freebsd-license.html>

Unclassified



- not be specific to a product
- allow for redistribution of the software through manual and automated processes without the need for additional licences
- not restrict other software that is distributed along with the licensed software
- be as technology neutral as possible regarding any individual technology or style of interface.

2 Deviations from GMICT Policy

Instances where it may not be technically possible or cost-effective to comply with a particular GMICT Policy requirement shall be reported to Government's ICT Compliance function. This is done in order to evaluate the security, architectural, operational and other risks anticipated to result from the deviation, to identify additional compensating controls required to mitigate these risks and to formally acknowledge any residual risk and assign appropriate responsibility. In such instances, a request for exemption shall be forwarded to the ICT Compliance function for assessment in line with the Exemptions and Waivers Policy and Directive (GMICT P 0048). This also applies to deviations from best practices adopted by the Agent on behalf of Government.

Breaches of GMICT Policy shall be brought to the attention of ICT Compliance function in order to determine appropriate corrective action and potential internal control improvements.

3 Related Documents

Name	Reference	Location
Open Source Software Directive	GMICT D 0097	http://ictpolicies.gov.mt
Desktop Software and Configuration Procedure	GMICT R 0002	http://ictpolicies.gov.mt
Exemptions and Waivers Policy and Directive	GMICT P 0048	http://ictpolicies.gov.mt
Compliance Policy and Directive	GMICT P 0018	http://ictpolicies.gov.mt

4 Modification History

Version	Effective Date
1.0	1 June 2010

5 Issuing Authority

This document has been issued with the authority of the **Malta Information Technology Agency**.

6 Contact Information

Government ICT Policies, Directives, Standards and associated publications can be found at <http://ictpolicies.gov.mt>.

Any suggestions, queries or requests for clarification regarding Government ICT Policies, Directives and Standards may be forwarded to ictpolicies@gov.mt.