

”The OSPO and You”

Axel Naumann, CERN EP-SFT, for the CERN OSPO.
2023-11-29 OSPO Community Workshop



OSPO = Open Source Program Office



*centre of **competency** for an organisation's open-source operations and structure. This can include setting code use, distribution, selection, auditing and other **policies**, as well as **training** developers, ensuring **legal** compliance and **promoting** and building **community engagement** that benefits the organisation strategically*

TODO_group



OSPO = Open Source Program Office

- Common in industry, public administration, universities - less in science labs
- Traditionally just for software, while CERN's OSPO also for Open-Source hardware

• *; CERN's OSPO is less traditional !*



OSPO as part of Open Science



© CERN

Open Data

Open Access

Open Source

And more - see

<https://openscience.cern/>



OSPO as part of Open Science

Open Source seen from a new
(Open Science) angle!

Welcoming all motivations for
Open Source



© CERN



Mandate 1/2

CERN OSPO develops and drives consistent organisational **practices** for Open-Source hardware and software.

With its operations the OSPO:

- promotes CERN as **contributor** to Open-Source development;
- asserts CERN as competent and conscious **user** of Open Source;
- enables CERN's due diligence related to Open Source.



Mandate 2/2

Entry point to CERN's expertise in Open Source.

Open and inclusive service, working internally across departments with and for the entire CERN community, and externally as a visible interface to potential partners and the interested public.

Events, communication, support, training throughout the year.

OSPO team is **integrated into community**; actively searches for and adjusts to feedback and needs from the community.



OSPO as Support Body

To help Open Source at CERN

→ Less need for auditing or advocacy

→ But for tools, simplifying “things”, documentation of procedures + best practices



© CERN



OSPO as Support Body

- By the community, for the community
- To provide answers and tools
- With simple, well-defined procedures



© CERN



OSPO and Community



OSPO's "clients": CERN staff + experiments' users = CERN community

OSPO members from BE, EP, HSE, IT, KT, RCS-SIS, TE, TH - more to come!

- You should have an OSPO person near you!



OSPO and Community

OSPO learns about different environments' use / problems with Open Source

But generally, 0.1 FTE per department!



© CERN



Automation, Streamlining

Little FTE means almost everything must be automatic and self-service:

- Tools, Documentation, Procedures
- Re-use what exists; simple, common recommendations
- Where to put ©, open-source community how-to, what to do to publish Open Source: write down once!



OSPO as visible contact point from outside

Conferences participation:
CERN as Open-Source lab
(recruitment!)

Answer questions + requests
coming from outside CERN,
create (industry) partnerships

Open Source catalogue



© CERN



OSPO as visible contact point from outside

Yearly OSPO report:

- Surface CERN contributions to non-CERN open-source projects
- part of member states' open-source ecosystems



© CERN



OSPO Plan of Work

Tools	Support
Metrics	Training
Internal organisation	Communication

2023	2024						
Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Inventory	Dependency process/tool						
Websites		Stakeholder engagement			Annual report		
Launch events				1st birthday			
Membership / other dept.							
	Metrics definition						
		Training programme definition					
Support							
Procedures							



Conclusion



Conclusion

We are all busy writing code (or designing hardware).

We know that the worst thing that can happen to a dev is less time to produce Open Source.



Conclusion

We are trying to help:

- reduce procedural uncertainty
- improve tooling
- provide recommendations
- give Open-Source projects more visibility and a stronger voice at CERN



Conclusion

We have a plan - is that a good plan?

We work for the community:

- Tell us what you need, most urgently!
- What are your problems we should solve?



We start the dialogue here!

<https://opensource.cern/>

Public-facing website

<https://ospo.docs.cern.ch/>

Documentation (in 2024!)

Open.Source@cern.ch

Your OSPO

<https://ospo.web.cern.ch/>

Discussion forum



