

INFORMATICS EUROPE

ECSS 2026

Open Science Working Group

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28 October

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Tackling shared challenges. Supporting policy-making.
Shaping the future of our discipline

An exec summary of the work of the Open Science Working Group

Boris Baldassari
(Eclipse Foundation, OSPO Alliance)

ECLIPSE® FOUNDATION

October 28, 2026

Recent history of the working group

- The working group had lost its activity / momentum over the past year.
- Yet open science is becoming more and more crucial (reproducibility, collaboration, sovereignty..).

- We rebooted it in April, re-started monthly meetings, and re-defined work areas (aka task forces):
  - **Assessment (and recognition) of research software contributions.**
  - **Open source programming languages in education.**
  - **Raising awareness about open source best practices (i.e. fostering academic OSPOs).**

- We are making steady progress towards our goals, but.. we do need more active contributions.
- If you are interested in open source / open science, please **Join us!**

Assessment of research software contributions

- People / teams cannot really invest time and resources in open science because it is not well assessed, and not well recognised.
- More incentives for research software contributions are needed:
  - Allows researchers and engineers to spend time on **proper tooling, setups, environments**..
  - **Promotes sharing** of findings, experiments, to build communities, and **work collaboratively**.
  - **Promotes best practices**: CodeMeta, CITATION.cff, SWHID, FAIR4RS..
- The task force works on:
  - Long-term, serious archiving of code (e.g. forges, Software Heritage, etc.).
  - Identifying / referencing code snippets, i.e. doi for code.
  - Ultimately, working towards the recognition of the impact of non-paper publications.

Open source programming languages in education

- "Encourage the **adoption of open-source programming languages** and **open-source implementations** of proprietary programming languages in **university teaching**."
  - **Democratic**: everybody can learn it, use it, and access, understand and reproduce results.
  - **Open Science**: it enables reproducibility, sharing, collaboration and dissemination of experiments.
- What exactly? It's about compilers, editors, debuggers, training material... even specifications.
- **It needs to start early**, so students can learn and develop their skills on accessible tools.

- The task force works on:
  - A survey to identify the languages in use, the current teaching programs and current landscape.
  - An assessment framework for continuous updates on teaching programs.
  - Ultimately, develop a recognised certification program to promote universities

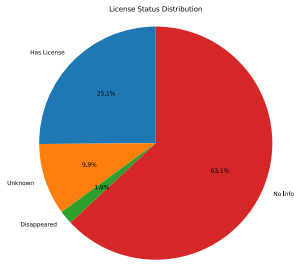
Open source awareness and fostering of academic OSPOs

- **Open Source is a key enabler for Open Science**, sovereignty/autonomy:
  - Promotes collaboration, sharing, community building, reproducibility.
  - It is a successful model -- even if some questions still need answers.
- Wait. Universities do know about open source!
  - Yes: FLOSS was born, and grew up, in universities and research labs.
  - There is a lot of know-how and experience in the labs, but not so much at the institutional level: external providers, infrastructure, lack of organisational support and policy.
  - Lack of assessment and recognition of research software contributions (yes, again).
- Result: see the slides from Roberto Di Cosmo at ECSS 2025.

New frontiers: licences, sovereignty and resilience

Licence status of projects with at least N contributions

N=100



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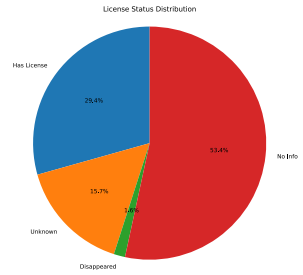

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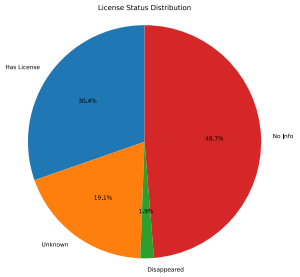

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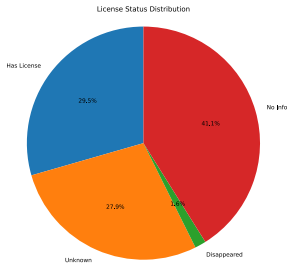
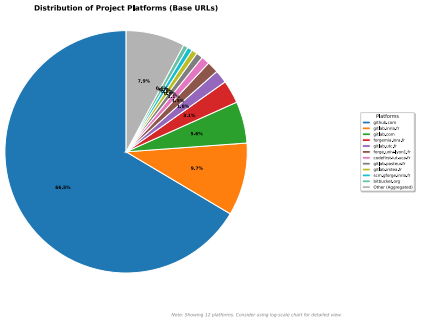


Platforms used by projects with N contributions

N=100



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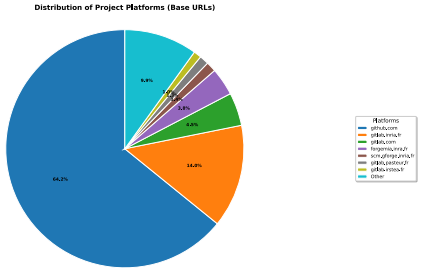

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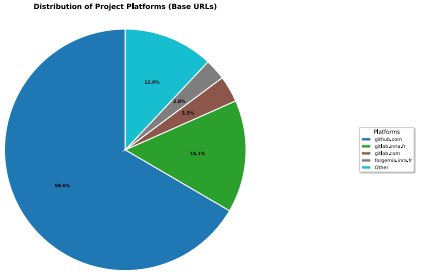

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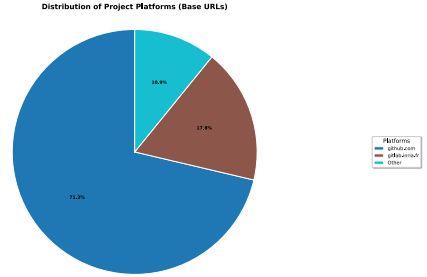

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What solutions do we have?

- **Build an Open Source Program Office** (OSPO), to provide localised support and promote open source best practices within the institution.
- We can share means, resources and knowledge, and still be "competitive".
- The **OSPO Alliance** already has a fair expertise about OSPOs, and already published a very successful guide for private and public sector.
  > See https://ospo-alliance.org
- The task force has been working to address the specificities of academia and is about to publish **a practical Handbook to plan, build and run an OSPO**.
- It is ready for reviews, and **we need your feedback**!
- We intend to make it an **official Informatics Europe policy recommendation**.

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