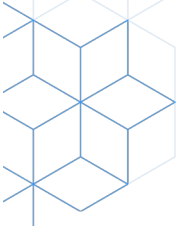


# **Bytes & Brussels Working in IT at EU Institutions**

Smart Monday

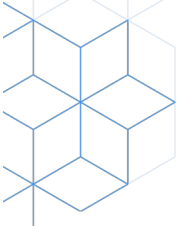
April 2025





# Intro

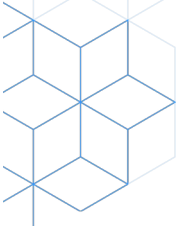
- Thank you
- Me in 5 words
- Disclaimer



# What are the EU institutions?

27 countries, 23 languages, ~80.000 staff

- 3 big ones:
  - Parliament (Bxl, Lux, Strasbourg)
  - Commission (Bxl & Lux)
  - Council (Bxl)
- Other institutions:
  - Court of Justice (Lux)
  - European Central Bank (Frankfurt)
  - Court of Auditors (Lux)
  - Committee of the Regions (Bxl)
  - Economic and social Committee (Bxl)
  - External Action Service (Bxl & World)
- Agencies (50+ EU)
  - Fish (Spain)
  - Medicines (Netherlands)
  - Training (Hungary)
  - ....

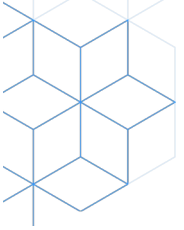


# Why work for the EU institutions?

- Public sector
- Make Europe/the world a better place
- Not for profit
- International environment
- Work/life balance
- Salary & benefits
- Training
- Career change possible

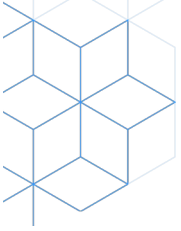
## Why work *in IT* for the EU institutions?

- Large & complex systems



# **Why *not* work for the EU institutions?**

- Public Sector
- Bureaucracy
- Slow change
- No fast career
- Political

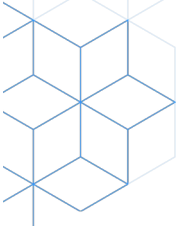


# How to work for the EU institutions?

- EPSO competitions
- Contract agents
- Temporary agents

## How to work *in IT* for the EU institutions?

- Consultants/Externals (remote)



# What do we do in the EU institutions?

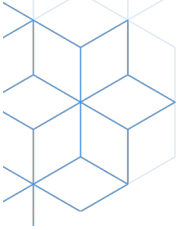
- Produce legislative documents
- Translate (= produce more documents)



# What do we do *in IT* in the EU institutions?

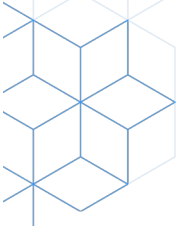
- Administration of the administration
- Document management systems
- Example of projects
  - EdiT: work on legislative document in XML (Akoma Ntoso)
  - Machine translation: eTranslation
  - Custom HR system
  - Electronic signature
  - Record management system





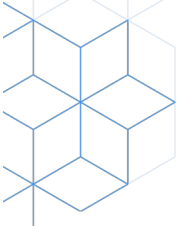
# What is special in the EU institutions?

- Political
- Working with member states
- Public money - Procurements
  - Call for tenders
  - Framework contracts
  - OLAF



# What is special *in IT* in the EU institutions?

- Multilingualism
- Cybersecurity
- Division of work between civil servants & externals
- Regulations
- Open Source
- Data sensitivity classification
- Gap in technical knowledge



# Which IT tools in the EU institutions?

- Windows/Office
- Teams
- Jira/Confluence
- SAP
- ServiceNow
- Git
- Java/.Net
- Angular
- Oracle
- Cloud: AWS/Azure
- PowerBI / Business Objects



# Cyber Security in the EU institutions

- ENISA (Greece): European Union Agency for Cybersecurity
- EU-CERT: Cybersecurity Service for the EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies
- Cybersecurity Regulation
  
- Awareness campaign
- Code scan
- Zero trust
- Keep libraries/frameworks/components up to date
- Keep OS/System up to date (patching)
- Phishing exercise
- Firewall
- Vulnerability scan
- Red team



# Open Source in the EU institutions?

- Started in 2000 but really accelerated in 2014 (Heartbleed bug)
- Free and Open Source Software Auditing (EU-FOSSA)
- Open source software strategy 2020-2023



<https://code.europa.eu/>



# Application Architecture

- Technological choices/limitations
- Cloud first
- I18N
- Business & functional logging
- Identity & Access Management
- Data
- Document generation
- UI/UX – Design System
- Testing
- Pipelines – DevSecOps

Methodology PM<sup>2</sup>



# Enterprise Architecture

- Application vs Solution vs Enterprise Architect
- IT landscape Vision & Strategy
- Roadmap
- Technology debt
- Business Process Management
- Data Analytics & Reporting
- Cybersecurity



# Studies vs Reality

- Continuum mechanics
- Quantum physics
- Organic chemistry
- Compiler theory
- Network OSI layers
- Operating System principles
- Pascal
- FORTRAN
- Database: 1NF, 2NF, ...
- Boolean algebra
- Algorithms
- English
- PowerPoint
- Project management methodology
- Negotiation
- Conflict management
- People management
- Interview
- Hybrid teams
- Employment legislation

## Conclusions



# Thank you.

Questions?

