

Do translations make us happy? How localization builds open source communities

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Cloud Native Days Romania organizer

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A dark-themed profile card for Diana Todea. At the top is a circular photo of a woman with short brown hair, wearing a light-colored shirt. Below the photo is her name, "Diana Todea". Underneath her name are two small icons: a yellow location pin and a blue gear, followed by the text "DX@VictoriaMetrics | Observability SME | OpenTelemetry docs localizatio...". A large QR code is centered below the text area.



Localization

A diagram consisting of two circles connected by a horizontal dashed blue arrow pointing from left to right. The circle on the left contains the word "Localization". The circle on the right contains the text "Important impact on tech communities".

```
graph LR; A((Localization)) --> B((Important impact  
on tech  
communities))
```

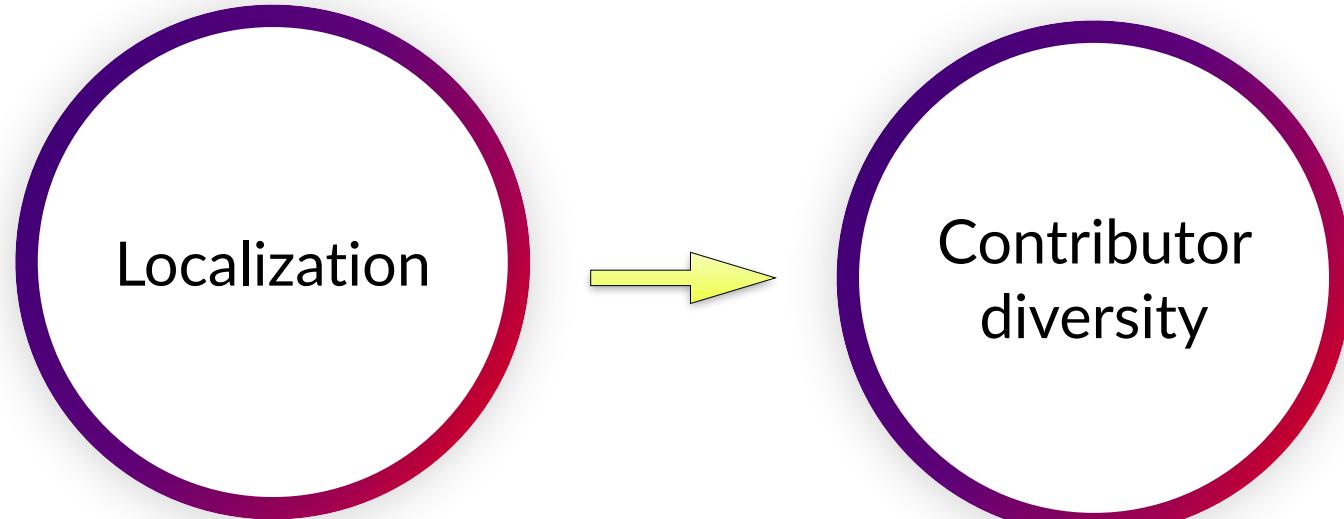
No code contributions

Important impact
on tech
communities

Localization

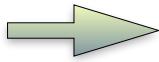
- Derives from documentation projects
- Sits at the intersection between Developer Productivity+OSS sustainability+global contributor growth
- Not owned by a specific team (not DevEx, Comms, Documentation)
- Used for scaling no code contributions
- Very popular within first time OSS contributors
- Addresses a gap in the documentation: reduce errors in native languages, remove English-first developer experience





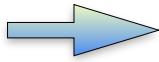
CNCF projects

Kubernetes



15 languages in total

OpenTelemetry



9 languages in total



2025

- 74,825 lines of translated content
- 483 localized files
- 523 localization-specific commits
- 65 unique contributors across languages



VictoriaMetrics

Simple, Reliable, Efficient Monitoring

victoriametrics.com

Localization introduces standardization

- Standardize tooling and workflows
- Provide one translation platform
- Helps sustain and scale documentation in developers' native language
- Translation becomes an automated workflow
- Localization creates and sustains an entire community: technical writers, polyglots, developers embracing accessibility and inclusivity
- Feedback on documentation is a lot more efficient based on localization efforts



Docs

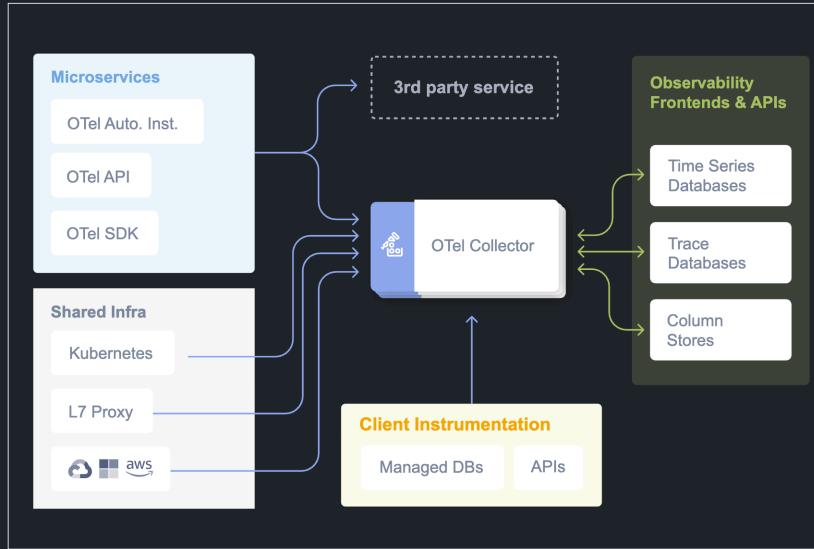
Ce este OpenTelemetry?

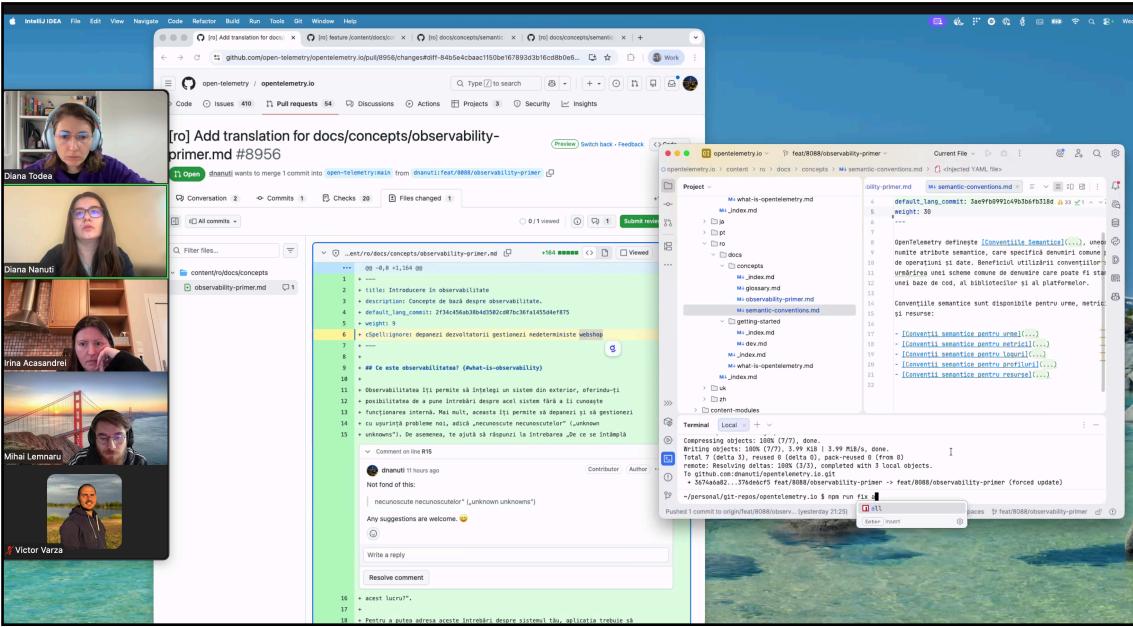
- ▶ Notiuni de bază
- ▶ Concepts
- ▶ Demo
- ▶ Language APIs & SDKs
- ▶ Platforms
- ▶ Zero-code Instrumentation
- ▶ Collector
- ▶ Migration
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Contributing

Documentație

OpenTelemetry, de asemenea cunoscut ca OTel, este o arhitectură de Observabilitate open source neutră făcă de furnizori folosită pentru instrumentarea, generarea, colectarea și exportul de date de telemetrie cum ar fi [urmări](#), [metrici](#), și [jurnale](#).

Ca standard industrial, OpenTelemetry este [susținut de peste 90 de furnizori de observabilitate](#), integrat de numeroase [biblioteci, servicii, și aplicații](#), și adoptat de [numeroși utilizatori finali](#).





CNCF Slack:
#otel-localization-ro



Start contributing to OTEL

What next for localization?

- Better automated workflows: integration with AI and search
- Expand the communities around localization: attract more new contributors
- Prioritize localization within OSS communities
- Organize more specific knowledge transfer
- Add observability around localization projects and their impact
- Directly involve the non-English speaking OSS communities in providing feedback



Take-aways

- Create a safe and welcoming space for new OSS contributors
- Explain technical and non-technical concepts to new contributors
- Create best-practice workflows for localization
- Create recurring meetings for the SIG
- Allow and embrace different opinions on specific localization content
- Motivate the community and gather feedback on the created content



Resources

<https://kubernetes.io/docs/contribute/localization/>

<https://opentelemetry.io/docs/contributing/localization/>

<https://opentelemetry.io/blog/2026/2025-year-in-review/>

CNCF Slack: #otel-docs-localization, #sig-docs-localizations

Thank you!

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