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## European Open-Source Manifesto: The Liberation of Public and Private Software

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vendors and annual licensing “rents”.

- **Consequence:** lock-in, recurring costs, forced migrations and reduced technological autonomy.
- **Solution:** a European open-source movement with funding, teams, standards and an active community.
- **Objective:** pay for European **support** and **engineering** — not perpetual tribute.
- **Principle:** open formats, interoperability and portability as mandatory rules in public procurement.
- **Expected result:** savings, resilience, auditable security and real digital sovereignty.

## European Open-Source

## Manifesto

The Liberation of Public and Private Software

*Europe does not need permission to exist in the 21st century. It needs to write its own code, sign its own destiny, and exchange comfortable servitude for*

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## I. Europe Pays Rents — and Calls Them

### “Normality”

For decades, much of Europe’s institutional and corporate fabric has lived within an invisible economy: the economy of licenses, renewals, and contracts multiplying like ivy across public budgets. This is not merely cost. It is **dependency**. It is an **imposed agenda**. It is **forced migration** whenever a vendor decides the world must rotate according to its commercial calendar.

When this happens, Member States do not choose — they **comply**. And when compliance lasts long enough, it begins to feel “natural”. That is called stability. We call it **technological submission**.

## II. Open-Source Is Not a Religion — It Is a Strategy

Open-source is not “free software”. It is **sovereign software**: auditable, evolvable, shareable, supportable by many companies — not owned by one. It is the difference between a house with a single key (held by someone else) and a house whose blueprint belongs to you.

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## III. The European Open-Source Movement: A Distributed “Software Airbus”

What we propose is not a closed project nor a portal that dies after two reports. It is an ecosystem: funding, standards, field teams, certification, intelligent public procurement and a community that does not abandon anyone mid-journey.

## IV. A 10-Point European Plan (with timeline)

### 1. European Open-Source Migration Fund

**(FEMOS):** finance diagnosis, pilots, migration and support.

### 2. European Transition Corps:

expert teams in Linux, virtualization, networking, IAM, databases and security.

### 3. Certified European Stack Catalogue:

tested operating systems, collaboration tools, databases and BI.

### 4. Anti-lock-in public procurement rules:

open formats, portability and interoperability.

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**programmes.**

7. **Mandatory upstream contribution** for publicly funded software.
8. **“SME First” programme** with remote migration support.
9. **Security by design:** audits, SBOM, coordinated vulnerability response.
10. **Public metrics dashboards:** savings, progress and skilled-employment impact.

## V. A Realistic Timeline

**0–6 months:** fund creation, core team, initial stacks, procurement reform.

**6–12 months:** national pilots in public administration, education and healthcare.

**12–24 months:** scale desktops, identity, email and collaboration.

**24–48 months:** databases, ERP/BI and full open-standards consolidation.

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## VI. What This Means for Predatory

### Multinationals

This is not revenge. It is **balanced negotiation**. When real alternatives exist, the market ceases to be a narrow corridor and becomes an open square. Rents fall. Arrogance fades. Innovation becomes mandatory again.

## VII. Epilogue: Europe as a Workshop of the Future

The European Union was born to prevent wars and foster convergence. Today, convergence means technology — autonomy, auditable security, and the power to decide. If Europe wishes to be an adult civilisation, it must sign its own code.

This manifesto is an invitation: **less fear, less servitude, more construction.**

**Freedom is an operating system.** And Europe already has the processor, memory and network required to run it.

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Below is a pragmatic, decision-oriented summary. It does not claim one model is universally “better” in every scenario: it highlights where each model typically excels — and where its hidden costs tend to appear.

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- **Integrated “suite” experience:** tight coupling across tools (sometimes reducing integration effort).
- **Perceived simplicity for procurement:** standardised licensing and vendor-led roadmaps.
- **Vendor-provided compliance artifacts:** documentation, attestations, and enterprise support bundles.
- **Short-term onboarding speed:** quick adoption when organisations are already aligned to the vendor ecosystem.

**Common trade-off:** benefits often come with long-term lock-in costs and reduced negotiation power.

## Open-Source Model – Typical Benefits

- **Digital sovereignty:** portability, independence, and freedom to change providers.
- **Auditability & transparency:** code review, independent audits, and verifiable fixes.

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with open standards and ecosystem integration.

- **Innovation leverage:** roadmap can be influenced by contributions and public funding priorities.
- **Local economic impact:** budgets support local integrators, SMEs and skilled jobs.

**Common requirement:** governance, skills, and support contracts must be planned — freedom needs operational discipline.

## Open-Source References and Key Communities

The sources below are recognised open-source foundations and projects widely used by governments,

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- **Linux Foundation**

Global ecosystem for enterprise-grade open-source projects (Linux, Kubernetes, OpenSSF, Hyperledger, etc.)

<https://www.linuxfoundation.org>

- **Free Software Foundation (FSF)**

Origin of the free software movement — GNU, GPL licences, and user freedom principles.

<https://www.fsf.org>

- **Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE)**

Promotes software freedom in Europe, including public sector and digital sovereignty initiatives.

<https://fsfe.org>

- **Open Source Initiative (OSI)**

Maintains the Open Source Definition and approves open-source licences.

<https://opensource.org>

- **OSOR — Open Source Observatory and Repository (EU)**

EU public sector open-source observatory and repository.

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Training, governance and adoption models for open-source in Europe.

<https://www.opensourceacademy.eu>

- **Nextcloud**

European open-source collaboration and private cloud platform.

<https://nextcloud.com>

- **LibreOffice / The Document Foundation**

Productivity suite built around open standards and long-term document portability.

<https://www.libreoffice.org>

- **PostgreSQL**

Enterprise-grade open-source database, widely adopted across public and private sectors.

<https://www.postgresql.org>

- **Apache Software Foundation**

Major infrastructure projects (HTTP Server, Kafka, Hadoop, Airflow, and more).

<https://www.apache.org>

- **Eclipse Foundation**

Open-source platforms across enterprise software, IoT

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One of the most stable and widely used Linux distributions for servers and institutions.

<https://www.debian.org>

## • Fedora Project

Upstream innovation and a base for multiple enterprise Linux ecosystems.

<https://getfedora.org>

## • Kubernetes

The open-source standard for container orchestration across cloud and edge computing.

<https://kubernetes.io>

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