

Software reuse through free and open source: Developers Italia and the Italian strategy

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DIPARTIMENTO
PER LA TRASFORMAZIONE
DIGITALE





Software reuse: The Italian Law

2005

Public Administrations are required to share their software with other administrations upon request (**direct reuse**).

2012

Public Administrations are required to adopt **open source over proprietary software**.

2016

Public Administrations are required to release their own software as open source (**reuse through open source**).

Mandatory release of software within Public Administrations enables reuse through open source.




The new Guidelines

A **practical tool**, but with **legal effect**, to indicate to Administrations how to fulfill the legal obligation in the most convenient way for them.


Result of a collaboration between AgID and the Digital Transformation Team.

Developers Italia

 **Docs Italia** beta
Public documents, made digital.


Guidelines on the acquisition and reuse of software for public administrations


Project: [Developers Italia](#)
Administration: [Italia](#)



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Guidelines on the acquisition and reuse of *software* for public administrations

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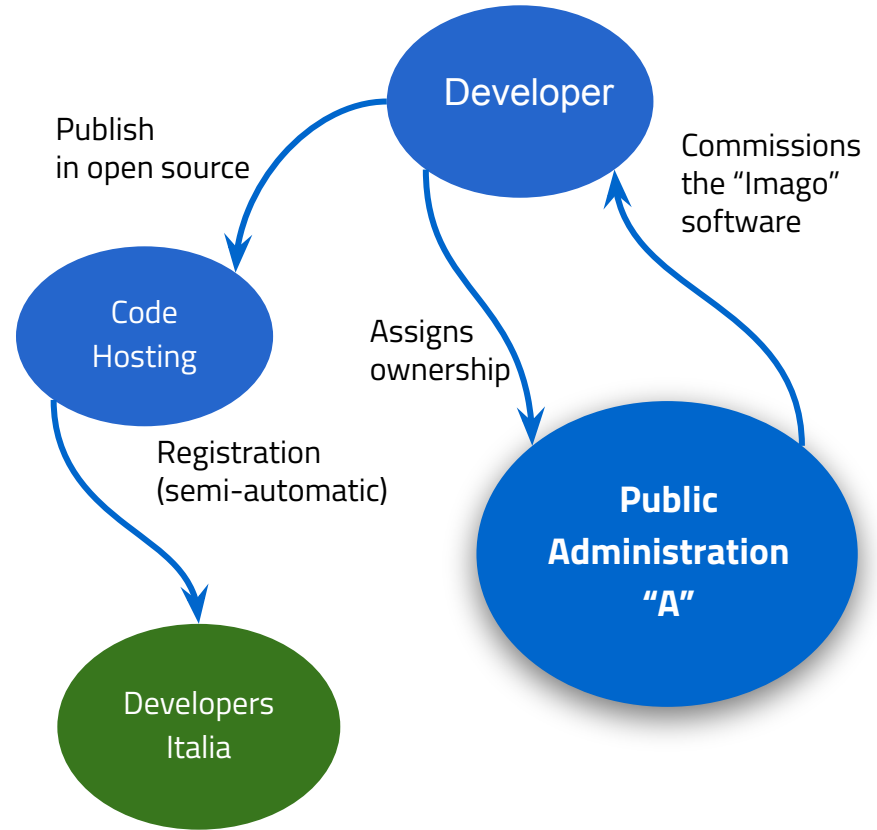


In brief, a Public Administration:

- to acquire software, it **must make a comparative assessment** of the available solutions (*development, reuse, third party open source, SaaS, licensed or a combination*);
- when deciding to acquire software with a license or to develop a new one it must **motivate the reasons**;
- must **release as open source** all new commissioned or developed software.

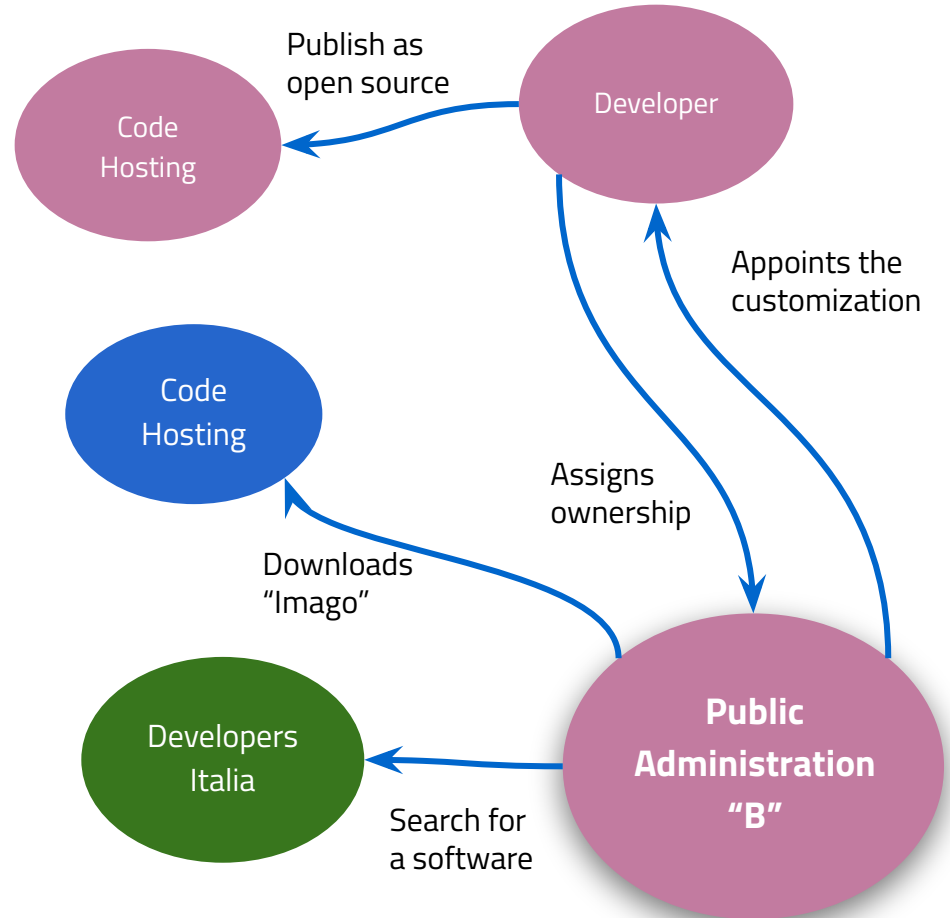
Development Phase

- 1) The PA "A" decides to develop an "Imago" software from scratch and commissions it to a developer.
- 2) The PA **acquires the ownership** of the software.
- 3) The PA appoints the developer to **publish the source code**, with an **open source license**, during or at the end of the development, in a code hosting tool.
- 4) The software is "registered" in the Developers Italia catalog.



Reuse Phase

- 1) The PA "B" looks for a software on the catalog and finds "Imago".
- 2) The PA downloads the software and evaluates it technically
- 3) The PA **appoints a developer** to customize it, install it, maintain it and train the PA personnel.
- 4) If the software has been customized it **must be published** inside the national catalog.

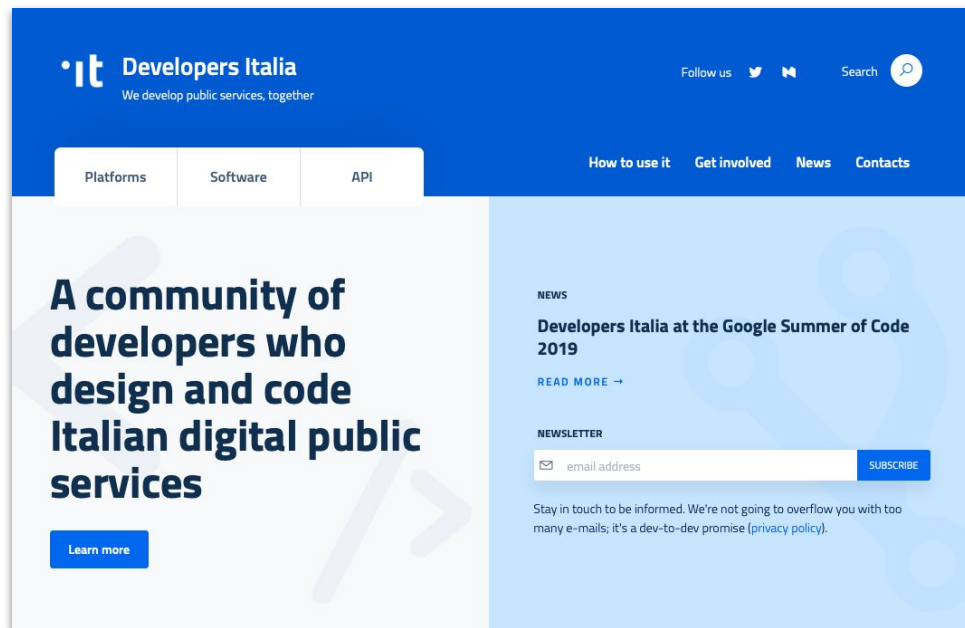


Developers Italia

A **community** of nearly 5000 *citizens, public administrators and private players* writing 100% **free and open source code** to help public administrations integrate the Italian enabling platforms: SPID, ANPR, PagoPA, CIE, etc.

Open, transparent and collaborative approach: all the code is open by design. **Anyone** can help.

Currently maintained by the Digital Transformation Department.



developers.italia.it



The Developers Italia catalog

In each software card:

- features & roadmap
- screenshots
- forks
- maintainers
- development activity

/software



E-Recruitment

4.2.75

Management of Competition Calls

The system manages all the phases of a public call, from the publication, to the presentation of the application.

document management

Published by
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - CNR

Technical contact
Marco Spasiano

TECHNICAL DETAIL

Vitality:

76%

Development status:

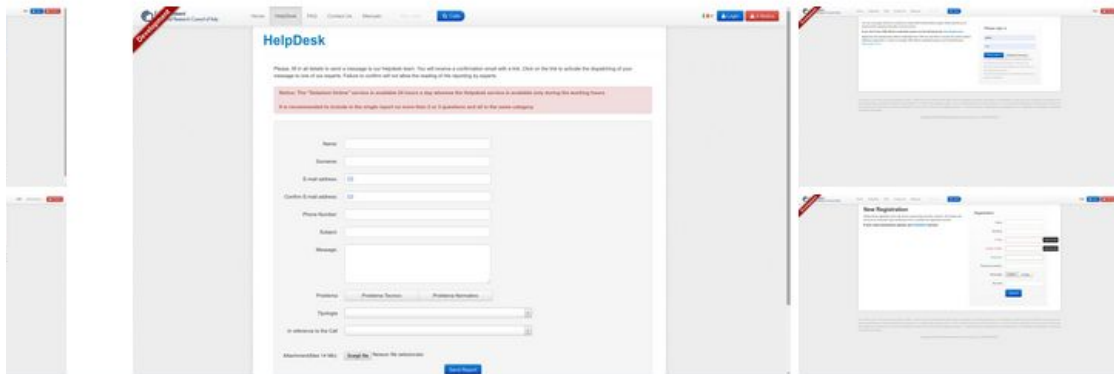
STABLE



[GO TO THE DOCUMENTATION →](#)



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[View all the photos](#)

publiccode.yml

A metadata format to describe public software, in the process of international adoption

<https://github.com/italia/publiccode.yml>

Developers Italia

```
name: Medusa
applicationSuite: MegaProductivitySuite
url: "https://example.com/italia/medusa.git"
landingURL: "https://example.com/italia/medusa"
```

```
isBasedOn: "https://github.com/italia/otello.git"
softwareVersion: "1.0"
releaseDate: "2017-04-15"
logo: img/logo.svg
monochromeLogo: img/logo-mono.svg
```

```
inputTypes:
  - text/plain
outputTypes:
  - text/plain
```

```
platforms:
  - android
  - ios
```

```
tags:
  - content-management
  - artificial-intelligence
  - museum
```

```
usedBy:
  - Comune di Firenze
  - Comune di Roma
```

```
roadmap: "https://example.com/italia/medusa/roadmap"
```

```
developmentStatus: development
```

```
softwareType: "standalone"
```

Lessons Learned

- Public administrations are **not** all the same
- The comparative evaluation must be a **simple process**
- A law is **not enough**: practical tools and training are needed
- **Communities of practice** enhance the FLOSS approach
- Local aggregations may help but **competences** need to exist



Beyond “just release”...

What about starting the development with an **open-by-design** approach?



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Images from unsplash

