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

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PROPRIETARY vs OPEN-SOURCE
Licenses & Lock-In vs Code & Sovereignty

PROPRIETARY MODEL Licenses + Lock-in	VS.	OPEN-SOURCE MODEL Code + Sovereignty
Microsoft ORACLE		LibreOffice
Costs Recurring license fees	>>	No license cost, pay for support
Lock-in to vendor, closed formats	>>	Portability, no strings attached
Closed, opaque code	>>	Auditable, open code
Vendor-controlled patches	>>	Community-driven fixes
Vendor-defined roadmap	>>	Collaborative roadmap
Restrictions and barriers	>>	Open standards, integration
Funds leave the region	>>	Investment stays local
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From Hidden Costs to Sustainable Control.

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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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