FOSS United

Public Policy Charter

Draft version

Contents

Preamble

Overview of Public Policy initiative at FOSS United

@TODO – add an overview of the Public Policy initiative. To be a very brief summary of the objectives, activities and governance model.

What is this charter about?

This charter outlines the mission, objectives, principles, and guidelines for the public policy initiatives within FOSS United. This document defines the scope and purpose of the work being undertaken as part of this initiative.

Why do we have this charter?

The aim is to provide clarity and direction, ensuring that everyone involved understands the mission, objectives, and how they will be achieved. This will also help align our efforts, establish accountability, and communicate the purpose and approach to stakeholders both inside and outside the organization.

Mission Statement

@TODO – include a clear statement of the overall purpose of the public policy initiative. This would effectively be a concise summary of the agreed objectives.

Objectives

Listed below are the specific goals that the initiative aims to achieve. Every strategy that is developed and every activity that is performed as part of this initiative should help to achieve at least of these objectives.

1. To communicate established definitions of Free and Open Source Software, FOSS, Open Source, and other terminologies to the General Public and to correct misuses of the terminologies.
2. Educate and inform both policy makers and the community regarding the benefits of FOSSin technology policies. It is important to engage communities as they have the power to influence policy makers. Work for the policy makers becomes easier if the community is already aligned.
3. Promote digital autonomy and technical sovereignty through FOSS – access to FOSS is difficult to restrict, FOSS usage reduces dependency on external vendors or proprietary technologies, FOSS is resistant to international trade conflicts
4. Advocate for the development of common open standards that allows better inter-operability between entities (both public and private) and encourage data sharing.
5. Increased allocation of public grants for FOSS projects.
6. Enable the establishment of Open-Source Program Offices (OPSOs) at both the Union and State governments.
7. Incorporate education in FOSS philosophy and FOSS technologies into the STEM curriculum in Universities.
8. Increase public awareness and participation in in technology policy-making.
9. Prevent roadblocks in the creation and adoption of FOSS in India, which includes ending Software Patents
10. Advocate for the replacement of traditional metrics of innovation and progress, like the "Number of Patents", with metrics that take into account FOSS.

Each of these objectives are discussed in detail in the following pages.

Details on the strategies, activities (execution and monitoring) related to each of the objectives are not included in the charter. These are captured separately in documentation for each program that is started under this initiative.

Communicate established definitions of nomenclature

@TODO – add details. Why is this important? What are the various terms that need to be included? Whose inputs should we seek to flesh out the nomenclature that we should communicate?

Educate and inform policy makers and community

@TODO – add details. Why is this important? Who are the policy makers? What is the scope of community engagement? What is the message that needs to passed on – things like view on patents?

Achieve technical sovereignty

@TODO – add details. Why is this important? What does technical sovereignty/digital autonomy look like? What are the risks of being too dependent on private closed source vendors? What are the risks involved in being dependant on foreign closed source vendors? Include examples of how geopolitical conflicts and trade wars can affect supply chain and operations in the digital economy.

Develop common open standards

@TODO – add details. Why is this important? What are the entities for which open standards need to be defined? Who will be involved in defining the specifications for each of the standards?

Increase allocation of public grants

@TODO – add details. Why is this important? Get details of current technology related grant allocations. Study it's sufficiency and efficiency. How much should be allocated? What should be the guidelines to select projects for disbursement of grants?

OSPO establishment

@TODO – add details. Why is this important? Add details of what the structure of an OSPO would look like within the existing government infrastructure. What would the activities of the OSPO be?

FOSS in education

@TODO – add details. Why is this important? Add details of what are the content that needs to be included. Who is in charge of maintaining the content? How is this to be distributed to universities?

Align with international programs

@TODO – add details. Why is this important? Identify list of international open-source programs. Build partnerships with shortlisted programs.

Governance

@TODO – add info on how the Public Policy initiative will be managed and overseen. Include
roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders.

Conclusion

@TODO – add a summary reiterating the importance of the charter and the commitment to its objectives.