

## Role of Open Source in the transformation of the software economy

Open source has a catalytic effect by enabling acceleration of changes that are already underway in the ICT economy. Among the challenges to face: the globalisation of economic activities and need for greater flexibility within enterprises, the erosion of geographic boundaries with possibility of interaction and transactions anywhere at any time, the need for education and human resources to support the continuous update of the workforce skills.

The growing Open Source Software (OSS) market creates the ground for a substantial service business. Indeed, OSS creates needs for IT services such as consulting, software evaluation, proof of concept services, support and application management, solution packaging, integration and testing, local presence and delivery, etc.

Open source is a driving force for the expansion of the European software industry, but its progress has been inhibited by factors such as intellectual property issues and the fragmentation of the open-source community.

Therefore, NESSI is pro-actively addressing these topics which have strong impacts on the software landscape in terms of process, business model and economic implications for the ICT sector.

Openness is leading to transformations of the software economy along three main axes.

### Transparent technology access

The openness has led to a greater role for users who can increasingly drive products design and avoid vendor-lock-in. Loyalty is created through more frequent interactions between customers, employees and partners also leading to a larger adoption rate.

### Collaborative software engineering

The world is rapidly becoming a smaller place. Open source is based on a collaborative software engineering model which can be used to the benefit of R&D as well as for the creation of internal industrial communities. Software research and development projects are taking a global dimension where scientists and engineers from all over the world are engaged in exchanges thus spurring innovation and facilitating knowledge and software sharing.

### Increased competition

OSS creates new competitive conditions. Low cost accessibility combined with the rapid development of Internet through open source allows technology providers to develop a product which is not mass-produced but which can be mass-consumed. This encourages the adoption of Service Oriented Business Models as a fundamental shift to change the European economy. OSS is leading to a strong pressure on software prices level and new players can enter the market quickly at lower cost. In particular, open source fosters the multiplicity of players able to provide support and maintenance, hence creating a competitive environment for the benefit of users.



# NESSI OSS WG Mission

NESSI is seeking to identify what are the orientations and the new perspectives given by OSS to tackle the challenges emerging in the coming years. NESSI promotes openness and is dedicated to building solutions that can be used by anybody.

The NESSI Open Source Working Group (WG) supports NESSI in defining an overall Open Source strategy targeted to companies wishing to implement or adopt Open Source, as well as to Open Source development communities wishing to collaborate and participate to NESSI.

Specifically, the NESSI Open Source WG provides NESSI committees and other Working Groups with the support, help and inputs needed to **position Open Source as a**

**major channel for the dissemination of NESSI outcomes**, ensuring adequate levels of software quality, security, dependability and safety.

The NESSI Open Source WG also **promotes integration of Open Source within NESSI platforms and services**, ensuring that the resulting integrated systems meet quality and security requirements according to the overall strategy of Open Source usage on the part of the adopter.

## Key activities

- Position paper on what OSS should be. What is the role of OSS in a service economy? What are the problems to be solved?
- Analysis of OSS components according to maturity models to support delivery of NEXOF open source implementation
- Liaison with OSS communities, ETPs, FP7 projects, national initiatives, etc.
- Study of existing initiatives and proposals for OSS education and training
- Analysis of research collaboration ideas and funding opportunities
- Guidance on OSS licenses and business models to support NESSI WGs and Strategic Projects
- Dissemination within and outside NESSI

## Participants include representatives from:

- Academia: INRIA, SINTEF, University of Hildesheim, University of Milan, University Rey Juan Carlos, University of Skovde, University of Szeged, Institute for System Programming of the Russian Academy of Sciences.
- Industry: Atos Origin, EBM WebSourcing, Engineering Ingegneria Informatica S.p.A., Siemens, Telefonica I+D, THALES
- OSS communities: COSS, FSF Europe, INES, Morfeo, OW2

September 2008



**Join us!**  
NESSI OSS Working Group is open to new suggestions and contributions.  
Working Group contact: Gregory Lopez - gregory.lopez@thalesgroup.com  
<http://www.nessi-europe.eu/>