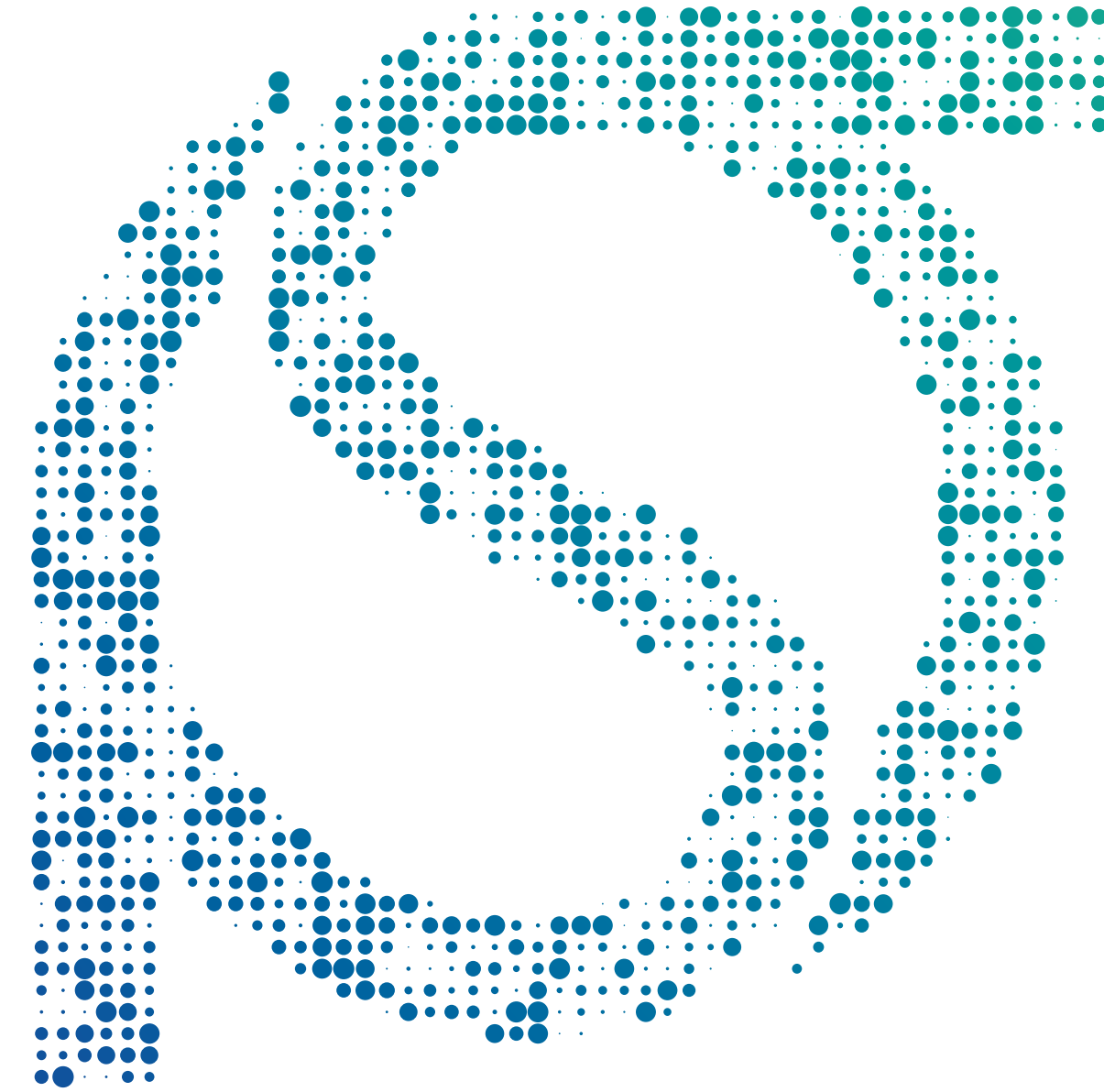


# OSPO Report

2024



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# INTRODUCTION

CERN founded its Open Source Program Office (OSPO) in September 2023 to further its Open Science goals, and to bring open source software and hardware (OSHH) at CERN into focus, be it for CERN teams, its users, or those external to CERN. The OSPO's mission is to provide guidance to and increase visibility of open-source projects, within CERN and outside, as laid out in section 2 of this report.

Creating and operating a body to serve the diverse interests of open-source hardware and software across a large and diverse organization such as CERN presents a number of challenges. After its first year, the OSPO has demonstrated that it can handle these challenges: software at CERN is now open-source by default, following the incentives set by CERN's Open Science Policy; a vivid community interacts with the OSPO with enthusiasm and high hopes for CERN's OSPO; the CERN OSPO has been contacted many times by outside entities to tap into CERN's open source experience and to discuss the world's issues with open source.

The OSPO consists of representatives from 10 departments and groups: Philip Elson and Javier Serrano for BE, Axel Naumann (chair) for EP, Hamza Boukabache and Andriy Boychenko for HSE, Han Dols for IPT-KT, Joao Pequeno for IR, Giacomo Tenaglia for IT, Micha Moskovic for RCS-SIS, Vasilis Vlachoudis for SY, Matthias Bonora for TE, and Alexander Yohei Huss for TH. This covers a wide range of requirements and expectations. Together with KT's legal advisor, a technical student, a doctoral student, and a fellow, the OSPO has for instance created material to guide open-source projects at CERN and within the user community. Making these guidelines as lightweight as possible, while still satisfying the organizational needs of CERN, was a real achievement: open-sourcing software does not involve a decision of a department head anymore, getting Contributor License Agreements signed is now a simple email to [Open.Source@cern.ch](mailto:Open.Source@cern.ch).

Each of the departments contributing to the OSPO invests about 10% of a staff member. Apart from regular meetings, the OSPO met for full-day hackathons to create the [guidelines for open source](#) at CERN. The OSPO's representatives act as a liaison between the respective departments and the OSPO. CERN is extremely lucky to have highly motivated, experienced practitioners, with excellent communication and discussion skills, making the OSPO incredibly productive and effective, as demonstrated by this year's report.

# VISION AND MISSION

## MISSION

Open Source is an integral part of CERN, and has been for many years. CERN runs on Open Source just like it's running on electricity, a collaborative spirit, and openness.

The Open Source Program Office (OSPO) brings CERN's Open Source activities onto the centre stage.

So what does “Open Source” encompass for CERN?

- CERN's OSPO deals with both open-source hardware and software: While most OSPOs are focusing on software, CERN's impact and expertise in the open-source hardware community warrants that we also support the Open Source part of CERN's hardware projects.

We tell the world about CERN's Open Source achievements:

- What we have created, what we contributed to, for instance in the context of the Member States Open Source ecosystems. The OSPO curates, teaches, and publicly shares Open Source best practices, for CERN's community and interested parties.

Sometimes people wonder about Open Source at CERN:

- How big is its impact at CERN, how much does CERN rely on it?
- Can we, you and us, work together?
- What's CERN's opinion on debates relating to Open Source?

Whatever question you might have, just contact CERN's OSPO. We serve as a contact point for anything open-source related at CERN.

## VISION

At CERN, hundreds of scientists and engineers contribute to the World's ecosystem of Open Source.

We want to surface CERN's role in Open Source more.

We also want to help everyone writing software and creating open-source hardware.

Our brilliant students currently come to CERN enthusiastic to work at one of the World's leading science labs.

We consider our work in the OSPO successful...

- when the students are also enthusiastic to come to CERN because it is the World's leading Open Source lab;
- when the World sees the significance of CERN's Open Source contributions;
- when CERN's community knows where to get answers for Open Source questions and challenges and know what to do with it;
- when they know which best practices to follow when contributing and using Open Source;
- when CERN is integrated into the European, the scientific, and World's networks of OSPOs;
- when Open Source has become one of the pillars of CERN's Open Science efforts;
- then you will hear the CERN OSPO celebrating that it has achieved what it could not hope to achieve.

And we will continue to do our best to get there, with you and our community!

### How we engage with our stakeholders

OSPO's stakeholders include:

- Software and hardware developers creating and contributing to open source projects
- Anybody consuming open source software (IT service providers, scientific researchers, graphics designers, etc.)
- Procurement specialists seeking to leverage open source software for its cost efficiency and avoid vendor lock-in
- Senior management seeking advice on open source matters impacting the organisation
- External OSPOs for bootstrapping a new OSPO, or those seeking external assurance on approach / KPIs etc.

Acting as a single point of contact for open source matters gives the OSPO a clear picture of the day-to-day Open Source landscape at CERN. When bootstrapping the CERN OSPO, we focused on distilling, clarifying, and simplifying where possible, the existing procedures and policies for contributing to new and existing open source software and hardware. We will support and seek novel approaches to fiscally supporting Open Source Software and Hardware (OSSH), collaborating with our colleagues in the IT and procurement to support their open source needs.

Internally, the primary interface for people to discover the OSPO is its technical website, as well as through general events such as the OSPO launch event. The email inbox is the main medium for direct (private) user interaction with the OSPO, and public interactions take place in the OSPO forum. As email is the primary mechanism by which to request handling of a software or hardware dissemination case, we consider the initial response time to an email to be of importance to the perception of OSPO, and by extension of importance to the implementation of Open Science at CERN.

Externally, the OSPO acts as an interface into CERN on topics related to open source, giving CERN an opportunity to contribute to, and influence, external open source matters. We contribute to ongoing topical discussions, provide feedback on proposals, and share our experience to the external community, in the interest of progressing open source internationally.



# LAUNCH AND INAUGURATION



On May 30th, 2023, the mandate of the CERN OSPO was officially endorsed. The approval of the mandate can be seen as the OSPO's first significant achievement, aligning the Organization around open source, and bringing together members from across many of CERN's departments. In particular, it defined "internal" obligations of the OSPO, geared towards facilitating best practices in the CERN community, and "external" facing objectives, focused on showcasing CERN's open source contributions to the world.

The mandate defined the CERN OSPO's two main target audiences: the internal CERN community and the broader open source ecosystem. To account for both audiences, the OSPO's inauguration was split into a public event, hosting a number of renowned open source experts, and an internal event focussing on discussions with CERN's open source community.



*The inauguration coincided with the creation of a visual identity for the OSPO; on the left side you can see the OSPO logo, on the right side a poster advertising the inauguration (both created by Victoria Stephany Huisman Sigcha)*

## Day 1 in CERN Science Gateway: Public Event

The launch event on November 28th in CERN Science Gateway welcomed approximately 170 attendees in person, and many more via webcast<sup>1</sup>. The event featured a series of talks by OSPO members which aimed at introducing the CERN OSPO to the open source community. External guest speakers were invited to provide insights on current developments in open source software and hardware.

CERN's Deputy Director for Research and Computing, Pippa Wells, set the scene by highlighting CERN's leading role in the Open Science movement, and its impact on society and industry. The talk particularly emphasised CERN's long standing dedication to Open Source development and its crucial importance for the institution's ongoing success.

Giacomo Tengalia continued by providing an introduction to CERN's OSPO, with a specific focus on its commitment to both Open Source Software and Open Source Hardware. The presentations by the guest speakers Bryce Adelstein Lelbach (Nvidia), Alicia Gibb (Open Source Hardware Association) and Samuel Mbuthia (OSPO of the World Health Organisation) provided insights into topics such as open source licensing, community building and tooling. In closing, Javier Serrano presented the mandate of CERN's OSPO, as well several of CERN's flagship Open Source projects.

The presentations were followed by an Apéro which allowed participants to directly discuss with members of the OSPO and to network with peers throughout CERN.

<sup>1</sup> Recordings and slides are available on the event's indico page: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1327562/>

## Day 2 in the Main Auditorium: Community Event

The second launch event took place on November 29th in CERN's main auditorium.<sup>2</sup> It welcomed approximately 70 participants from the CERN Open Source practitioner community.

The event was kicked off with several presentations by CERN OSPO members who introduced the central goals of OSPO and its plans to support the CERN open source community.

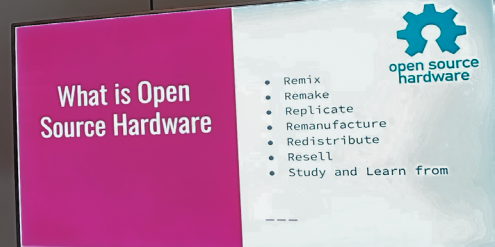
Following the presentations, a moderated discussion took place to gather feedback and suggestions from the community. Issues raised in this context include the roles of the OSPO, software licensing, open source community building and governance strategies, platforms for open source development, Contributor License Agreements (CLAs), and the OSPO's engagement with CERN external open source communities and events.

Suggestions and questions raised in the community event were discussed further in the [OSPO forum](#) and used to set priorities for the OSPO operations in the following months.

<sup>2</sup> The slides of the event are available on <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1327563/>



Launch event on November 28th





# ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOFTWARE

CERN’s previous rules on how to open source software stem from a the Open Source License Task Force<sup>3</sup>, whose findings were published in 2012. While much of its deliberations remain valid to this day, some of the processes have proven impractical.

To define the next generation of guidance, the OSPO took a very effective and pragmatic approach: engaging all members, the OSPO covered the whole range of areas, from best practices to license recommendations. With the involvement of virtually all key players, the OSPO could converge on a set of rules that were acceptable for the different parts, including the requirements of reliable operations for instance in BE and IT, the reality in EP with its thousands of users, the legal viewpoint, and the Knowledge Transfer perspective. What could have taken years with several working groups was achieved within weeks through the OSPO’s unique setup.

As an international organization with special privileges and immunities, a long-standing concern around CERN’s compatibility with standard open-source licenses was resolved by the OSPO. Experts of the Organization’s legal aspects and of the open-source aspects converged to a solution that, for the first time, enables CERN to publish its code under unmodified open-source licenses, making CERN’s products compatible with the rest of the world’s open-source ecosystem.

The Knowledge Transfer group was especially supportive in finding more pragmatic approaches: signing of organizational Contributor License Agreements (CLAs) is now a trivial process from the point of view of the contributor, facilitating CERN’s contributions to the world’s open-source projects tremendously. The fact that, under CERN’s Open Science policy, all software is by default open-source is by itself a fantastic achievement for the Organization and a clear signal to the world. Combining this with much streamlined open-sourcing processes makes software development at CERN a technical task, not a bureaucratic one.

Overall, the new set of guidelines and recommendations<sup>4</sup> reduce the burden for developers of open-source hardware and software; provide clear and simple guidance to the developers’ typical and recurring questions; simplify processes for both management and developers; and have the prospects of improving the quality of CERN’s products through best practice recommendations, even outside CERN, this set of recommendations saw significant interest, with external requests having been received to release the OSPO recommendations publicly, even for early drafts. The Bank for International Settlements and the working group of the UN OSPOs in particular, as well as other entities throughout Europe and the world, expressed their appreciation for the documentation produced by CERN’s OSPO.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HARDWARE AND GATEWARE

CERN has a relatively long tradition in publishing open-source hardware: after all, one of the first open-source hardware licenses was created at CERN<sup>5</sup>, with significant visibility even today.

An important difference between hardware and gateway versus software at CERN, is the standard entry point for the designer/developer in their journey to open-source their work. For hardware and gateway, that entry point is the Knowledge Transfer (KT) group. The OSPO is only involved after a decision has been made to pursue an open-source license, and the OSPO’s role is to provide guidance and recommendations throughout the open-sourcing process.

The OSPO’s recommendations provide guidance on the processes and, most importantly, on the best practices to follow for CERN open-source hardware and gateway projects. They span development processes, aimed at improving the quality of the products, legal aspects, and even commercialization aspects, based on more than a decade of expertise at CERN with open-source hardware and gateway. This was again only possible by having the key experts and practitioners from all relevant fields at a common table, with the will to advance the situation for open source at CERN.

## OSPO CATALOGUES

### Software

A proof of concept of the CERN Open-Source Software Catalogue (OSSCAT) has been developed and deployed, and will be open to the public during 2025. The catalogue uses the Hugo static site generator and leverages CERN Gitlab issue workflows in order to allow developers to submit their project for inclusion. Projects are regularly refreshed in order to feed the latest news into the catalogue page.

### Hardware and Gateway

A catalogue<sup>6</sup> of OpenSource Hardware (OSHW) and gateway solutions is being built using the Hugo static site generator. In recognition of the fact that collaborative spaces such as github.com and gitlab.com are now widely available to anybody, the current Open Hardware Repository (ohwr.org) will stop being an instance of GitLab Community Edition and instead focus on providing an easy-to-browse catalogue of open-source hardware and gateway, with links to the actual designs hosted elsewhere.

As of this writing, the catalogue is mostly complete and ready to go online in 2025. Some improvements over the previous GitLab-based solution include better findability of projects and relations among them, such as “this hardware works with this gateway and software”. This reflects the way communities form around hardware projects, with an ecosystem of compatible products. The forums at forums.ohwr.org will continue to operate as usual, with links from the new catalogue to each forum corresponding to a given project.

## PROJECTS PUBLISHED THROUGH THE OSPO

Requests to open source projects are handled by the OSPO. They are tracked internally through tickets that are assigned to members of the CERN OSPO as the main contact. So far, a total of 9 requests have been received, 2 of which have been resolved:

1. Licence inquiry for the SHiP software framework (FairShip<sup>7</sup>): The request covered support in choosing a license for the SHiP software framework, consultation on how the consent of the contributors can be obtained, and the copyright assignment.
2. OpenPHIGS<sup>8</sup> for data preservation: This request dealt with the compatibility of different licenses and the choice of a license of newly added source files.

## QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY THE OSPO

Enquiries to the OSPO can be made through two communication channels: the official OSPO email address and the CERN-internal forum<sup>9</sup>. The latter serves as a platform for the CERN community to ask questions, exchange opinions/experiences, and make suggestions. Topics range from CERN’s position within the broader open-source community (contributions to external projects, CLAs, etc.) to more technical enquiries pertaining to making projects open source (licensing, additional resources and management, legacy software, etc.).

A total of 45 requests have been received by the OSPO through the official email address, of which the majority were CERN-internal enquiries on: open-sourcing (10), licensing (9), general suggestions (4), project management (3), the CERN OS catalogue (2), CLAs (2: google, FSF), and partnerships (2: AlmaLinux foundation, Jupyter foundation). External enquiries amounted to a total of 12, of which 5 were feedback on open-source related topics at CERN and 7 partnership enquiries.

<sup>3</sup> Report at <https://cds.cern.ch/record/1482206>  
<sup>4</sup> The OSPO’s recommendations are published at <https://ospo.docs.cern.ch>  
<sup>5</sup> See for instance [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CERN\\_Open\\_Hardware\\_Licence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CERN_Open_Hardware_Licence)

<sup>6</sup> Sources of the website can be seen at <https://github.com/OHWR/ohwr.org> and a preview is at <https://ohwr.github.io/ohwr.org/>  
<sup>7</sup> <https://github.com/ShipSoft/FairShip>  
<sup>8</sup> <https://github.com/CERN/OpenPHIGS>  
<sup>9</sup> Email: [Open.Source@cern.ch](mailto:Open.Source@cern.ch), forum: <https://ospo.web.cern.ch/>



EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE OSPO

The CERN OSPO aims to organise at least one event per year in order to engage with the community by reporting on the progress that was made, highlight open-source projects at CERN, and receive the feedback needed in order to define next steps and set priorities. Since the endorsement of its mandate, two large events have been organised by the OSPO at CERN.

Launch and inauguration

A two-day event was organised on the 28th and 29th of November 2023 to announce and celebrate the launch of the CERN OSPO. The first day targeted the public and the broader open source community with presentations underlining the history and spirit of open science that is deeply ingrained within CERN, as well as external invited speakers sharing their experiences pertaining to open source at their respective institutions. The second day addressed the internal CERN community and mainly focussed on gathering feedback and understanding the expectations that the community has from the OSPO. (see section 3 in relation to the launch event)



Open Source at CERN in 2024/2025

A CERN community event<sup>10</sup> was held on 7 November 2024 with presentation by the invited guest speakers Clemens Lange (chair of the CERN Open Science Practitioners Forum) on the importance of the OSPO within the wider Open Science efforts at CERN, Anastasia Stasenko (pleias) on data commons in the context of AI, and Sophia Vargas (Google OSPO) on the challenges of sustainable open-source software.

This was followed by four lightning talks that featured selected open-source projects at CERN. Axel Naumann provided an overview of the OSPO, highlighting achievements and plans for 2025. This was followed by Giacomo Tenaglia providing an update both on the software and hardware side of OSPO activities.

The event closed with an open feedback and discussion session that touched on topics such as how CERN can contribute to open-source projects, requests for stronger focus on open-source alternatives, and concerns raised on the ethical use of AI.



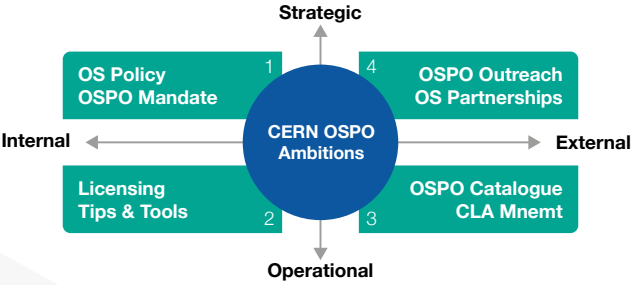
The CERN OSPO community event on November 7th 2024



<sup>10</sup> <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1445864/>

ADVANCING OPEN SOURCE COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

The CERN OSPO plays a role internally and externally: guiding and advising on internal aspects of open source, while strategically fostering external partnerships in the interest of CERN, including in domains outside High Energy Physics, as illustrated below:



The strategic and legal input of the Knowledge Transfer Group, formalised by KT membership in the OSPO, has been of critical importance to the success of the OSPO in 2024, ensuring that when making key decisions, the OSPO has the necessary context in relation to CERN’s strategy towards identifying and developing open source partnerships beyond High Energy Physics. Over the past years, several collaborative R&D initiatives have emerged, leveraging CERN Open Source Software and Hardware. These projects have extended the benefits of our fundamental physics program to diverse fields such as biology and epidemiology (using BioDynaMo as an agent-based simulation engine), finance (employing ROOT and advanced data analytics for anomaly and fraud detection) and Quantum and Energy Grids (implementing White Rabbit for nanosecond-level time synchronization).

The rise of OSPOs across public institutions and corporations has created new channels for collaboration. During CERN OSPO’s inaugural year, we engaged with potential partners at key events, including a United Nations OSPO meeting in Valencia, Spain, and the global OSPO4Good summit at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA, and with an invited presentation at the “Mind the Open Source Gap” series by the UN Secretariat. These

engagements revealed new opportunities for partnerships and funding from organizations dedicated to open source project development. Below, we summarize the most relevant discussions with potential partners, highlighting key projects and progress in 2024.

ZenDis

ZenDis is a publicly owned German organization, serving as the central point of contact for open source development in public administration, promoting digital sovereignty with an end-to-end approach. Branding itself as a “start-up within the state,” ZenDis mediates between German public administration and open source stakeholders. Focus: Building international collaborations and maintaining a catalogue of open source software (OSS) for public administration. CERN Collaboration: Agreement reached to include CERN software in ZenDis’ OSS catalogue. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is planned for early 2025.

Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz established an OSPO in 2024 to support Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) usage and contributions across the company, including both open source and inner source initiatives. Focus: Encouraging employees to participate in FOSS activities and fostering partnerships through OSPO-to-OSPO collaboration. CERN Collaboration: Discussions are underway on integrating CERN’s HLS4ML technology with Mercedes-Benz’s technical departments. Funding routes are being explored with the Knowledge Transfer Group.

Digital Public Goods Alliance

The DPGA, a UN-endorsed initiative, supports the discovery, development, and use of open-source solutions aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mission: Create a global ecosystem for digital public goods through collaboration among governments, private sector experts, donors, and the UN.

United Nations Foundation

Founded in 1998 with a \$1 billion endowment from philanthropist Ted Turner, the UN Foundation amplifies impactful initiatives that address global challenges.

Sovereign Tech Agency

The Sovereign Tech Fund invests in the development and maintenance of open digital infrastructure, focusing on foundational technologies that enable broader innovation. Funding trusted, openly accessible digital infrastructure components such as libraries and standards.

FINOS (Fintech Open Source Foundation)

An initiative under the Linux Foundation, FINOS fosters collaboration and innovation in the financial sector through open source software and standards. Mission: Promote interoperability and innovation by providing a transparent, community-driven collaboration platform. CERN Collaboration: FINOS identified the CERN HighLo project as a candidate for funding.

Bank for International Settlements

The international organization handling inter-state money transfers reached out to CERN. The team in charge of introducing and defining open-sourcing guidelines for the BIS wanted to benefit from the CERN OSPO’s expertise and recommendations, covering both best practices and the definition of open source policies, especially in the context of CERN being an international organization.

The CERN OSPO remains committed to advancing open source innovation through strategic partnerships and fostering a culture of collaboration. The initiatives outlined here illustrate our efforts to extend the impact of CERN technologies beyond physics, addressing societal challenges and unlocking new possibilities for global cooperation in close collaboration with the CERN Knowledge Transfer Group.



# IMPACT OF OPEN SOURCE

One of the main motivations for the establishment of the CERN OSPO is to make a measurable impact. To quote the OSPO mandate:

The following mandate for an OSPO at CERN [...] an further CERN's standing as a successful Open Source and Open Science lab with impact on industry and society.

At the same time, the activities of the OSPO are taking part in the context of the larger Open Science movement, and both open-source software and hardware are two of the open science elements highlighted in the CERN Open Science Policy. From that perspective, they constitute research products in their own right and it is worthwhile to assess their impact on scientific research.

Although we are not yet able to reliably measure the impact of open source at CERN at the time of writing this report, the rest of this section will explain the challenges of impact assessment and our plans to tackle them.

## SOFTWARE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Impact on industry and society

While contributions to open source at CERN, from research software to IT infrastructure projects, are undeniably significant, precisely measuring their impact is not so easy.

The problem is twofold. Firstly, we need to get an accurate picture of the open-source contributions made by the CERN community. Secondly, we need to have a means of assessing the value of each of those contributions.

To address the second problem, there are existing approaches to estimate the value of open-source contributions which we could adopt. However, given the long history and widespread nature of open-source development practices at CERN, we don't have a clear picture of all the projects in which the CERN community is involved. The software catalogue (discussed in more detail in section 4) is intended to provide an inventory of CERN open-source software projects but fails to capture contributions that are less prominent but nevertheless valuable, for example to projects not primarily maintained by CERN and as such not captured by the catalogue.

To remedy this, we have decided to partner with [Software Heritage](#), an organisation which aims “to collect, preserve, and share all software that is publicly available in source code form”. In 2025, a technical student, who we have been able to hire thanks to the financial support of the IT and KT departments and RCS-SIS group, will exploit the vast dataset made available by Software Heritage in order to identify all contributions, big or small, made by the CERN community. She will also be able to trace how those contributions are reused across the landscape of

open-source software in order to get a more accurate representation of their value to the world. We plan to present the outcome of this work in the next report.

### Impact on scientific research

To gauge the impact on scientific research of a given research product, a good metric is to count how many times it has been cited. This practice is well-established for research articles and could in principle be extended to software citations.

Here again, we face two main difficulties in implementing this approach. The first is that researchers don't typically cite the software they use in their research, the second is that there is currently no platform that can reliably track the citations to software as happens for publications. These two problems are intertwined and constitute somewhat of a chicken-and-egg problem: authors of articles often don't cite the software they use because the lack of citation metrics (as well as recognition by funders) strongly decrease the value of those citations to software developers; the infrastructure to track and count software citations has not been built due to their absence of articles.

To break this loop, it is necessary to work on several fronts. In the coming year, the OSPO will make technical recommendations (see section 4 for more info) on best practices to make software citable. In parallel, some CERN collaborations have started work on establishing best practices for citing software, with the involvement of the CERN Open Science Office. Finally on the infrastructure side, INSPIRE (the main information platform for HEP) intends on enriching its collections with data and software and perform citation tracking.

## HARDWARE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Use of CERN OHL v2 in github.com

CERN-OHL-P-2.0: 520 projects  
CERN-OHL-W-2.0: 286 projects  
CERN-OHL-S-2.0: 537 projects

### Number of PCB designs using OSHW licences in CERN's drawing office

15 designs in total (6 using KiCad)  
11 by BE-CEM  
2 by SY-ABT  
1 by HSE-RP  
1 by SY-BI

### Number of PCB designs using KiCad in CERN's drawing office

8 designs in total (6 of them OSHW)  
4 by BE-CEM  
2 by SY-ABT  
1 by HSE-RP  
1 by BE-GM

Total number of designs by CERN's drawing office  
In order to put in perspective the number of open-sourced designs and the number of designs done using KiCad, we need the total number of designs done by CERN's drawing office in 2024. As of this writing (21 November 2024) that number is 189, with some designs in the pipeline, so for the purpose of reporting we can use 200.

# OSPO EVALUATION AND RECEPTION

## FEEDBACK RECEIVED, KPIS

Through our main feedback channel, namely email sent to [Open.Science@cern.ch](mailto:Open.Science@cern.ch), we received 44 separate requests between the establishment of the OSPO and the end of 2024.

The OSPO strived to answer those requests as fast as possible, which proved challenging in many cases: as the OSPO had just been established, many requests were new and required extensive research and discussion within the OSPO before reaching a common consensus on a reply. On average, we managed to reply within 5 days, although this number doesn't tell the full story: 50% of the requests were dealt with in 24 hours, but some requests needed significantly more time. More information about our response times are visible in **Figure 1**.

The requests were categorized according to the initiator of the request: internal requests by CERN members (32 requests) or external requests by third-parties (12 requests). They were also categorized according to their topic. Most of the requests involved support for open-sourcing (10 requests) and licensing (9 requests), and requests to establish partnerships with various open-source related organisations such as other OSPOs or foundations to support specific projects. A full breakdown of requests by categories is visible in **Figure 2**.

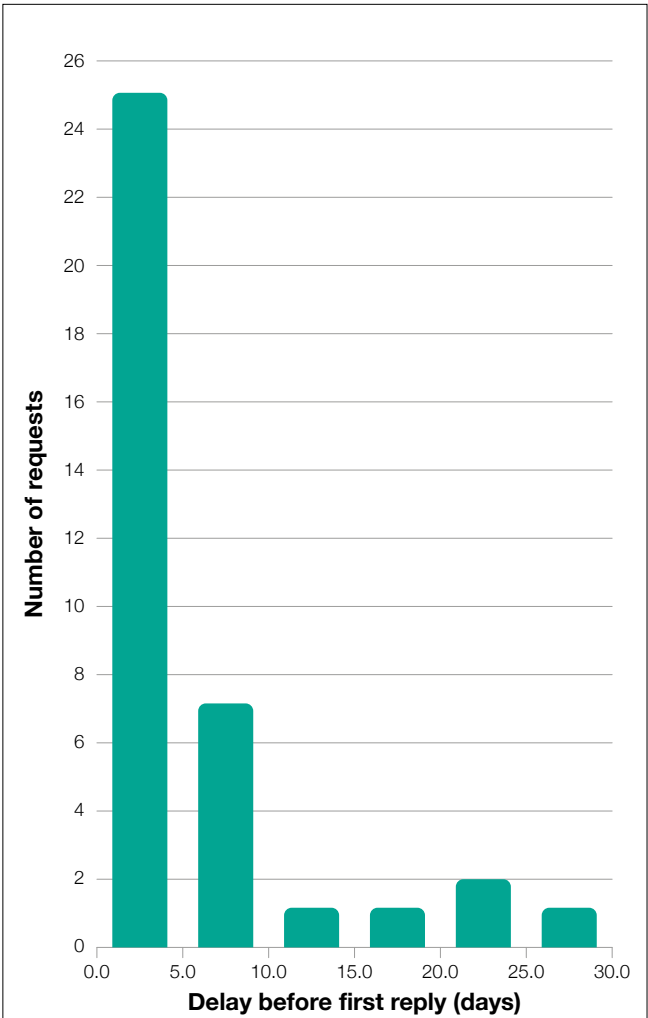


Figure 1: Histogram of delays before a reply to a request was made by the OSPO

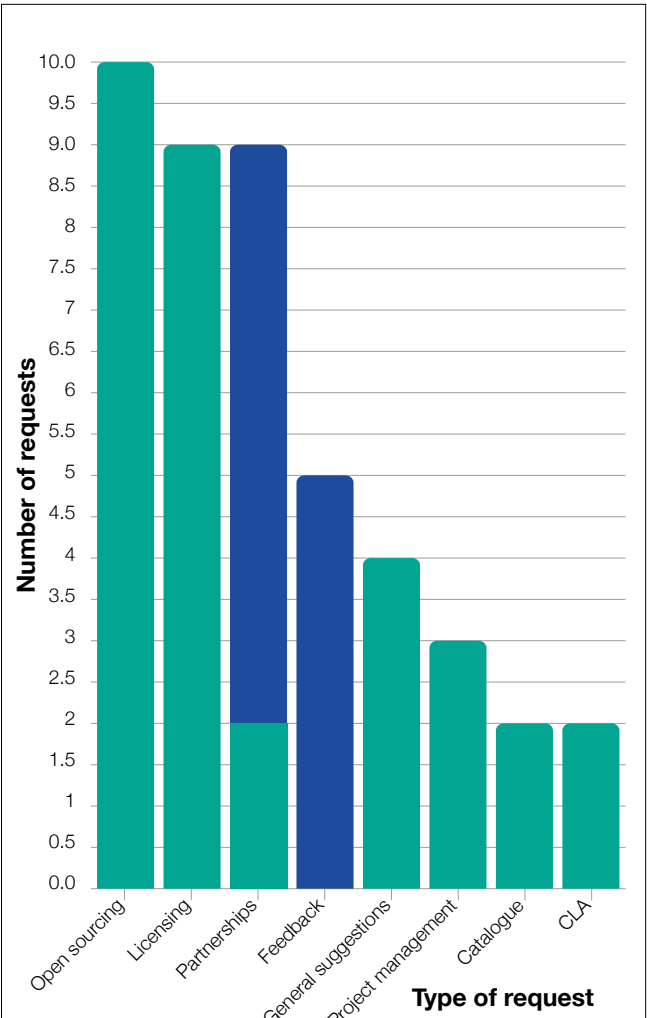


Figure 2: Number of requests received by the OSPO for the different categories of requests

# CONCLUSION

Within one and a half years since its official endorsement, the CERN OSPO delivered the first results to the CERN community and engaged with external entities such as the UN and OSPOs around the globe.

The inauguration event in November 2023 and the community event in September 2024 demonstrated the community's clear interest in open source matters. Active participation on the OSPO forum and many requests received to the OSPO are measurable indicators for the demand. A key result during the OSPO's first year was the Organization-wide alignment on guidelines and recommendations regarding licensing, open-sourcing software and hardware, and engaging with external open source projects; and documenting this not only for the community but sharing it publicly.

The second key achievement is improved visibility of open source projects at CERN, especially to the outside. In this context, the established OSPO Catalogues are useful tools for showcasing CERN creations to external entities. This not only highlights CERN's open source contributions to society, but also guides external parties to projects of interest or experts within CERN.

To better understand and quantify the impact of open source at CERN, a collaboration with the Software Heritage project has been established, with the aim to identify contributions to open source made by CERN.

During the course of 2025, the OSPO foresees publishing the Software and Hardware Catalogues, with on-boarding of CERN open-source projects. In terms of policies and recommendations, the OSPO will finalise a workflow and tool for selecting the most appropriate license for a project. Finally, the OSPO expects to continue the collaboration with Zendis and the Sovereign Tech Agency, and to actively join the European Commission's European OSPO network.

The CERN OSPO would like to thank and acknowledge the additional support it receives from IT, KT, and especially SIS. We would also like to thank our former contributors who left us during 2024: founding member Sünje Dallmeier-Tiessen, Victoria Stephany Huisman Sigcha, and Iris Kyranou.



# CONTACT

The OSPO's role is to communicate with the community and the outside, to consult and engage.

For official requests; if you are wondering whether the OSPO can help; if you want to discuss an issue relating to open source; if you have an idea or recommendation for the OSPO; or you would like to propose a project to work on together with the OSPO: that's why the OSPO exists, for the CERN community as well as for the world.

To reach out, please contact us through one of the following means:

- The OSPO Forum <https://ospo.web.cern.ch>
- The OSPO mailing list [Open.Source@cern.ch](mailto:Open.Source@cern.ch)
- For CERN teams, consider contacting your departmental representative:  
Matthias Bonora (TE)  
Hamza Boukabache (HSE)  
Andriy Boychenko (HSE)  
Han Dols (KT)  
Philip Elson (BE)  
Alexander Yohei Huss (TH)  
Micha Moskovic (RCS-SIS)  
Axel Naumann (EP)  
Joao Pequeno (IR)  
Javier Serrano (BE)  
Giacomo Tenaglia (IT)  
Vasilis Vlachoudis (SY)

We are happy to hear from you!

