



IDA workshop on
OSS competence in the public sector
taking place during the
EGOVOS 3 Conference on Open Standards and Libre Software in
Government,
24-26 November 2003,
UNESCO headquarters, place de Fontenoy 7, Paris, France

In parallel to the EGOVOS Conference (<http://www.egovos.org/nov-2003>), IDA is organising a half-day event to bring together public sector bodies (OSS competence centres) that provide assistance and advice on the deployment of open source software to local, regional or national public authorities.

The event serves first to improve awareness of existing initiatives and to encourage interaction between these. A listing of known public sector organisations in Europe that provide assistance on issues related to open source software will be drawn up prior to the event and updated with information acquired during the workshop.

A further objective of the workshop is to discuss opportunities for improving co-operation between competence centres and to determine the instruments required to promote this at European level. The discussions from the workshop will feed the formulation of practical and policy recommendations.

Participation is free of charge but requires prior registration. The event is targeted at representatives of European public sector OSS competence centres and at EU policy makers. Consult the IDA website for further details (<http://europa.eu.int/ispo/ida>).

The workshop will take place in the morning of 25 November 2003 and will focus on the following broad issues:

- overview of activities in the field
- specific challenges faced by local, regional, national competence centres
- interactions with the the open source developers' communities and with the private sector
- options for European co-operation

In each field, short thought-provoking presentations are invited in order to promote an open discussion.

If you represent a public sector organisation promoting the use of open source software please contact Ms Sofia Segedy of IDA's event organisers (ssegedy@gopa-brussels.com)

- and indicate whether you would like your organisation to be listed in the inventory of European public sector competence centres;
- whether you would like to table proposals;
- whether you would like to make an introductory presentation at the IDA workshop*).

*) Please note that IDA cannot reimburse the travel expenses of participants.