



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: OPEN SOURCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS. TOWARDS A MORE EFFICIENT EUROPE"

The International Conference "Open Source and Public Administrations: Towards a more efficient Europe", organized by Fundecyt, the Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology in Extremadura, and promoted by the consortium of organizations that develop the European project **OSEPA** (Open Source Software Usage by European Public Administrations) took place in the city of Badajoz in the southwest Spanish region of Extremadura, during the 1st and 2nd, December 2010.

The **welcome session** was attended by representatives of the Government of Spain, through D. Miguel Angel Amutio, Head of Planning and Management Area in the Improvement of e-administration DG, who toured the national spanish politics for the establishment of Free Software in the National Administration, also was represented the Extremadura Regional Government through its Second Vice-President and Spokesperson, Mrs. M^a Dolores Pallero, that defined Extremadura as a pioneer in the use of free software and European benchmark in its implementation and Mr. Jaime Gragera, DG of e-Government and Public Policy Evaluation, who was accompanied by Mr. Nikos Roussos, on behalf of KEDKE, the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities in Greece, Project Leader, who introduced the OSEPA Project and Mr. Luis Millán Vázquez de Miguel representing Fundecyt, as organizer of the event.

Then, there was the **inaugural conference** which was entitled "Extremadura in the Information Society. Origins" when Mr. Luis Millán Vázquez de Miguel, Executive President in Fundecyt toured the recent history of regional development in Extremadura using New Technologies and Free Software. Afterwards, Mr. Jaime Gragera Rodríguez, DG of e-Government and Public Policy Evaluation, presents The Digital Management System in the Extremadura region.





The morning was closed with a **round table** where different experiences of migration to Free Software at local level were presented: Mr. Jan Verlinden (Local experience of the city of Schoten, Belgium), Mr. Rüdiger Czeschla (City of Freiburg, Germany) Mr. Ramón Ramón Sánchez (emergy Consultancy, Andalusia, Spain) and Mrs. Miriam Ruiz (CTIC Foundation, Principality of Asturias).

The afternoon session was reserved for the **presentation of initiatives** by the entities that comprise the OSEPA project, with the participation of Thomas Uhl, Member of the board of LiSoG, German open source nonprofit business development organization with a presentation about "Open Source Solutions Stack for Public Administrations, closing with the presentation by Mr. Antonio Recio, of Fundecyt, with a presentation that took the name" Free Software as a core element for Technological Cooperation. "

The morning of the 2nd day focused on the **discussion among experts** on tools for Open Source Software, with the participation of different centers of reference on free software, as CENATIC, the Spanish Reference Centre for ICT Applications based on Open Source and the Centre of Excellence in Open Source "Jose de Espronceda." The debate was enriched with the participation of national sector companies grouped in the Spanish Federation of Open Source Companies (ASOLIF) and the Free Software Foundation Europe, represented by its President Mr. Kasten Gerloff, who introduced European policies to promote free software and new trends in this field of action.

The conference closed with an **institutional signature** by political representatives of a **Manifesto** that included the main advantages of Free Software for Public Administrations and citizens in general, and a variety of purposes and commitments to create awareness in each territory on the benefits of free software. This Manifesto was read by the President of the Federation of Municipalities and Provinces of Extremadura, Mr. Ramón Díaz.

The event included about 100 people, that had an space for exhibitions and a demo booth with different approach on open applications.

The conference was attended by delegations from european public institutions (municipalities, federations of municipalities, universities, etc..) of, at least, 12 EU member countries, plus regional and national institutions and organizations promoting free software.





Among the complementary events at the conclusion of the conference, several project partners held a **study tour** where they could learn first-hand experiences of use of Free Software in the Extremadura region. To do so, they had the participation of the Consortium IdentIC (Initiatives for Development of Information Technology and Communication in Extremadura), and made physical visits to a New Knowledge Centre, where they witnessed how to introduce the free software on new technologies to the elderly, the health system of Extremadura and a Secondary School (digital literacy for Society and students at the regional school system).



Further information : www.osepa.eu

