

New Article: Open Standards Are Achieving Momentum and Creating Innovation

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According to an article published today in the European Journal of ePractice no.5 (2008), Open Standards are now not only achieving significant momentum in industry and governments in Europe, but also directly contributing to innovation

“Open standards achieve increasing momentum because standard setting actors – companies, governments, and consumers – are shifting from a dogmatic to a pragmatic perspective – from adherence to strict principles, to commitment to a path towards openness.”

The authors, Trond Arne Undheim, Director of Standards Strategy and Policy at Oracle Corporation and Jochen Friedrich, Program Manager for ICT Standardization at IBM, are also Chair and Co-chair of OFE's recently established Standards Special Interest Group, with the mandate to debate and influence standards policy in Europe.

Their article, called “The Momentum of Open Standards - a Pragmatic Approach to Software Interoperability”, is likely to have high impact on European policy makers, due to its publication in the policy-wise widely distributed European Journal of ePractice, published by the DG for Information Society and Media. It also comes only two weeks before the much awaited Commission workshop on Intellectual Property Rights. On that issue, the authors write:

“Regarding the software sector, it is worth noting that the most relevant standards organisations established and active in software standardisation have moved towards implementing IPR policies with a royalty-free licensing regime.”

Graham Taylor, CEO of Openforum Europe says:

“We will continue pushing for these trends to manifest themselves in public procurement. Looking forward, the area of software interoperability, which is best served by open standards, is a topic ripe for framework legislation, due to its ripple effects across the European governance value chain. Currently, it is scattered in dozens of directives, which is not contributing to better regulation”.

Undheim, Trond Arne & Friedrich, Jochen (2008). The Momentum of Open Standards - a Pragmatic Approach to Software Interoperability. European Journal of ePractice, N° 5. [<http://www.epracticejournal.eu/document/5156>]

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Notes for Editors.

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OpenForum Europe is a not-for-profit, independent organisation launched in March 2002 to accelerate, broaden and strengthen the use of Open Source Software (OSS) in business and government: www.openforumeurope.org