



The Open Source WG

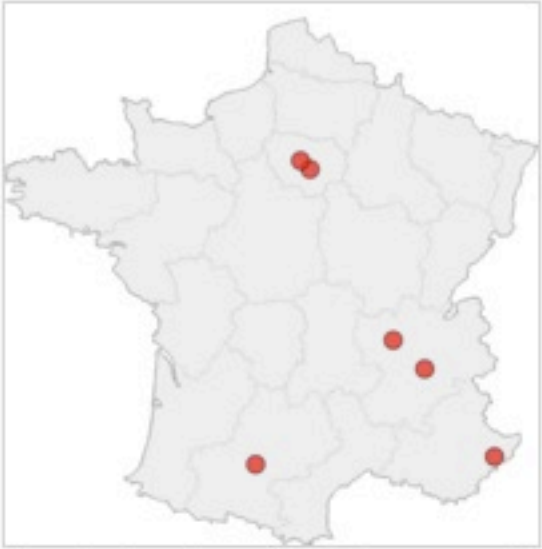
Open Innovation Summit, OWF 2009

About the WG

Pôle de compétitivité (France)

En France, les pôles de compétitivité sont des clusters reconnus individuellement par l'État. La loi de finances pour 2005 les définit comme : « le regroupement sur un même territoire d'entreprises, d'établissements d'enseignement supérieur et d'organismes de recherche publics ou privés qui ont vocation à travailler en synergie pour mettre en oeuvre des projets de développement économique pour l'innovation. [1] » Bénéficiant de subventions publiques et d'un régime fiscal particulier, ils doivent rendre l'économie plus compétitive, tout en luttant contre les délocalisations, créer des emplois, rapprocher la recherche privée et publique et développer certaines zones en difficulté (...)

Sommaire [masquer]



Localisation des « pôles de compétitivité mondiaux ».

LES PÔLES DE COMPÉTITIVITÉ

"Competitiveness Clusters"

- Kind of cluster focussed on innovation as a driver to economic competitiveness
- With a special statute defined by the Government in 2002-2004
- Bring together SMEs, big corporations and academic institutions around collaborative and pre-competitive R&D project
- Other specific actions to help SME development
- 71 such clusters in France today

History of the OSS WG

- France is known as a leading country for OSS development and adoption
- The Paris Region is leading this movement
- A project for a new cluster around OSS was submitted in early 2007
- The Government chose to graft this project to an existing cluster, System@tic, in 2007

SYSTEM@TIC PARIS-REGION Pôle de compétitivité

Mission

"Develop the FLOSS ecosystem in the Greater Paris Region"

Mission (long version)

*"**Bring together** the actors of **Open Source** in the **Paris Region**, promoting the emergence of a healthy and prosperous Open Source **industry**, in close contact with the world of **education** and **research**, to foster development of **innovative** open source software that will benefit from **scientific** advances in the Paris Region"*

Challenges

- **Economic**: innovate to create value in a sustainable manner
- **Scientific**: solve new problems specific to OSS development
- **Education**: train the engineers and scientists of tomorrow

Actions

- Support for setting up and labeling cooperative R&D projects
- Liaison with other funding agencies (Oseo, Europe), other clusters
- Specific programs to help SMEs accelerate their development
- Communication and community

Key Figures

- Started two years ago
- 75 members (35 SMEs, 25 academics, 15 large companies)
- 14 R&D projects already financed
  - 12 MEUR financing
  - 25 MEUR total budget

How are Project Financed?

- Project must be precompetitive (according to european regulations) and collaborative
- You write down your project (40-70 pages)
- Project gets a label from the cluster
- Project gets financing from the government (if it's good)
- As a SME, you can get up to 45% of 167% of your labor cost (= 75%)

The WG Charter

- To be labelled by the cluster, project members must pledge to develope the software during the project as OSS (using a FSF or OSI approved license, in an open way)
    - (How they will license the final product is up to them)
- They also pledge that if they patent something, they won't use it against OSS

Technology Roadmap

Key Markets

Enterprise
(apps, cloud...)

Administration
(educ., health...)

Industry
(embedded, RT...)

Consumer
(mobility, GUI...)

Key Technologies

Information Systems

Infrastructure

Development Tools

Development Tools

- Programming and modeling languages
- Collaborative development
- Tool to create and manage large scale and/or distributed services and systems
- Licensing management
- Integrated hardware and software devt

Information Systems

- Web technologies
- Knowledge processing
- Component and service based architectures
- ERP, ECM, office automation
- Innovative GUI

Infrastructure

- Administration and maintenance tools for large scale deployments
- Large scale distributed and collaborative systems for Web 2.0, social networks and P2P

Current Projects

- **Web 2.0**: Codex, PWD, Data Publica, TioSafe, Wiki 3.0
- **Development tools**: Coclico, Helios, Squale
- **Embedded systems**: RTEL4I, Couverture
- **Content, KM**: C2M, Scribo
- **Green-IT**: Deskolo
- **Infrastructure**: Neopodd

Conclusion

PROs

- R&D financed from 90% to 140% of direct costs (if you include tax rebates aka "CIR"), i.e. basically free
- Working with other companies within the R&D context can lead to other kind of business relations
- Incentive to work with research institutions, which is not natural for SMEs
- Clusters useful beyond R&D funding

CONs

- Pre-competitive and collaborative projects are not for everyone (NB: you can do a project alone and get 52% financing (through CIR) but it's more risky)
- Writing project applications is hard work
- You don't win every time (50% chances of success for a "good" project)
- There is a 9mo-1y gap between project idea and effective project start
- Still need to create a product and bring it to market

More Info

- www.gt-logiciel-libre.org (in French)
- www.systematic-paris-region.org (FR+EN)