

# Annexes to the Final Report from the Task Force on Open Source Software Licence at CERN

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Volume of Annexes

*Following a proposal by the editor of this report, in March 2011 the Heads of FP Department and IT Department, recognizing that the situation regarding Open Source Software licensing at CERN needed clarification, created the Open Source Licence Task Force (OSL Task Force) to formulate recommendations on which licence should be used for software developed at CERN.*

*The present volume contains the **Annexes** to the final report of the OSL Task Force.*

*It complements the Main Volume of the final report.*

*These annexes provide three categories of information:*

- a) Background educational and reference material on Open Source Licensing (the actors, glossary and explanation of terms)*
- b) Material for practical implementation of the recommendations (how to description cases, how to specify licence terms, ...)*
- c) The analysis of the current situation of Open Source Software licensing at CERN, which motivated the creation the OSL Task Force.*

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## 1 Background educational and reference material

### 1.1 Glossary of key terms

This report uses **key** terms the meaning of which is essential for the understanding of the substance.

The table below explains **key** terms and acronyms and how they are used for the purpose of this document. These explanations do not constitute formal definitions (i.e. they are not necessarily expressed in a minimal *necessary* and *sufficient* form).

For most of these terms, there are different definitions and interpretations depending on the Open Source community, the licences themselves or the copyright applicable law.

Therefore, this table of key terms is complemented in section 1.2 by extended explanations on these terms as well as explanations on additional **less central terms**.

| Key Term   | Explanation  |
|--|--|
| Compatibility (between two licences)<br><br><i>See “Additional explanations in section 1.2)”</i>                           | Refers to the problem arising when combining programmes subject to two different licences which may contain contradictory requirements.<br><br>As compatibility is not necessarily reciprocal, compatibility is generally described as a directional property between two licences. One direction of compatibility is usually referred to as <i>upstream compatibility</i> , as opposed to the reverse called <i>downstream compatibility</i><br><br>Examples on non-reciprocal compatibilities:<br>Apache v2.0 is compatible with GPLv3 (that is “upstream- compatible”), but GPLv3 is not compatible (that is not “upstream- compatible”), with Apache v2.0. |
| Compatibility – Upstream (between licences)  | The possibility for a any programme licensed under a given licence A to be combined with a programme licensed under another licence B, and the resulting work to be licensed under licence B ((in that case, A is said to be “compatible with B”, or to be “B-compatible” or to be “upstream-compatible with B”).<br>Example: Apache v2.0 is upstream- compatible with GPLv3   |
| Compatibility – Downstream (between licences)  | The possibility for a programme licensed under a given licence B to incorporate programmes licensed under a different licence A, and the resulting work to be still licensed under licence B.<br>Example: GPLv3 is downstream-compatible with Apache v2.   |
| Collective work<br><br><i>See “Additional explanations in section 1.2)”</i>  | In the context of software, the assembling of independent and separately written programme components without modifying any of them, the whole being distributed as a single package.  |
| Copyleft   | Unlike copyright which exclusively addresses the right of the author, the Copyleft approach focuses on the right of the users.<br>I short, a Copyleft licence means that derivative work can only be distributed under the same licence terms.<br>Also called “strong Copyleft”.   |
| Copyright<br><br><i>See “Additional explanations in section 1.2)”</i>  | A set of exclusive rights granted to the author or creator of an original work, including the right to copy, distribute and adapt the work.  |
| Derivative work<br><br><i>See “Additional explanations in section 1.2)”</i>  | A work that is "based upon one or more pre-existing works.   |
| Distribution of software (valid for Communication of software)<br><br><i>See “Additional explanations in section 1.2)”</i> | Any act of selling, giving, lending, renting, distributing, communicating, transmitting, or otherwise making available, on-line or off-line, copies of the Work or providing access to its essential functionalities.<br>Note that this definition is very large and covers more than just providing “copies” of the software. Someone who, as Internet service provider for example (Software as a Service), allows on-line users to work with the software, is “communicating to the public”.  |

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|--|---|
| Free Open Source Software (FOSS)   | Software which is distributed under a <i>Free Open Source licence</i> , that is, which is <i>free</i> (qualifies as Free Software by the <i>Free Software Foundations</i> , FSF) <b>and</b> <i>Open Source</i> (approved by the Open Source Software initiative, OSI) |
| Free Open Source Software licence (FOSS licence)   | Licence which is <i>free</i> (qualifies as <i>Free Software</i> by the <i>Free Software Foundation</i> , FSF) <b>and</b> <i>Open Source</i> (approved by the Open Source Software initiative, OSI)  |
| Free Software  | Software distributed under a <i>Free Software Licence</i> (that is, licence that qualifies as following the <i>Free Software Definition</i> by the <i>Free Software Foundation</i> ).   |
| Free Software Definition (FSD)<br><br><i>See “Additional explanations in section 1.2)”</i> | List of criteria published by the <i>Free Software Foundation</i> for licences to qualify as <i>Free Software</i> .   |
| Free Software Licence  | Software licence that qualifies as following the <i>Free Software Definition</i> as specified by the <i>Free Software Foundation</i>  |
| Free Software Foundation (FSF)   | Free Software Foundation<br>Released the GNU licence suite which includes GPLv2, GPLv2 and LGPL   |
| Intellectual Property (IP)   | Creations of the human mind that benefit from the legal protection of a property right. The major legal mechanisms for protecting IP are copyrights, patents, and trademarks. IP rights enable owners to control access to, and use of their IP.                      |
| Licensee   | Any natural or legal person who makes any usage of a software distributed under the terms of a given licence  |
| Open Source Software (OSS)<br><br><i>See “Additional explanations in section 1.2)”</i>     | Software distributed under a licence approved by the <i>Open Source Initiative</i>  |
| Open Source Initiative (OSI)   | Organization which has defined the principles of <i>Open Source software</i> (published under the term <i>Open Source Definition</i> ) and delivers labels to licences  |
| Source programme<br><br><i>See “Additional explanations in section 1.2)”</i>               | The human-readable form of a programme which is the most convenient for people to study and modify  |

## 1.2 Additional explanations on terms used in the OSL-TF Final Report

In addition to the glossary of key terms in section 1.1, the table below provides extended explanations for some of these terms.

It also provides explanations of additional, less central terms which are important for the understanding of the substance of this report.

These explanations do not constitute formal definitions (i.e. They are not necessarily expressed in a minimal *necessary* and *sufficient* form).

| Term  | Extended Explanation  |
|---|---|
| Aggregate work<br><br><i>(Note that there are different definitions/interpretations depending on the copyright applicable law)</i>  | <p>In the context of software, two or more separate and independent programmes distributed together on the same media, but which are not combined as to form a larger programme (in practice, this means that the programmes part of the aggregate do and which do not communicate with one another).</p> <p>Most licences (such as GPLv3) do not consider that aggregate works are <i>derivative</i> or <i>collective</i> works, and therefore so not impose to propagate to the aggregates the terms of the components.</p>   |
| Compatibility (between two licences)  | <p>Refers to the problem arising when combining programmes subject to two different licences which may contain contradictory requirements.</p> <p>As compatibility is not necessarily reciprocal, compatibility is generally described as a directional property between two licences. One direction of compatibility is usually referred to a <i>upstream compatibility</i>, as opposed to the reverse called <i>downstream compatibility</i>.</p> <p>Note also that when the compatibility direction is not specified, as in the expression “<i>Licence A is compatible with licence B</i>”, this is usually understood as equivalent to upstream compatibility</p> <p>Examples on non-reciprocal compatibilities:<br/>Apache v2.0 is compatible with GPLv3 (that is “upstream- compatible”), but GPLv3 is not compatible (that is not “upstream- compatible”), with Apache v2.0.</p> |
| Collective work<br><br><i>(Note that there are different definitions/interpretations depending on the copyright applicable law)</i> | <p>In the context of software, the assembling of independent and separately written programme components without modifying any of them, the whole being distributed as a single package.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <i>Collective Work</i> is different from a <i>Derivative Work</i>, an <i>Aggregate work</i> and a <i>Compilation</i>.</li> <li>• A <i>Collective Work</i> is a sub-category of a <i>Compilation</i>.</li> </ul> <p>From US law (17 U.S.C. § 101)<br/>“A <i>collective work</i> is a work, such as a periodical issue, anthology, or encyclopaedia, in which a number of contributions, constituting separate and independent works in themselves, are assembled into a collective whole.”</p>   |
| Compilation<br><br><i>(Note that there are different definitions/interpretations depending on the copyright applicable law)</i>     | <p>In the context of software, a programme formed by collecting pre-existing programmes.</p> <p>From US law (17 U.S.C. § 101.):<br/>“A work formed by the collection and assembling of pre-existing materials [...] that are selected, coordinated, or arranged in such a way that the resulting work as a whole constitutes an original work of authorship”</p>  |
| Copy  | <p>From US law (17 U.S.C. § 101)<br/>“Material object in which a work is fixed by any method now known or later developed, and from which the work can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a machine or device.<br/>The term “Copies” includes the material object ... in which the work is first fixed.”</p>   |
| Copyright   | A set of exclusive rights granted to the author or creator of an original work, including   |

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|  | <p>the right to copy, distribute and adapt the work.</p> <p>Note that Copyright only protects against copying, not against someone writing the same expression independently, by coincidence. Plaintiffs may still have to prove actual copying.</p>   |
| <p>Derivative work</p> <p><i>(Note that there are different definitions/interpretations depending on the copyright applicable law)</i></p> | <p>A work that is “based upon one or more pre-existing works”.</p> <p>“Based upon” is generally understood as implying modification (and/or translation, adaptation alteration, transformation) of one or more pre-existing programmes.</p> <p>However, there are significant differences between copyright applicable laws, which are also subject to different interpretations. One interpretation is that certain <i>collective works</i> are considered as <i>derivative works</i> (such as in GPL).</p> <p>Example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From US law: (17 U.S.C. § 101<br/> “‘A Derivative work is a work based upon one or more pre-existing works, such as a translation, musical arrangement, [...], art reproduction, abridgment, condensation, or any other form in which a work may be recast, transformed, or adapted. A work consisting of editorial revisions, annotations, elaborations, or other modifications, which, as a whole, represent an original work of authorship, is a derivative work.’”</li> </ul> <p>Open-source licences themselves may give different definitions of Derivate Work .</p> <p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From Apache licence:<br/> “Any work, whether in Source or Object form, that is based on (or derived from) the Work and for which the editorial revisions, annotations, elaborations, or other modifications represent, as a whole, an original work of authorship. For the purposes of this Licence, Derivative Works shall not include works that remain separable from, or merely link (or bind by name) to the interfaces of, the Work and Derivative Works thereof.”</li> </ul> <p>For Apache, a <i>collective work</i> is not a category of derivative work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From EUPL:<br/> “Software that could be created by a (natural or legal) person, based upon the Original Work or modifications thereof.”</li> </ul> <p>For EUPL, a <i>collective work</i> is not a category of derivative work. The term <i>collective work</i> is not defined explicitly, but covered by the EUPL Compatibility clause.</p> <p>Note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent of modification or dependence on the Original Work required in order to classify a work as a Derivative Work is usually not part of the licence but determined by copyright applicable law (explanation based on EUPL definition)”</li> <li>Substantial similarities, standing alone, are never enough to characterize a derivative work. An independent creation is not a derivative work no matter how much it resembles a pre-existing work.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Distribution of software (also valid for Communication of software)</p>   | <p>Any act of selling, giving, lending, renting, distributing, communicating, transmitting, or otherwise making available, on-line or off-line, copies of the Work or providing access to its essential functionalities.</p> <p>Note that this definition is very large and covers more than just providing “copies” of the software. Someone who, as Internet service provider for example (Software as a</p>   |

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|  | Service), allows on-line users to work with the software, is “communicating to the public”.   |
| Free Software Definition (FSD)           | <p>List of criteria published by the <i>Free Software Foundation</i> for licences to qualify as <i>Free Software</i>:</p> <p>Users should have (from “Quick Guide to GPLv3, FSF”):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the freedom to <b>use</b> the software for any purpose;</li> <li>• the freedom to <b>change</b> the software to suit your needs (access to the source code is a precondition for this)</li> <li>• the freedom to <b>share</b> the software with your friends and neighbours,</li> <li>• the freedom to <b>share</b> the <b>changes</b> you make (by doing this you can give the whole community a chance to benefit from your changes; access to the source code is a precondition for this)</li> </ul>       |
| Licensors                                | The natural or legal person that distributes and/or communicates the software under a licence.  |
| Open Source Definition (OSD)             | <p>The Open Source Initiative (OSI) has listed ten criteria that an Open Source licence must comply with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• licence must allow for free redistribution of the software</li> <li>• source code of software must be made available</li> <li>• licence permits the creation of derived works</li> <li>• integrity of author's source code is maintained</li> <li>• software can be used by any person or group</li> <li>• software can be used in any field of endeavour</li> <li>• rights attached to the program are transferable</li> <li>• licence must not be specific to a product</li> <li>• licence must not restrict other software</li> <li>• licence must be technology-neutral</li> </ul> |
| Open Source Definition compliant licence | <p>A licence which complies with the <i>Open Source Definition</i> of the <i>Open Source Initiative</i>.</p> <p>Note that being compliant with the <i>Open Source Definition</i> is not a condition for a licence to be approved by the <i>Open Source Initiative</i> and therefore to be called Open Source licence.</p>   |
| Open Source Licence                      | <p>In the context of the CERN Open Source Licensing task Force:<br/>A licence which is an <i>Open Source Definition compliant licence</i> and furthermore has been approved by the <i>Open Source Initiative</i>.</p> <p>In a general context, sometimes understood as is the way a copyright owner grants permission to others to use his intellectual property in such a way that software freedom is protected for all.</p>  |
| Open Source Software (OSS)               | <p>Software distributed under a licence approved by the <i>Open Source Initiative</i>.</p> <p>Note that some organization may adopt a broader definition<br/>(Example: US DoD 16 October 2009: “Software for which the human-readable source code is available for use, study, re-use, modification, enhancement, and re-distribution by the users of that software.”)</p>  |
| Proprietary Licence                      | <p>In the context of the CERN Open Source Licensing task Force: A licence which is not an <i>Open Source Licence</i>.</p> <p>In a general context, sometimes understood as the way a copyright owner grants permission to others to use his <i>intellectual property</i> in a restricted way, through secrecy or other limitations, so that software freedom is not protected.</p>  |
| Source programme                         | The human-readable form of a programme which is the most convenient for people to study and modify.   |

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| For an executable work, complete source code means all the source code for all modules it contains, plus any associated interface definition files, plus the scripts used to control compilation and installation of the executable. |
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### 1.3 The Open Source Initiative (OSI) Definition criteria and the most widely used OSI licences

The Open Source Initiative (OSI) has listed ten criteria that an Open Source licence must comply with:

- licence must allow for free redistribution of the software
- source code of software must be made available
- licence permits the creation of derived works
- integrity of author's source code is maintained
- software can be used by any person or group
- software can be used in any field of endeavour
- rights attached to the program are transferable
- licence must not be specific to a product
- licence must not restrict other software
- licence must be technology-neutral

Today, more than 70 licences have been approved by OSI. are in use, a quite unwieldy number.

The OSI also categorizes licences by perceived level of utility. In particular, one relevant category for the OSL Task Force is the “popular and widely used or with strong communities licences” category. At the present time, nine licences are categorised as widely used and/or have strong communities associated with them.

- GNU General Public Licence (GPL)
- GNU Library or "Lesser" General Public Licence (LGPL)
- Apache Licence, 2.0 (Apache-2.0)
- BSD 3-Clause "New" or "Revised" licence (BSD-3-Clause)
- BSD 3-Clause "Simplified" or "FreeBSD" licence (BSD-2-Clause)
- MIT licence (MIT)
- Mozilla Public Licence 1.1 (MPL-1.1)
- Common Development and Distribution Licence (CDDL-1.0)
- Eclipse Public Licence (EPL-1.0)

### 1.4 The Free Software Foundation (FSF) definition of Free Software

The Free Software Foundation (FSF) has provided a definition of Free Software. The definition is copied verbatim below.

“The Free Software Definition

We maintain this free software definition to show clearly what must be true about a particular software program for it to be considered free software. From time to time we revise this definition to clarify it. If you would like to review the changes we've made, please see the [History section](#) below for more information.

“Free software” is a matter of liberty, not price. To understand the concept, you should think of “free” as in “free speech,” not as in “free beer.”

Free software is a matter of the users' freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve the software. More precisely, it means that the program's users have the four essential freedoms:

- The freedom to run the program, for any purpose (freedom 0).
- The freedom to study how the program works, and change it so it does your computing as you wish (freedom 1). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.
- The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor (freedom 2).



- The freedom to distribute copies of your modified versions to others (freedom 3). By doing this you can give the whole community a chance to benefit from your changes. Access to the source code is a precondition for this.

A program is free software if users have all of these freedoms. Thus, you should be free to redistribute copies, either with or without modifications, either gratis or charging a fee for distribution, to anyone anywhere. Being free to do these things means (among other things) that you do not have to ask or pay for permission to do so.

You should also have the freedom to make modifications and use them privately in your own work or play, without even mentioning that they exist. If you do publish your changes, you should not be required to notify anyone in particular, or in any particular way.

The freedom to run the program means the freedom for any kind of person or organization to use it on any kind of computer system, for any kind of overall job and purpose, without being required to communicate about it with the developer or any other specific entity. In this freedom, it is the *user's* purpose that matters, not the *developer's* purpose; you as a user are free to run the program for your purposes, and if you distribute it to someone else, she is then free to run it for her purposes, but you are not entitled to impose your purposes on her.

The freedom to redistribute copies must include binary or executable forms of the program, as well as source code, for both modified and unmodified versions. (Distributing programs in runnable form is necessary for conveniently installable free operating systems.) It is OK if there is no way to produce a binary or executable form for a certain program (since some languages don't support that feature), but you must have the freedom to redistribute such forms should you find or develop a way to make them.

In order for freedoms 1 and 3 (the freedom to make changes and the freedom to publish improved versions) to be meaningful, you must have access to the source code of the program. Therefore, accessibility of source code is a necessary condition for free software. Obfuscated “source code” is not real source code and does not count as source code.

Freedom 1 includes the freedom to use your changed version in place of the original. If the program is delivered in a product designed to run someone else's modified versions but refuse to run yours — a practice known as “tivoization” or “lockdown”, or (in its practitioners' perverse terminology) as “secure boot” — freedom 1 becomes a theoretical fiction rather than a practical freedom. This is not sufficient. In other words, these binaries are not free software even if the source code they are compiled from is free.

One important way to modify a program is by merging in available free subroutines and modules. If the program's license says that you cannot merge in a suitably licensed existing module — for instance, if it requires you to be the copyright holder of any code you add — then the license is too restrictive to qualify as free.

Freedom 3 includes the freedom to release your modified versions as free software. A free license may also permit other ways of releasing them; in other words, it does not have to be a Copyleft license. However, a license that requires modified versions to be nonfree does not qualify as a free license.

In order for these freedoms to be real, they must be permanent and irrevocable as long as you do nothing wrong; if the developer of the software has the power to revoke the license, or retroactively change its terms, without your doing anything wrong to give cause, the software is not free.

However, certain kinds of rules about the manner of distributing free software are acceptable, when they don't conflict with the central freedoms. For example, Copyleft (very simply stated) is the rule that when redistributing the program, you cannot add restrictions to deny other people the central freedoms. This rule does not conflict with the central freedoms; rather it protects them.

“Free software” does not mean “noncommercial.” A free program must be available for commercial use, commercial development, and commercial distribution. Commercial development of free software is no longer unusual; such free commercial software is very important. You may have paid money to get copies of free software, or you may have obtained copies at no charge. But regardless of how you got your copies, you always have the freedom to copy and change the software, even to sell copies.

Whether a change constitutes an improvement is a subjective matter. If your modifications are limited, in substance, to changes that someone else considers an improvement, that is not freedom.

However, rules about how to package a modified version are acceptable, if they don't substantively limit your freedom to release modified versions, or your freedom to make and use modified versions privately. Thus, it is acceptable for the license to require that you change the name of the modified version, remove a logo, or identify your modifications as yours. As long as these requirements are not so burdensome that they effectively hamper you from releasing your changes, they are acceptable; you're already making other changes to the program, so you won't have trouble making a few more.

Rules that “if you make your version available in this way, you must make it available in that way also” can be acceptable too, on the same condition. An example of such an acceptable rule is one saying that if you have distributed a modified version and a previous developer asks for a copy of it, you must send one. (Note that such a rule still leaves you the choice of whether to distribute your version at all.) Rules that require release of source code to the users for versions that you put into public use are also acceptable.

In the GNU project, we use Copyleft to protect these freedoms legally for everyone. But nonCopylefted free software also exists. We believe there are important reasons why it is better to use Copyleft, but if your program is nonCopylefted free software, it is still basically ethical. (See Categories of Free Software for a description of how “free software,” “Copylefted software” and other categories of software relate to each other.)

Sometimes government export control regulations and trade sanctions can constrain your freedom to distribute copies of programs internationally. Software developers do not have the power to eliminate or override these restrictions, but what they can and must do is refuse to impose them as conditions of use of the program. In this way, the restrictions will not affect activities and people outside the jurisdictions of these governments. Thus, free software licenses must not require obedience to any export regulations as a condition of any of the essential freedoms.

Most free software licenses are based on copyright, and there are limits on what kinds of requirements can be imposed through copyright. If a copyright-based license respects freedom in the ways described above, it is unlikely to have some other sort of problem that we never anticipated (though this does happen occasionally). However, some free software licenses are based on contracts, and contracts can impose a much larger range of possible restrictions. That means there are many possible ways such a license could be unacceptably restrictive and nonfree.

We can't possibly list all the ways that might happen. If a contract-based license restricts the user in an unusual way that copyright-based licenses cannot, and which isn't mentioned here as legitimate, we will have to think about it, and we will probably conclude it is nonfree.

When talking about free software, it is best to avoid using terms like “give away” or “for free,” because those terms imply that the issue is about price, not freedom. Some common terms such as “piracy” embody opinions we hope you won't endorse. See Confusing Words and Phrases that are Worth Avoiding for a discussion of these terms. We also have a list of proper translations of “free software” into various languages.

Finally, note that criteria such as those stated in this free software definition require careful thought for their interpretation. To decide whether a specific software license qualifies as a free software license, we judge it based on these criteria to determine whether it fits their spirit as well as the precise words. If a license includes unconscionable restrictions, we reject it, even if we did not anticipate the issue in these criteria. Sometimes a license requirement raises an issue that calls for extensive thought, including discussions with a lawyer, before we can decide if the requirement is acceptable. When we reach a conclusion about a new issue, we often update these criteria to make it easier to see why certain licenses do or don't qualify.

If you are interested in whether a specific license qualifies as a free software license, see our list of licenses. If the license you are concerned with is not listed there, you can ask us about it by sending us email at [<licensing@gnu.org>](mailto:licensing@gnu.org).

If you are contemplating writing a new license, please contact the Free Software Foundation first by writing to that address. The proliferation of different free software licenses means increased work for users in understanding the licenses; we may be able to help you find an existing free software license that meets your needs.

If that isn't possible, if you really need a new license, with our help you can ensure that the license really is a free software license and avoid various practical problems.”

## 1.5 EUPL: The European Union Public Licence

In this section we extend the explanations given in the main volume of the final report and provide the EUPL Licence text.

### 1.5.1 Background

The **EUPL** is an outcome of the IDABC programme of the European Union. They produced the original **EUPL** aims to stimulate the development of interoperable online delivery platforms for public services in the European Union. This was intended not only to help the EU's citizens but also to make public service delivery more uniform across the Union. This in turn was intended to make it easier for individuals to work anywhere they chose, and encourage companies to invest in multi-site European installations.

This licence is the outcome of three years of study and analysis of several existing FOSS licences, which had determined that there were still needs unmet by existing licences. Version 1.1 of the European Union Public Licence was approved by the Open Source Initiative on 4 March 2009.

The EUPL is available in twenty two translations<sup>1</sup>. Indeed, the EUPL had to be legally valid in all the official languages of the European Union, in respect of the principle of linguistic diversity, as recognized by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

### 1.5.2 Licence category: Interoperable Copyleft

**EUPL** is a **Free**<sup>2</sup>, **Open Source**<sup>3</sup> and Copyleft licence (Strong Copyleft) drafted to be fully compatible with European law. However, it is a very innovative licence which created the concept of “Copyleft Interoperability” to overcome some of the difficulties arising when merging programmes licences under incompatible Copyleft licences.

Indeed, **EUPL** gives recipients ways to relicense larger derivative works under the terms of another Copyleft licence (selected from a list) in case the work covered by the **EUPL** is merged with another work covered by this other license (and when what is distributed is the derivative work as a whole). This provides what is called a downstream compatibility (see Glossary in the Appendix) of the licences which are part of the explicit compatibility list with **EUPL**. The list includes GPLv.2 (and indirectly GPLv3), OSLv.2.1 and v.3.0, CPLv.1.0, Eclipse Public Licence v1.0, CeCILLv.2.0

As an Interoperable-Copyleft licence, EUPL protects the licensor against appropriation. When prioritising a licence that was protecting against appropriation, the European de-facto legally eliminated the risk, even weak, for licensors of having to purchase a solution made of components developed with their own money.

Another feature of **EUPL** is that it is an extremely condensed and carefully written text (four times shorter than GPL).

### 1.5.3 Guiding principles of EUPL, status and prospects

#### Sharing philosophy

Central to the development of the EUPL licence is the position of the European Union to defend the *sharing* philosophy of Copyleft licensing and collaborative dissemination:

*“Sharing software, which is a fundamental principle of “Free or Open Source software” is one of the most efficient ways of increasing its use, reinforcing its quality (allowing other developers to check, improve or increase functionalities) and saving costs by avoiding reinventing the wheel.”*

Such sharing was unanimously recommended to public administrations by the European ministers responsible for eGovernment policy. Ministerial Declaration approved unanimously on 24 November 2005 in Manchester, United Kingdom

(<http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/egov2005conference/documents/proceedings/pdf/051124declaration.pdf>).

<sup>1</sup> The EUPL had to be legally valid in all the official languages of the European Union, in respect of the principle of linguistic diversity, as recognized by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

<sup>2</sup> Recognized by the Free Software Foundation as following the Free Software Definition (see Glossary in the Appendix)

<sup>3</sup> Following the Open Source Definition and Approved by the Open-Source Initiative

For the EU, Interoperability is built on 12 underlying principles. In particular, the "Reusability principle" (N° 10) means that public administrations must be willing to share with others their solutions, concepts, frameworks, specifications, tools and components, applying the principle of "Openness" (N° 9).

### **Adoption in Europe**

The **EUPL**, though recent, has been adopted by several national public administrations.

At the time of this being written:

- Spain decided that *"The EUPL will be procured, without prejudice of other licences that can guarantee the same rights"*,
- The Netherlands *"Recommends the EUPL for software owned by the government"*
- Estonia, Malta, have formally included the EUPL in their national interoperability framework
- EU itself has included the EUPL in the European interoperability framework ([European Interoperability Framework](#) EIF v2 of December 2010)
- In other countries like Italy, specific software procurement process request for software delivery *"under the EUPL or licence(s) granting the same rights"*.

Note also that the Oxford University OSS-Watch centre, funded by the UK Government, listed in 2011 the EUPL among the ten most popular OSS licences today.

#### **1.5.4 The incompatibility of EUPL with CERN's status as an intergovernmental organization**

The **EUPL** had to consider the specificity and diversity of Member States Law and Community Law (copyright terminology, information, warranty, liability but also applicable law and jurisdiction).

As a result, and unlike other Open Source licences like GPL, LGPL or Apache, **EUPL** has two explicit provisions: one for the applicable law and the other for the jurisdiction in case of litigation resulting from the interpretation of the licence.

Although EUPL has many advantages, as explained in section 4.3 of the OSL Task Force report, it is currently not compatible with CERN's status as an Intergovernmental Organization. EUPL may therefore not be selected by CERN in its current form.

Considering that EUPL is a promising, modern, flexible and easy to use Copyleft licence, the OSL Task Force recommends that CERN approach the European Commission on a possible change of the licence, to make it compatible with the particular legal status of Intergovernmental Organizations.

## 1.6 EUPL Licence text

# European Union Public Licence v. 1.1

EUPL © the European Community 2007

This European Union Public Licence (the “EUPL”) applies to the Work or Software (as defined below) which is provided under the terms of this Licence. Any use of the Work, other than as authorised under this Licence is prohibited (to the extent such use is covered by a right of the copyright holder of the Work).

The Original Work is provided under the terms of this Licence when the Licensor (as defined below) has placed the following notice immediately following the copyright notice for the Original Work:

*Licensed under the EUPL v.1.1*

or has expressed by any other mean his willingness to license under the EUPL.

### **1. Definitions**

In this Licence, the following terms have the following meaning:

- *The Licence*: this Licence.
- *The Original Work or the Software*: the software distributed and/or communicated by the Licensor under this Licence, available as Source Code and also as Executable Code as the case may be.
- *Derivative Works*: the works or software that could be created by the Licensee, based upon the Original Work or modifications thereof. This Licence does not define the extent of modification or dependence on the Original Work required in order to classify a work as a Derivative Work; this extent is determined by copyright law applicable in the country mentioned in Article 15.
- *The Work*: the Original Work and/or its Derivative Works.
- *The Source Code*: the human-readable form of the Work which is the most convenient for people to study and modify.
- *The Executable Code*: any code which has generally been compiled and which is meant to be interpreted by a computer as a program.
- *The Licensor*: the natural or legal person that distributes and/or communicates the Work under the Licence.
- *Contributor(s)*: any natural or legal person who modifies the Work under the Licence, or otherwise contributes to the creation of a Derivative Work.
- *The Licensee or “You”*: any natural or legal person who makes any usage of the Software under the terms of the Licence.

- *Distribution and/or Communication*: any act of selling, giving, lending, renting, distributing, communicating, transmitting, or otherwise making available, on-line or off-line, copies of the Work or providing access to its essential functionalities at the disposal of any other natural or legal person.

## **2. Scope of the rights granted by the Licence**

The Licensor hereby grants You a world-wide, royalty-free, non-exclusive, sub- licensable licence to do the following, for the duration of copyright vested in the Original Work:

- use the Work in any circumstance and for all usage,
- reproduce the Work,
- modify the Original Work, and make Derivative Works based upon the Work,
- communicate to the public, including the right to make available or display the Work or copies thereof to the public and perform publicly, as the case may be, the Work,
- distribute the Work or copies thereof,
- lend and rent the Work or copies thereof,
- sub-license rights in the Work or copies thereof.

Those rights can be exercised on any media, supports and formats, whether now known or later invented, as far as the applicable law permits so.

In the countries where moral rights apply, the Licensor waives his right to exercise his moral right to the extent allowed by law in order to make effective the licence of the economic rights here above listed.

The Licensor grants to the Licensee royalty-free, non exclusive usage rights to any patents held by the Licensor, to the extent necessary to make use of the rights granted on the Work under this Licence.

## **3. Communication of the Source Code**

The Licensor may provide the Work either in its Source Code form, or as Executable Code. If the Work is provided as Executable Code, the Licensor provides in addition a machine-readable copy of the Source Code of the Work along with each copy of the Work that the Licensor distributes or indicates, in a notice following the copyright notice attached to the Work, a repository where the Source Code is easily and freely accessible for as long as the Licensor continues to distribute and/or communicate the Work.

## **4. Limitations on copyright**

Nothing in this Licence is intended to deprive the Licensee of the benefits from any exception or limitation to the exclusive rights of the rights owners in the Original Work or Software, of the exhaustion of those rights or of other applicable limitations thereto.

## **5. Obligations of the Licensee**

The grant of the rights mentioned above is subject to some restrictions and obligations imposed on the Licensee. Those obligations are the following:

**Attribution right:** the Licensee shall keep intact all copyright, patent or trademarks notices and all notices that refer to the Licence and to the disclaimer of warranties. The Licensee must include a copy of such notices and a copy of the Licence with every copy of the

Work he/she distributes and/or communicates. The Licensee must cause any Derivative Work to carry prominent notices stating that the Work has been modified and the date of modification.

**Copyleft clause:** If the Licensee distributes and/or communicates copies of the Original Works or Derivative Works based upon the Original Work, this Distribution and/or Communication will be done under the terms of this Licence or of a later version of this Licence unless the Original Work is expressly distributed only under this version of the Licence. The Licensee (becoming Licensor) cannot offer or impose any additional terms or conditions on the Work or Derivative Work that alter or restrict the terms of the Licence.

**Compatibility clause:** If the Licensee Distributes and/or Communicates Derivative Works or copies thereof based upon both the Original Work and another work licensed under a Compatible Licence, this Distribution and/or Communication can be done under the terms of this Compatible Licence. For the sake of this clause, “Compatible Licence” refers to the licences listed in the appendix attached to this Licence. Should the Licensee’s obligations under the Compatible Licence conflict with his/her obligations under this Licence, the obligations of the Compatible Licence shall prevail.

**Provision of Source Code:** When distributing and/or communicating copies of the Work, the Licensee will provide a machine-readable copy of the Source Code or indicate a repository where this Source will be easily and freely available for as long as the Licensee continues to distribute and/or communicate the Work.

**Legal Protection:** This Licence does not grant permission to use the trade names, trademarks, service marks, or names of the Licensor, except as required for reasonable and customary use in describing the origin of the Work and reproducing the content of the copyright notice.

## **6. Chain of Authorship**

The original Licensor warrants that the copyright in the Original Work granted hereunder is owned by him/her or licensed to him/her and that he/she has the power and authority to grant the Licence.

Each Contributor warrants that the copyright in the modifications he/she brings to the Work are owned by him/her or licensed to him/her and that he/she has the power and authority to grant the Licence.

Each time You accept the Licence, the original Licensor and subsequent Contributors grant You a licence to their contributions to the Work, under the terms of this Licence.

## **7. Disclaimer of Warranty**

The Work is a work in progress, which is continuously improved by numerous contributors. It is not a finished work and may therefore contain defects or “bugs” inherent to this type of software development.

For the above reason, the Work is provided under the Licence on an “as is” basis and without warranties of any kind concerning the Work, including without limitation merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, absence of defects or errors, accuracy, non-infringement of intellectual property rights other than copyright as stated in Article 6 of this Licence.

This disclaimer of warranty is an essential part of the Licence and a condition for the grant of any rights to the Work.

### **8. Disclaimer of Liability**

Except in the cases of wilful misconduct or damages directly caused to natural persons, the Licensor will in no event be liable for any direct or indirect, material or moral, damages of any kind, arising out of the Licence or of the use of the Work, including without limitation, damages for loss of goodwill, work stoppage, computer failure or malfunction, loss of data or any commercial damage, even if the Licensor has been advised of the possibility of such damage. However, the Licensor will be liable under statutory product liability laws as far such laws apply to the Work.

### **9. Additional agreements**

While distributing the Original Work or Derivative Works, You may choose to conclude an additional agreement to offer, and charge a fee for, acceptance of support, warranty, indemnity, or other liability obligations and/or services consistent with this Licence. However, in accepting such obligations, You may act only on your own behalf and on your sole responsibility, not on behalf of the original Licensor or any other Contributor, and only if You agree to indemnify, defend, and hold each Contributor harmless for any liability incurred by, or claims asserted against such Contributor by the fact You have accepted any such warranty or additional liability.

### **10. Acceptance of the Licence**

The provisions of this Licence can be accepted by clicking on an icon “I agree” placed under the bottom of a window displaying the text of this Licence or by affirming consent in any other similar way, in accordance with the rules of applicable law. Clicking on that icon indicates your clear and irrevocable acceptance of this Licence and all of its terms and conditions.

Similarly, you irrevocably accept this Licence and all of its terms and conditions by exercising any rights granted to You by Article 2 of this Licence, such as the use of the Work, the creation by You of a Derivative Work or the Distribution and/or Communication by You of the Work or copies thereof.

### **11. Information to the public**

In case of any Distribution and/or Communication of the Work by means of electronic communication by You (for example, by offering to download the Work from a remote location) the distribution channel or media (for example, a website) must at least provide to the public the information requested by the applicable law regarding the Licensor, the Licence and the way it may be accessible, concluded, stored and reproduced by the Licensee.

### **12. Termination of the Licence**

The Licence and the rights granted hereunder will terminate automatically upon any breach by the Licensee of the terms of the Licence.

Such a termination will not terminate the licences of any person who has received the Work from the Licensee under the Licence, provided such persons remain in full compliance with the Licence.

### **13. Miscellaneous**



Without prejudice of Article 9 above, the Licence represents the complete agreement between the Parties as to the Work licensed hereunder.

If any provision of the Licence is invalid or unenforceable under applicable law, this will not affect the validity or enforceability of the Licence as a whole. Such provision will be construed and/or reformed so as necessary to make it valid and enforceable.

The European Commission may publish other linguistic versions and/or new versions of this Licence, so far this is required and reasonable, without reducing the scope of the rights granted by the Licence. New versions of the Licence will be published with a unique version number.

All linguistic versions of this Licence, approved by the European Commission, have identical value. Parties can take advantage of the linguistic version of their choice.

#### **14. Jurisdiction**

Any litigation resulting from the interpretation of this License, arising between the European Commission, as a Licensor, and any Licensee, will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, as laid down in article 238 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

Any litigation arising between Parties, other than the European Commission, and resulting from the interpretation of this License, will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent court where the Licensor resides or conducts its primary business.

#### **15. Applicable Law**

This Licence shall be governed by the law of the European Union country where the Licensor resides or has his registered office.

This licence shall be governed by the Belgian law if:

- a litigation arises between the European Commission, as a Licensor, and any Licensee;
- the Licensor, other than the European Commission, has no residence or registered office inside a European Union country.

#### **Appendix**

“Compatible Licences” according to article 5 EUPL are:

- *GNU General Public License (GNU GPL) v. 2*
- *Open Software License (OSL) v. 2.1, v. 3.0*
- *Common Public License v. 1.0*
- *Eclipse Public License v. 1.0*
- *Cecill v. 2.0*

## **2 Material for practical implementation of the recommendations**

### **2.1 Draft Form to document software cases submitted for Open Source distribution**

OSL-2011-11

Open Source Licence - Task force

## Form to document software cases submitted for Open Source distribution

François Fluckiger, 20 September 2011 Draft: 4

Distribution: Public

|  |         |  |
|--|---------|--|
| Name of the Program subject to Open Source release and licensing |         |  |
| Unit requesting Open Source release                              | Group   |  |
|  | Section |  |
| Name of the person requesting Open Source release                |         |  |
| Names of other CERN persons associated to the SW <sup>4</sup>    |         |  |

|                       |   |              |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|
| Date of the request   |   |              |
| Status of the Request | Sent by requester to IT KTT Departmental Officer    | Y (date) / N |
|                       | Sent by IT KTT Departmental Officer to FP-KT        | Y (date) / N |
|                       | Final licensing details agreed between IT and FP-KT | Y (date) / N |

### General features of the program proposed for Open Source distribution

|   |   |  |     |
|---|---|--|-----|
| Is the program to be released written in...                         | A <b>Compiled</b> language (e.g. C, C++)<br>(program in source form and executable form)?                                 |  | Y/N |
|   | An <b>Interpreted</b> language (e.g. shell scripts, Java, Perl)<br>(program in source form only)?                         |  | Y/N |
| What would you wish to release, ...                                 | The <b>source</b> only?   |  | Y/N |
|   | Both <b>source</b> and <b>binary</b> (if applicable)?   |  | Y/N |
| Is the program you wish to release...                               | Designed as a <b>stand-alone</b> program (i.e. not as a component for other programs)?                                    |  | Y/N |
|   | Designed as a <b>component</b> of other programs (e.g. a library or a library component, to be linked to other programs)? |  | Y/N |
|   | A mix of stand-alone program(s) and libraries   |  | Y/N |
| Is the program you wish to release...                               | A genuine <b>original</b> work <sup>5</sup> ?   |  | Y/N |
|   | A <b>derivative</b> work by <b>inclusion</b> only <sup>6</sup>  | Inclusion only of CERN program(s)  | Y/N |
|   |   | Inclusion only of outside program(s)   | Y/N |
|   | A derivative work by inclusion and <b>modification</b> <sup>7</sup>   | Modification of CERN program(s)  | Y/N |
| Modification of outside program(s)                                  |   | Y/N  |     |
| Is the program you wish to release...                               | A program which does not require <b>other programs</b> in order to run as designed  |  | Y/N |
|   | A program that makes use of or communicate with <b>other programs</b> ?   | Is the use of the other programs(s) compulsory for your programme to run as planned? | Y/N |
|   |   | Is the use of the other programs(s) optional?  |     |
| If the program makes use of or communicate with other programs, ... | Do you plan to distribute   | Your program only?   | Y/N |
|   |   | Your program and other programs which make use or communicate with it.               | Y/N |
|   | Are these other programs  | From within CERN <sup>8</sup> ?  | Y/N |
|   |   | From outside CERN <sup>9</sup> ?   | Y/N |

<sup>4</sup> Co-authors, supervisor, ...

<sup>5</sup> The program you wish to distribute does not incorporate any other programs, be they from CERN or from the outside, be they simply included unchanged or modified by you.

<sup>6</sup> The program you wish to distribute incorporates unchanged other programs, be they from CERN or from the outside

<sup>7</sup> The program you wish to distribute is a version modified by yourself of an existing programs or it incorporates modules modified by yourself, be they from CERN or from the outside

<sup>8</sup> i.e. They belong to CERN as developed and copyrighted by CERN, either solely or in collaboration with other partners

<sup>9</sup> i.e. They do not belong to CERN, which has no copyright on them

**Licensing**

|   |   |  |   |     |
|---|---|--|---|-----|
| Regarding the licence to be used, do you...                 | Have no reservation in using the CERN <i>default</i> Open Source licence (GPLv3)                                |  | Y/N                                     |     |
|   | Have a wish, a weak or strong opinion to use a particular Open Source licence<br><br>If so, is this licence ... | The CERN <i>alternate</i> licence (LGPLv3)           |   | Y/N |
|   |   | The CERN <i>exception</i> licence (Apache v2)        |   | Y/N |
|   |   | Another Open Source licence?                         | If so, provide the name of this licence |     |
|   |   | Provide the reason(s) of your proposal <sup>10</sup> |   |     |
| How do you plan to make the program available <sup>11</sup> | On a server based at CERN?  | If so, provide the server name                       |   |     |
|   | On a Open Source distribution external site (e.g. SourceForge)  | If so, provide the name of the external site         |   |     |

<sup>10</sup> Be as explicit as possible if you have a strong opinion

<sup>11</sup> The two options are not mutually exclusive

**Details of other programs included, modified or communicating with your program**

The program you wish to release...

|  |   |  |  |     |
|--|---|--|--|-----|
| Is a derivative work by inclusion only <sup>12</sup>             | If it includes CERN programs, provide   | P1   | The name of this other program   |     |
|  |   |  | The name of the licence under which it is distributed by CERN (if applicable)        |     |
|  |   | P2   | The name of this other program   |     |
|  |   |  | The name of the licence under which it is distributed by CERN (if applicable)        |     |
|  | If it includes outside programs, provide  | P1   | The name of this other program   |     |
|  |   |  | The name of the licence under which it has been obtained                             |     |
| P2   |   | The name of this other program                           |  |     |
|  |   | The name of the licence under which it has been obtained |  |     |
| Is a derivative work by inclusion and modification <sup>13</sup> | If it includes modified CERN programs, provide  | P1   | The name of this other program   |     |
|  |   |  | The name of the licence under which is distributed by CERN (if applicable)           |     |
|  |   |  | The type of modification you did (change of part or all, addition, suppression, ...) |     |
|  |   | P2   | The name of this other program   |     |
|  |   |  | The name of the licence under which is distributed by CERN (if applicable)           |     |
|  |   |  | The type of modification you did (change of part or all, addition, suppression, ...) |     |
|  | If it includes modified outside programs, provide                                     | P1   | The name of this other program   |     |
|  |   |  | The name of the license under which it has been obtained                             |     |
|  |   |  | The type of modification you did (change of part or all, addition, suppression, ...) |     |
|  |   | P2   | The name of this other program   |     |
|  |   |  | The name of the licence under which it has been obtained                             |     |
|  |   |  | The type of modification you did (change of part or all, addition, suppression, ...) |     |
| Makes use of or communicate with other programs.                 | If these programs are from within CERN <sup>14</sup> indicate whether your program is | P1   | Is Statically linked to this other program   | Y/N |
|  |   |  | Is Dynamically linked to this other program (e.g. using shared libraries)?           | Y/N |
|  |   |  | Is Partly Statically linked and partly Dynamically linked?                           | Y/N |
|  |   | P2   | Statically linked to this other program  | Y/N |
|  |   |  | Dynamically linked to this other program (e.g. using shared libraries)?              | Y/N |
|  |   |  | Partly Statically linked and partly Dynamically linked?                              | Y/N |
|  | If these programs are from within CERN <sup>15</sup>                                  | P1   | In a tightly-coupled way <sup>16</sup> . Please specify                              |     |
|  |   |  | In a loosely-coupled way <sup>17</sup> . Please specify                              |     |
|  |   | P2   | In a tightly-coupled way <sup>18</sup> . Please specify                              |     |
|  |   |  | In a loosely-coupled way <sup>19</sup> . Please specify                              |     |

<sup>12</sup> The program you wish to distribute incorporates unchanged other programs, be they from CERN or from the outside

<sup>13</sup> The program you wish to distribute is a version modified by yourself of an or incorporates existing programs modified by yourself, be they from CERN or from the outside

<sup>14</sup> I.e. They belong to CERN as developed and copyrighted by CERN, either solely or in collaboration with other partners

<sup>15</sup> I.e. They belong to CERN as developed and copyrighted by CERN, either solely or in collaboration with other partners

<sup>16</sup> E.g. integrated in the same executable, linked together in a shared address space, ...

<sup>17</sup> E.g. using pipes, sockets and command-line arguments, ...

<sup>18</sup> E.g. integrated in the same executable, linked together in a shared address space, ...

|  |  |   |   |     |
|--|--|---|---|-----|
|  | indicate whether your program communicates with them                                     |   |   |     |
|  | If these programs are from outside CERN <sup>20</sup> ; indicate whether your program is | P1  | Statically linked to this other program                                 | Y/N |
|  |  |   | Dynamically linked to this other program (e.g. using shared libraries)? | Y/N |
|  |  |   | Partly Statically linked and partly Dynamically linked?                 | Y/N |
|  |  | P2  | Statically linked to this other program                                 | Y/N |
|  |  |   | Dynamically linked to this other program (e.g. using shared libraries)? | Y/N |
|  |  |   | Partly Statically linked and partly Dynamically linked?                 | Y/N |
| If these programs are from outside CERN <sup>21</sup> ; indicate whether your program communicates with them | P1   | In a tightly-coupled way <sup>22</sup> . Please specify |   |     |
|  |  | In a loosely-coupled way <sup>23</sup> . Please specify |   |     |
|  | P2   | In a tightly-coupled way <sup>24</sup> . Please specify |   |     |
|  |  | In a loosely-coupled way <sup>25</sup> . Please specify |   |     |

<sup>19</sup> E.g. using pipes, sockets and command-line arguments, ...

<sup>20</sup> i.e They do not belong to CERN, which has no copyright on them

<sup>21</sup> i.e They do not belong to CERN, which has no copyright on them

<sup>22</sup> E.g. integrated in the same executable, linked together in a shared address space, ...

<sup>23</sup> E.g. using pipes, sockets and command-line arguments, ...

<sup>24</sup> E.g. integrated in the same executable, linked together in a shared address space, ...

<sup>25</sup> E.g. using pipes, sockets and command-line arguments, ...

## 2.2 Draft Instruction Note for specifying the licence terms in Open Source software

Any CERN software owned in whole or in part by CERN must contain a statement in the header of each source file acknowledging (i) the copyright of CERN and other copyright owners as applicable; (ii) the applicable licence, and; (iii) CERN's special status as an Intergovernmental Organization.

### (i) Copyright

The following copyright statement must be included, depending on whether the software is owned solely by CERN or by CERN and external partners:

- “© Copyright [year] CERN”  
for software owned solely by CERN
- “© Copyright [year] CERN [for the benefit of the [Name of appropriate group] Collaboration]”  
for software developed by a collaboration but owned by CERN
- “© Copyright [year] CERN and [name of other copyright holders]”  
for software owned by CERN and external partner(s) in small collaborations
- “© Copyright [year] Copyright Holders of [name of the collaboration or joint project]. See [<https://link>] for details of the Copyright Holders”  
for software owned by CERN and external partners in large collaborations

### (ii) Applicable licence

The following licence statement must be included (following the copyright statement):

- “This software is distributed under the terms of the GNU General Public Licence version 3 (GPL Version 3), copied verbatim in the file “COPYING” /copied verbatim below”.  
For software distributed under the default GPL v.3.
- “This software is distributed under the terms of the GNU Lesser General Public Licence version 3 (LGPL Version 3), copied verbatim in the file “COPYING” /copied verbatim below”.  
For software distributed under the alternate LGPL v.3.
- “This software is distributed under the terms of the Apache version 2 licence, copied verbatim in the file “COPYING” /copied verbatim below”.  
For software distributed under the exception Apache licence version 2.

The verbatim text of the licence should be copied

- either in a dedicated file part of the distribution, usually called COPYING (NB: another name may be chosen)
- or directly below the licence statement.

The text of each licence to be copied verbatim is available in the Volume of Annexes.

In the case of LGPL, the text comprises the LGPL text per se followed by the GPL text. This is due to the fact that the LGPL licence is written as a modification of the GPL text. The author must copy the entire text below in the case of LGPL.

### (iii) Acknowledgement of the status of CERN as an Intergovernmental Organization

The following statement must be included in all cases:

“In applying this licence, CERN does not waive the privileges and immunities granted to it by virtue of its status as an Intergovernmental Organization or submit itself to any jurisdiction.”

### 2.2.1 *GPL licence text*

The verbatim text of the licence should be copied

- either in a dedicated file part of the distribution, usually called COPYING (but another name may be chosen)
- or directly below the licence statement.

“

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**Version 3, 29 June 2007**

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Version 3, 29 June 2007

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END OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

“

### 3 OSS at CERN: The current formal and de-facto situation

Making software (SW) developed by CERN available free of charge to the outside has been a tradition over the past four decades. One of the most prominent examples on the 70s and 80s was the CERNLIB library or programmes. Though free-of-charge distribution of CERN Software was a common practice, this did not derive from a clear and stated policy.

#### 3.1 Consequences of de-facto practices without de-jure policy

The lack of stated policies and processes had 5 consequences

##### 3.1.1.1 A variety of methods for making CERN software available to the outside ...

... without clear reasons for using one or the other. This included:

- Binary Code only
  - Downloadable by any third-party
  - Available through formal bilateral agreements
- Source Code and Binary Code
  - Downloadable by any third-party (Open Source principles)
  - Available through formal bilateral agreements

##### 3.1.1.2 A frequent lack of consideration for Intellectual Property (IP)

- Copyright statements (e.g. © CERN) were sometimes omitted, or referred to non-existing legal bodies (e.g. © Collaboration xyz where the membership of the xyz collaboration is fuzzy, amorphous).
- CERN IP was sometimes deliberately relinquished.

The most famous example is the nearly fatal decision of CERN in March 1993 to place version 0 of the web software (HTTP server) in the “Public Domain”, i.e. relinquishing CERN IP.

##### 3.1.1.3 The lack of consideration for liabilities

- Sometimes, disclaimer and liability statements were absent from the released software, or more frequently were copied from other licences without full consideration of the legal status of CERN.

##### 3.1.1.4 The fuzziness of the conditions of use

- It was not always clear what were the rights and duties of those using the CERN software (rights and duties for the use, further distribution, re-selling, modification, incorporation, derivative work, ...)

#### 3.2 The policy as defined in 2005

In 2004, the TT group drafted a report called “*Proposed Policy for Software Development @ CERN*” that the departments were asked to comment. This resulted at the end of 2004 in a document called “*Policy for Software Dissemination @ CERN - The CERN Approach*”.

##### 3.2.1.1 Policy adopted by to the Finance Committee

As a result of this effort, the CERN/FC/4920 document called “*Technology Transfer at CERN: Elements of Policy and Practice*” was presented the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2005 to the FC. The document contains a section of Software Strategy (section 1.4).

In substance, the document states the following:

- SW made available to the outside must contain proper licence and copyright statements
- True “free-software” licences (“Copyleft licences” called in the FC document “licences with viral properties”) such as GPL should be avoided.
- A licence template specially developed by CERN should be used (this licence template belongs to the category sometimes called “fully permissive” or “industry-friendly licences”, as companies may exploit commercially their derivative work without publishing the source of their work.

The paper stated that a fully explanatory document would be “*drafted in due course and communicated to all affected personnel*”.

### 3.2.1.2 The aftermath of the FC policy document

- The fully explanatory document mentioned above was not distributed within CERN.
- The specially-developed CERN licence template did not receive the Open-source Initiative (OSI) label (the reason being that there were already multiple similar OSI certified public licences). As a result the IT-based EGEE project, which needed a “fully permissive” OSI-certified licence, adopted an existing OSI-certified public licence (the Apache licence).
- A number of major CERN software packages (developed solely by CERN or in collaboration with other institutes) are distributed under true “Copyleft” licence, usually GPL, consistently with the CERN Open Access policy.

### 3.3 The CERN Open-Access policy

In the meantime, CERN adopted a general policy in favour of open access and undertook a series of actions. CERN supports the [SCOAP<sup>3</sup> initiative](#) and the PH Department publishing policy strongly recommends publishing papers under Open Access conditions.

### 3.4 Summary of the situation

- The use of “Copyleft” Licences (such as GPL) is dis-recommended by the FC/4920 Policy document.
  - However a number of major CERN and “CERN community” packages are distributed under GPL.
- The Template Licence recommended in 2005 by FC/4920 has no official OSI approval.
  - It has been de-facto replaced by a public OSI-Approved licence (Apache), which is used by EGEE and many other IT software (particularly for small modules like library elements).
  - However, it may be desirable to check whether the Apache disclaimer and liability clauses are compatible with the CERN status.
- To sum up, there is no clear guidance to departments neither on which licence to use for which cases, nor on the decision making process to be followed.
  - In IT, attempts are made to centralize through the Departmental KTT Officer (DKTTO) all new cases of Open Source SW. The DKTTO and the SW author(S) discuss the licence options. Then, the case is systematically presented by the DKTTO to the KTT legal adviser.
- Cases where CERN-developed software is in fact a compound work that incorporates external Open Source components themselves available as Open Source are more and more frequent.
  - These cases require special attention to check that the chosen licence for the overall compound work is compatible with those of the incorporated components.
  - Such cases in IT are handled to the KTT legal adviser who verifies the licence compatibilities. In cases of conflicts, this analysis may result in the choice of an unusual licence for the CERN compound work or even in the withdrawal of the idea of open-sourcing the work.
- More and more frequently, the SW packages are made available through Source distribution Sites such as (Source Forge) so has to maximize their dissemination.