

# Why do governments have to promote OSS ?



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Kodas  
Lietuvai

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# Agenda

- ◇ **Lobbying FOSS**
- ◇ **How it goes in Lithuania?**
- ◇ **NGO "AKL"**



# Lobbying

To address or solicit members of a legislative body in the lobby or elsewhere, with the purpose to influence their votes.

"Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary (1913)"

# Lobbying

Influencing decision makers to take beneficial decisions in favor of the beneficiaries.

"consumers society slang 2004"

Selling or Lobbying?

# Who benefits from FOSS?

- ◇ Why we are here?
- ◇ In FOSS we trust! (OSS we sell :))
- ◇ We do believe that usage of FOSS
  - stimulate competition
  - stimulate local IT industry
  - create new jobs
  - decrease software “piracy” rates
  - allow to choose software vendor
- ◇ So, who benefits from FOSS?

# What is a beneficial decision?

- ◇ What decision could be taken in a favor of beneficiary?
  - who is able to initiate a process?
  - who is able to prepare a decision?
  - who is able to promote?
  - who is able to take responsibility?
- ◇ Decision is not clear, still no good practice at governmental level in EU.

# Got stuck?

- ◇ To high complexity and uncertainty of decision...
- ◇ To high likelihood that something will go wrong...
- ◇ To a large scale experiment....
- ◇ To harmful consequences for a decision maker...

FOSS benefits are known, but decision is not clear, risk is too high – better do nothing.

# Lobbying FOSS

- ◇ Most of key decision makers know about benefits of using FOSS
- ◇ FOSS advocacy will not change the situation significantly
- ◇ Strategy of lobbying FOSS at governmental level for the 2005–2006 is to **reduce risk of decision makers**

# What could help us?

- ◇ Ready made EU policy on FOSS use
- ◇ Ready made EU policy for open document formats
- ◇ Clear scenario of FOSS roll-out at governmental level
- ◇ Success stories
- ◇ Database of best practice in EU
- ◇ First break through of using FOSS at governmental level in EU



**for the  
moment  
it is just  
the  
matter  
of trust**

# **Lithuanian governmental institutions**

## **Responsible for information society development**

- ◇ Parliamentary Information Society Development Committee
- ◇ Information Society Development Committee under the Government
- ◇ Information Society Development Department of Ministry of Interior Affairs
- ◇ Information technology centre of Education under the Ministry of Science and Education

# Lithuanian governmental projects

## Open Source Software for All

- ◇ Pilot project (installation), software localization („OpenOffice“, „Mozilla“), 2002
- ◇ Portal of FOSS, 2002
- ◇ Study „OSS in EU“, 2002
- ◇ Spell-checking software „Ispell“, 2003
- ◇ Software localization („OpenOffice“, „Mozilla“), 2003
- ◇ CD with software for schools (2000 copies), 2003
- ◇ Planned further activities in OSS for year 2004



# Information Society Development Committee under the Government <http://www.ivpk.lt>



The screenshot shows a Mozilla browser window displaying the website of the Information Society Development Committee (IVPK). The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.ivpk.lt/main.php?id=opensource/index.lt>. The website header features the Lithuanian coat of arms and the text "INFORMACINĖS VISUOMENĖS PLĖTROS KOMITETAS". Below the header is a navigation menu with "Pradžia", "Veikla", "Struktūra", and "Naujienos". A search bar is located on the right side of the header. The main content area includes contact information: "Įmonės kodas 8877243, tel. (8~5) 266 51 61, faks. (8~5) 266 51 80, el. p. [info@ivpk.lt](mailto:info@ivpk.lt)". A prominent banner reads "ATVIRO KODO PROGRAMOS VISIEMS" and features logos for OpenOffice.org, Mozilla, and XFNIT. Below the banner, there are three project announcements: "2002 m. projektas: Lokalizuotos atviro kodo programinės įrangos kūrimas ir tobulinimas", "2003 m. projektas: Lietuvių kalbos rašybos tikrinimo programa su žodynu", and "2003 m. projektas: Atviro kodo diegimas valstybės institucijose". On the right side, there is a sidebar menu titled "Šoninis meniu >>>" with a list of categories: "Žinių visuomenė", "Aktualijos", "Registrai", "ES struktūriniai fondai", "Nuotolinis mokymasis", "Teisinė informacija", "Projektai", "Konkursai", "Renginiai", "Bendradarbiavimas", "Naudinga informacija", and "Nuorodos".

# FOSS Cases

- ◇ Ministry of Environment:
  - 500 computers with „OpenOffice“ - 400.000 LTL economy
- ◇ Vilnius County Administration:
  - 40 computers with „SuSE Linux“ - 56.000 LTL economy

Both institutions are planning further computer purchases with FOSS

# Atviras Kodas Lietuvai

## AKL

### Mission

- To stimulate usage of FOSS in Lithuania

### Objectives

- To promote the ideas of FOSS in Lithuania
- To assure availability of professional and high quality FOSS products, services and trainings
- To strengthen and support local FOSS community

# Atviras Kodas Lietuvai AKL

## Vision

- Confidence in FOSS let users migrate from (illegal) proprietary software to free and open source software
- A lot of FOSS services and products will be available on the market
- FOSS in few years will take significant market share.

**STOP PIRACY!**  
**USE FREE SOFTWARE!**



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**Questions?**

**Thank you !**  
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