



EU OS: an Operating System for the Public Sector

Status and Next Steps

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EU OS: Why?

OS to support older Hardware

- With Windows 10 end-of-life, older hardware does not meet requirements for an update on Windows 11 (planned obsolescence of **240 Mio devices**).
- With Linux, older (and newer) hardware can be used longer.
 - Schools and universities, libraries, public administration, etc.

OS to support high regulatory requirements (security, sovereignty, privacy)

- With Windows 10 and 11, connected (cloud) services are difficult to control.
- With open source software like Linux, a high level of control is achievable
 - Competition authorities, data protection authorities, courts
 - Embassies, secret services, armed forces, critical infrastructure sector

Perceived Problems

- During migration two systems must be supported: Windows and Linux
- Expensive migration: cost-saving effects only for large desktop fleets
- Little in-house know-how and small ecosystems: shortage of expertise
- In the absence of role models: many unknowns and risk to fail
- User aversion against new or non-standard software (or change in general)

Possible Solution

- Synergies between organisations: common approach to Linux migration
- Synergies between building blocks: reuse cloud technologies and expertise

What is EU OS not?

- It is not a project of the European Union, but [it should be](#).
- It is not a new Linux distribution. It is not for private home users.
- It is not a project producing original code. EU OS reuses existing software.

What is EU OS then?

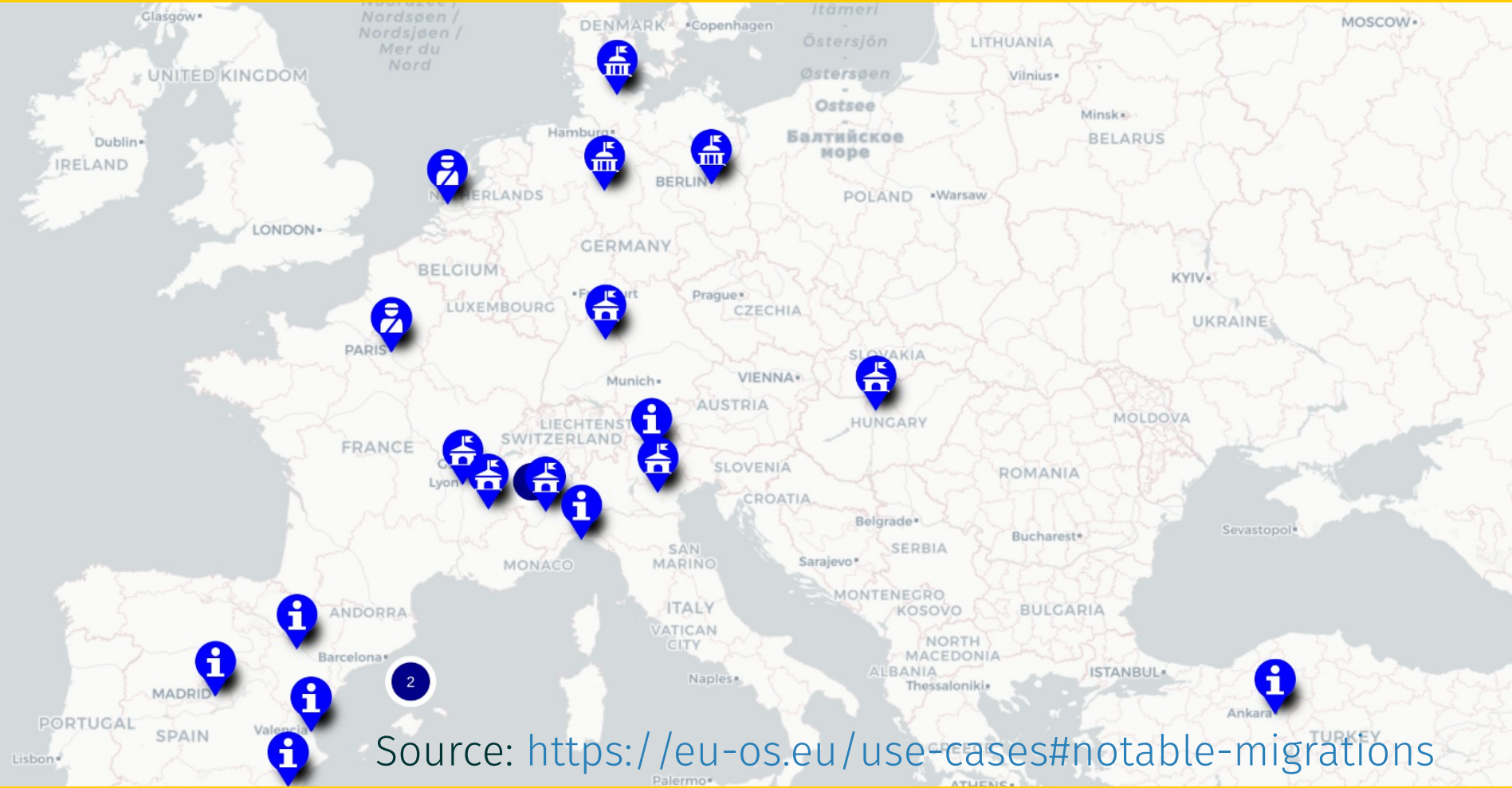
- It is a Proof-of-Concept (PoC) for the deployment of a [Fedora-based](#) Linux OS with a KDE Plasma desktop environment and [bootable container technology](#) in a typical public sector organisation (corporate environment).
- Private sector organisations with similar requirements may also use EU OS.
- EU OS is also a community and a knowledge data base.

EU OS: How?

What is already proven?

- Several public sector organisations have migrated to Linux, so that's proven.
 - [French Gendarmerie](#) (fleet with 82k seats)
 - [Chinese Government](#) (90% of seats in government on Linux, [video](#))
- The European Commission has studied Linux on the desktop already in [2005](#):
 - ‘In general, the Linux platforms that were tested **show a very fair level of usability and compatibility**. An environment based on **Linux is today technically feasible for limited groups** with specific needs. Although there are many other factors that could play a role in the decision in favour of the implementation of an environment based on Linux, the present testing shows that is **not possible** to implement it at this moment in time **on a large scale**. Amongst the most **blocking factors** is the availability of Commission and local **applications**.’
 - ‘Apart from this technical evaluation, it must be said that the Commission has a political role to play in ensuring that the competition rules are respected.’

Map of Linux-on-the-Desktop in the European Public Sector

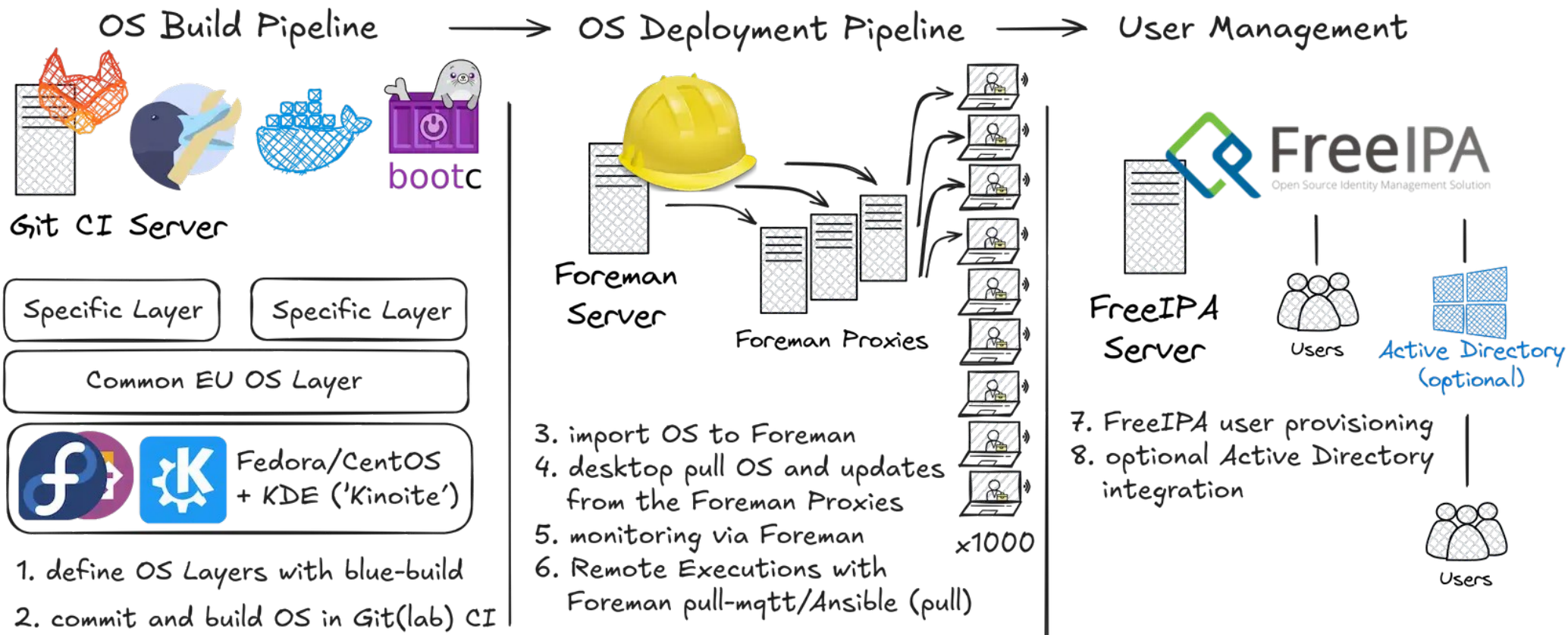


Source: <https://eu-os.eu/use-cases#notable-migrations>

EU OS wants to proof that ...

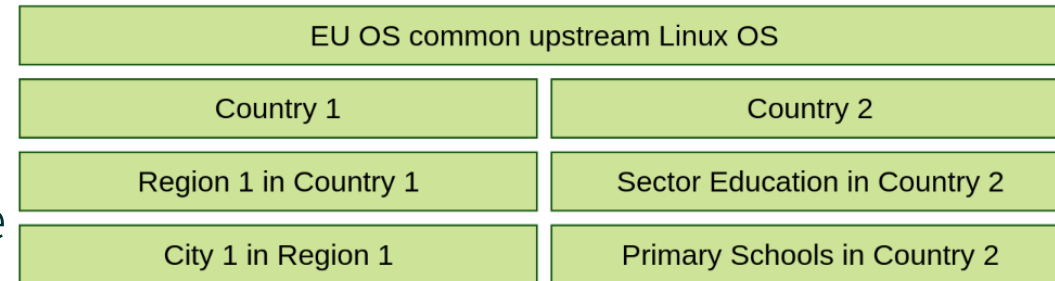
- enough **synergies** exist, so that migration to Linux (EU OS) is feasible and economically viable in much more public sector organisations
- a migration is doable in **rather 2 years than 20 years** (check out [use cases](#))
- Linux offers today an alternative to Windows that is **more secure, sovereign, sleek** (efficient/eco-friendly)
- Linux deployments can scale to thousands of users

Hence, EU OS PoC is more about **developing a *common* vision for and collaboration in digital transformation** than it is about code or technology.



Based on ...





- open software and open standards: transparency, control, zero-margin costs
- wide-spread container technology (docker): in-house expertise often available
- wide-spread deployment technologies (Gitlab): infrastructure often available
- wide-spread enterprise linux (Fedora, possibly others): existing ecosystem
- hierarchy of shared containers:
 - synergies on many levels (EU, country, region, sector, ...) for building, testing, compliance
 - subsidiarity and flexibility
- Automation tools: scalability for large fleets with many seats (goal: thousands)



EU OS: Who and When?

- EU OS community is made up of
 - the project Gitlab <https://gitlab.com/eu-os/>
 - the Matrix chat space with ~ 170 participants <https://matrix.to/#/#eu-os-space:kde.org>
 - the Fediverse account [@eu_os](#) with ~ 2,3k followers
- EU OS **partnerships** with organisations offering pro bono help or a platform
 - French Government Hackdays in June 2025 
 - ATIX/orcharhino <https://orcharhino.com/en/> 
 - B1 Systems <https://www.b1-systems.de/en/> 
 - GONICUS <https://www.gonicus.de/> 
 - international information campaign <https://endof10.org/>
 - pending formalisation: a German public sector agency 
- EU OS would like to have more partners from all over Europe! 



- awareness raising campaign in full swing (social media, personal networks)
 - EU organisations: EDPS, EC DIGIT/CNECT/HR, EC JRC, Parliament, Court, ...
 - International organisations: ICC, ICJ (the Hague), ICRC, UN
 - EU member states: DINUM , Zendis , Schleswig-Holstein , OSPO 
- **on-going feasibility study with pilot comprising ≈ 150 seats** running EU OS (scheduled from summer to end of 2025, so results expected in next months)

Thank you. Questions?

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