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# The FLOSSInclude project

Free Software as a tool for social and economic  
development

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## Motivation: The upside

- Free/Libre/Open Source Software holds great potential for developing countries
  - freedom to learn
  - freedom to build businesses (and retain the profits)
  - potential cost savings
- Software market economics support Free Software
  - only 16% of software spending go to proprietary packaged software
  - only 7% of programmers work on proprietary packaged software
    - (source: UNU-MERIT, 2006: FLOSSImpact report, <http://flossimpact.eu>)



## ...and the problem

### BUT:

- Free Software has little market penetration in developing countries
  - business
  - schools and academia
  - public sector
- Free Software still below potential as a tool for social and economic development
- too little in the way of Free Software businesses
- and too little Free Software in development cooperation



## Project facts

- 2-year project
  - started February 1, 2008
- Funded by the European Commission,
  - DG Information Society
  - EUR 703,462.65
- 11 experienced partners, in Netherlands, Spain, UK, South Africa (UWC), Ghana (AITI-KACE), Argentina, India, Cambodia, China



# Project facts

- Partners:
  - UNU-MERIT (NL)
  - FUNDECYT (ES)
  - Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (ES)
  - Canonical / Ubuntu (IM/UK/ZA)
  - AITI / Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence (Ghana)
  - University of the Western Cape (South Africa)
  - IT for Change (India)
  - Sarai/Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (India)
  - Tsinghua University (China)
  - Open Institute (Cambodia)
  - Fundacion Via Libre (Argentina)



# Research Objectives

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- Strengthening Europe's participation in international research in FLOSS and open standards
- how to increase the deployment, development and impact of FLOSS and open standards in Asia, Africa and Latin America?



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## Research approach, Methodology (1/2)

- Analysis of available data
  - FLOSSWorld
  - additional surveys in Ghana and Cambodia (perhaps others)
- Dissemination and networking:
  - business
  - public sector
  - academia
  - civil society
- Analysing requirements
  - what is needed to promote use, development, deployment of Free Software in developing countries?
  - case studies
  - socio-economic requirements
  - technical requirements



Collaborative  
Creativity Group



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## Research approach, Methodology (2/2)

- Testing solutions: Validation and pilots
  - identify promising solutions
    - e.g. for localisation projects
    - e.g. approaches for capacity building
  - run pilot projects to test approaches
- Roadmap for future research cooperation
  - highlight R&D that EU could support through international cooperation
  - highlight successful approaches



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# Major Outcomes/Results

- building regional competencies
  - impact on governments & policy community
- link development and Free Software communities
- transfer working solutions from one region to another
- raise awareness for Free Software and open standards
- build lasting networks
  - inside communities
  - between communities



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## Conclusion and outlook

- FLOSSInclude offers a chance to realise full potential of Free Software
- ...and an opportunity to connect the relevant actors
- we're just getting started – come and work with us!

<http://flossinclude.eu>

[info@flossinclude.eu](mailto:info@flossinclude.eu)



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Thank you!

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