SAPs Open Source Program Office
Overview

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December, 2021

SAP Open Source

THE BEST RUN SAP

Open Source Program Office (OSPO)

What is an **Open Source Program Office**

"An open source program office (OSPO) is designed to be the center of competency for an organization's open source operations and structure."*
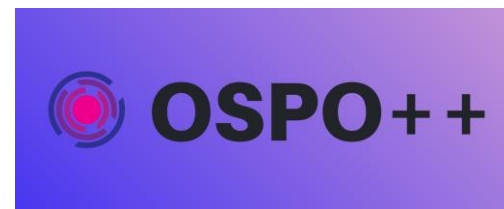

Companies: [Facebook](), [IKEA](), [Microsoft](), [Red Hat](), [SAP]()**

Academia, governments, etc.: [European Commission](), [Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore](), [Trinity College Dublin](), …

Promoted and supported by:

*) Source: https://github.com/todogroup/ospodefinition.org

**) See also: [TODO Group OSPO Adopters]()

Typical Responsibilities of an OSPO

Open Source Strategy
How open source supports the company strategy

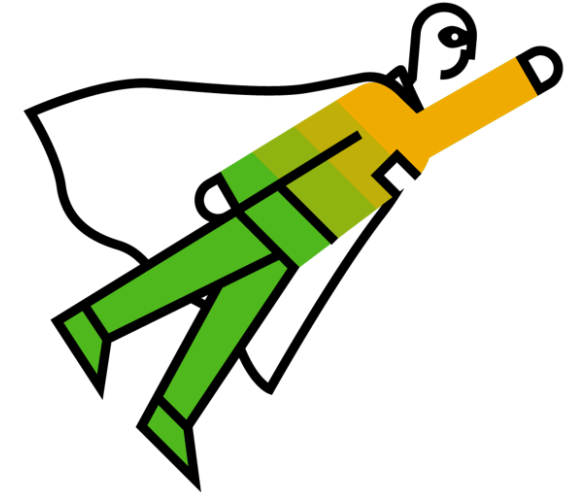## Open Source Policy & Processes
Defining and implementing rules and processes for dealing with and managing open source

Tooling
Introducing, administering tools for open source management

Open Source Training
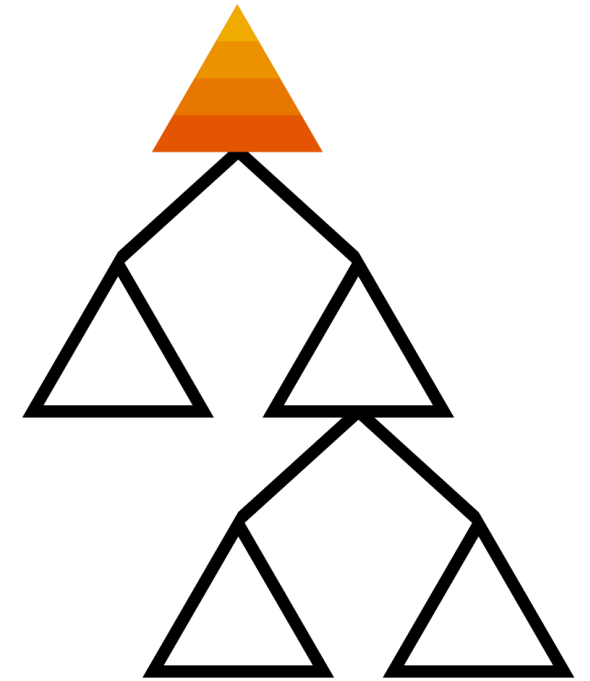Developing, providing and maintaining an open source training program

Communication
Company-internal and -external communication about open source activities

Open Source Memberships
Aligning memberships and engagements in open source organizations with strategic goals

How an OSPO could fit into your Organization

One central OSPO vs. Multiple decentralized OSPOs

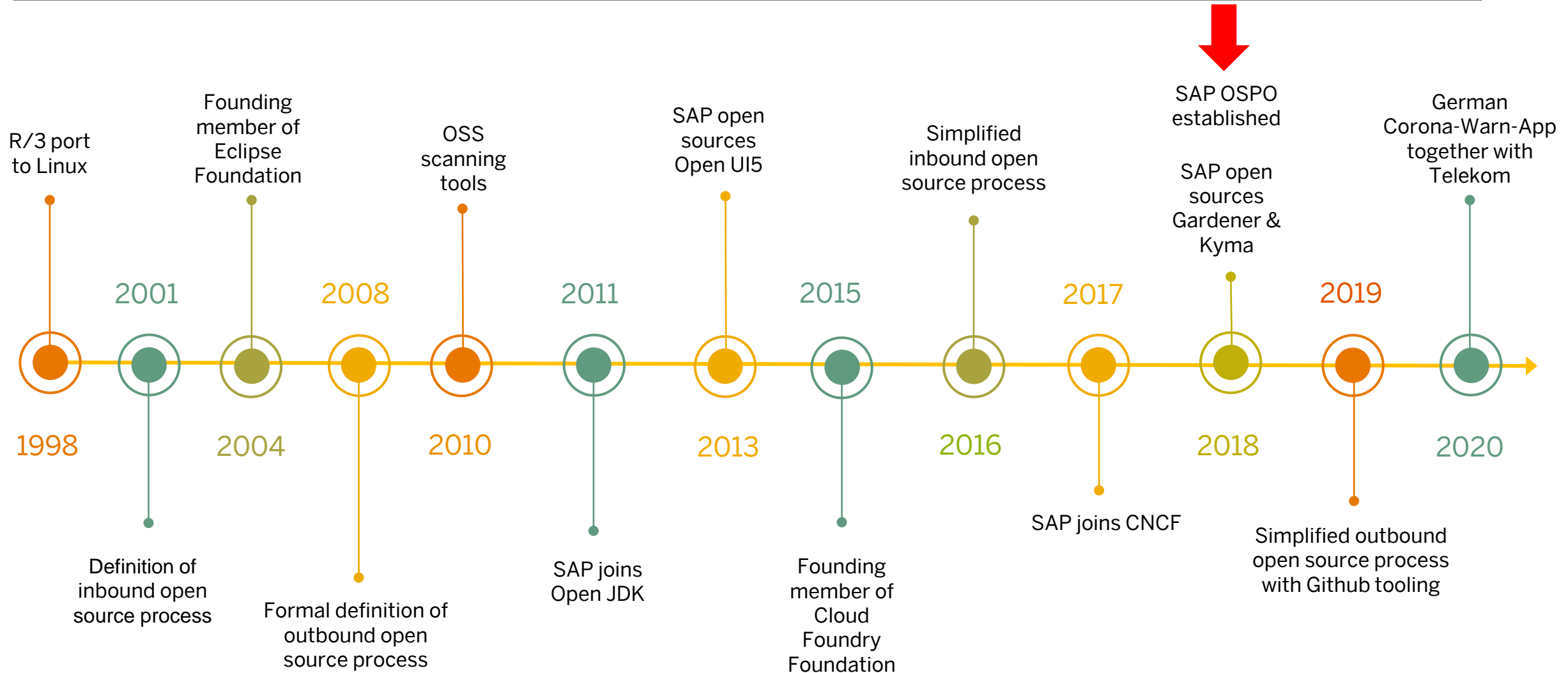**Dedicated department vs. Virtual team vs. Combination of both**

Reporting into Development / CTO vs. Legal / CFO vs. Marketing / CMO

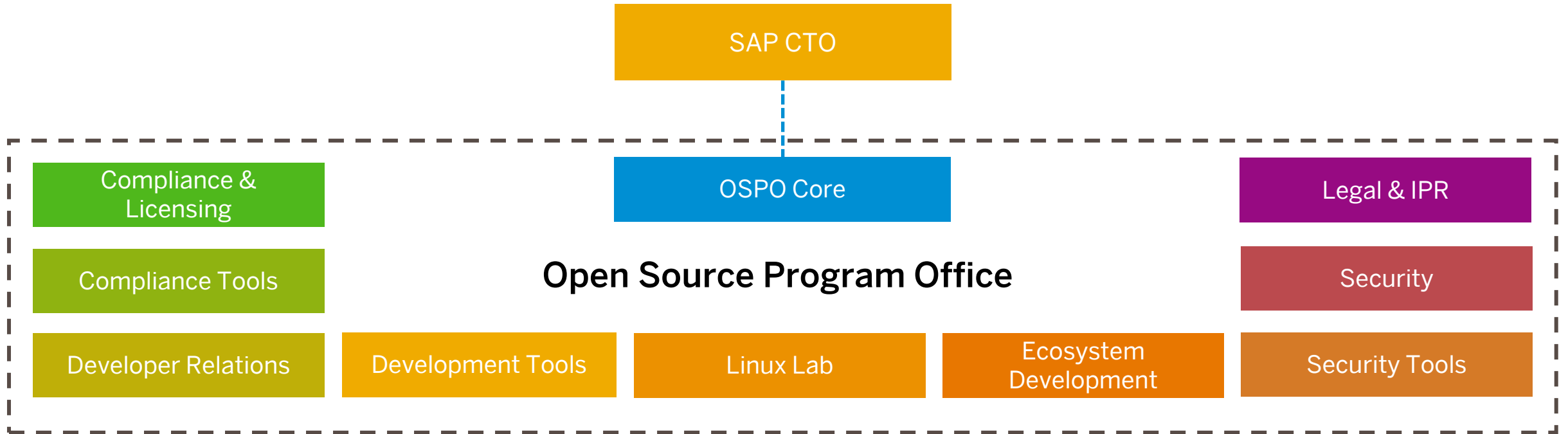# SAPs OSPO

SAP's Open Source Journey – Milestone Examples

R/3 port to Linux

Founding member of Eclipse Foundation

OSS scanning tools

SAP open sources Open UI5

Simplified inbound open source process

SAP OSPO established

SAP open sources Gardener & Kyma

German Corona-Warn-App together with Telekom

2001
2008
2011
2015
2017
2019

1998
2004
2010
2013
2016
2018
2020

Definition of inbound open source process

Formal definition of outbound open source process

SAP joins Open JDK

Founding member of Cloud Foundry Foundation

SAP joins CNCF

Simplified outbound open source process with Github tooling

Situation Before the SAP OSPO was Founded

- **Grown structures** (teams and processes) to cover the different aspects of open source management such as licenses, IP, security, communication/developer relations, tooling

- Involved teams are **spread across different board areas** and **do not work exclusively on open source topics**

- Potential for **improvement of collaboration** among teams was identified

- Complaints from development about **inefficient processes**

- **Single point of contact** for questions around open source **did not exist** within the company
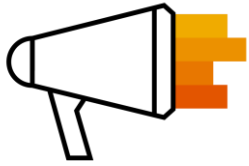
Open Source Program Office (OSPO)

SAP CTO

OSPO Core

Compliance & Licensing

Legal & IPR

Open Source Program Office

Compliance Tools

Security

Developer Relations

Development Tools

Linux Lab

Ecosystem Development

Security Tools

SAP OSPO is a virtual team of representatives from different open source-related functions to jointly work on common tasks and towards common goals.

SAP OSPO – Areas of Responsibility

Strategy & Policy
We define, evolve & drive the open source strategy & policy.

Compliance & Risk Management
We mitigate & manage the risks, obligations & challenges of open source consumption & contribution.

Enablement & Support
We train, enable & support our teams to benefit from open source by consuming & contributing to it.
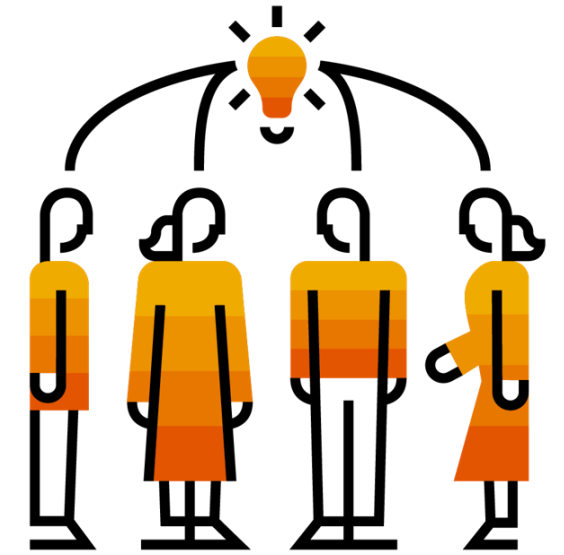
Processes & Tools
We continuously improve our open source management processes & tools.

InnerSource
We promote & facilitate InnerSource at SAP.

How we Founded the SAP OSPO

Overall plans (i.e. the foundation of an SAP OSPO) were aligned with all relevant teams. Support of these teams was given
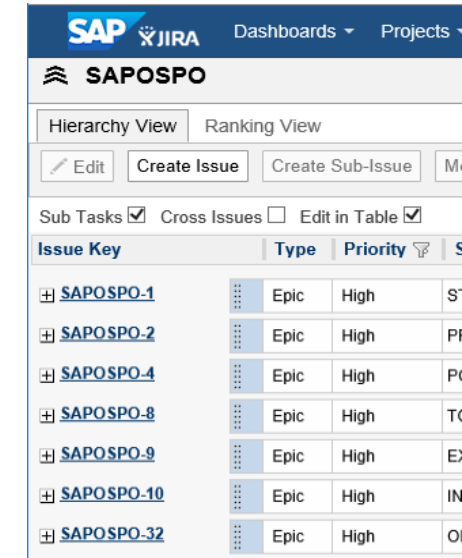
Support of CTO was given

SAP OSPO was founded with a 2-days kick-off workshop with representatives from all relevant teams

- Definition and alignment on **common goals and mission of the OSPO**
- Definition and alignment on **initial scope / focus topics of the OSPO**
- Alignment on **organizational setup** and **OSPO working mode**

After that, topics were clustered and OSPO workstreams were set up

OSPO Working Mode – Scrum

- Five different workstreams (aka epics)

- One joint OSPO product backlog in Jira

- Each epic handled by a cross-functional scrum team

- 4-week sprints with monthly planning & review meetings

| Strategy & Policy | Inbound | Outbound | InnerSource | Communication |

Open Source Champions @ SAP: 15 champions in 10 locations

Vancouver

Palo Alto

Denver

Montréal

Germany)*

Czech

SAP Labs France

Bulgaria

SAP Labs Israel

Shanghai

Bangalore

São Leopoldo
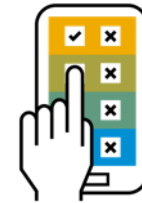
Looking for new champion

)* Munich, Eschborn, Potsdam, Walldorf

Open Source Champions Network @ SAP

Our **Open Source Champions** are **ambassadors** of the Open Source Program Office and SAP open source related topics, supporting our ecosystem grow. They come from teams across SAP and are able to help advise on open source and help share knowledge.

- Advise colleagues and share knowledge

- Review support and feedback

- Dissemination of information

- Raise awareness in labs location

- Enablement and knowledge transfer

- Open discussions

Feedback and dissemination of survey

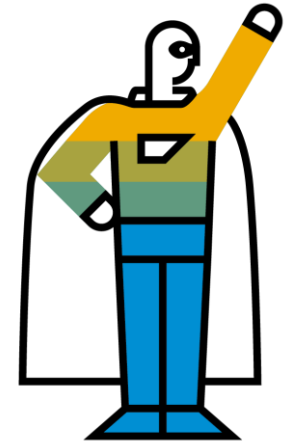Input and review of policy strategy, trainings, new twitter channel, etc.

Meet-ups in different lab locations/d-kom presentations, Webinar speakers, etc.

I appreciate being part of the OSPO Champions' network, because…

"… it enables me to **stay connected** with the central ideas and ideologies of **my passion** OpenSource and **spread the knowledge** especially in my 'satellite' location", *Open Source Champion in Germany.*

"… I'm able to provide **direct feedback** and suggest solutions to topics addressed by OSPO and I feel I can **influence** changes needed to make SAP more active in open source community", *Open Source Champion in Poland.*

Further Reading

Some Material about OSPOs and the SAP OSPO

How to create an Open Source Program (guide of the TODO Group)

OSPO 101 (training modules of the TODO Group)

Open Source Good Governance Initiative (guide from OW2)

SAP: One of Open Source's Best Kept Secret (interview with the Linux Foundation, 2019)

How to Manage Open Source at Scale in a Global Enterprise (presentation at the Open Source Leadership Summit, 2019)

How SAP Manages Open Source Software with an Open Source Program Office (SAP Blog Post, 2021)

Thank you.

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