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Federal Chancellery FCh
Digital Transformation and ICT Steering DTI

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Guidelines to open source software (according to Article 9 EMOTA)

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This repository contains **evolving drafts** of guidelines and tools to support the Federal Administration in publishing open source code. The **official and binding versions** are available in all official languages on the Swiss Federal Chancellery website.

Every document in this repository carries all five languages — English, German, French, Italian and Romansh — in a single AsciiDoc file. The German, French, Italian and Romansh texts are **unreviewed translations**; see TRANSLATING.adoc before editing them.

For a complete list of documents, see: Tools for Publishing Open Source Software

1. Legal obligations and responsibility

As outlined in Article 9 EMOTA, the Federal Administration is **principally obligated to publish its software as open source.** Each federal authority holds independent responsibility for ensuring compliance, including making the source code publicly available.

2. Contributing

Contributions from the open source community and other stakeholders to these guidelines are highly valued. Have a suggestion for improvement? You can:

1. Fork the repository
2. Create your feature branch (`git checkout -b feature/AmazingFeature`)
3. Commit your changes (`git commit -m 'Add some AmazingFeature'`)
4. Push to the branch (`git push origin feature/AmazingFeature`)
5. Open a pull request

Alternatively, you can simply open an issue.

To build and check the sources on your own machine, see DEVENV-SETUP.adoc.

> **NOTE** You can also write in **German, French, or Italian** and refer to the official language documents where relevant.

3. Changes

When **major changes** are proposed, they undergo the Federal Chancellery's standard review process and, upon approval, are translated and published on the Swiss Federal Chancellery website. The respective documents are then assigned a new version number. Major changes between versions can be followed using the release notes.

Minor changes are incorporated regularly into the official PDF publications on the Swiss Federal Chancellery website.

4. License

These guidelines are licensed under the **CC0 1.0 Universal license**. For details, see the `LICENSE` file.

5. Contact

opensource@bk.admin.ch