

...OR PUT SIMPLER....

# CAN EUROPE BE OPEN?

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**Openforum** europe  

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open, competitive choice for IT users

# Agenda

- What do we mean by being Open?
- Why its Important
- What's Happening in Europe
- A New Opportunity

# What is Openness?

**It's all about freedom but it isn't necessarily free**



## Principles

Freedom to Innovate

Freedom to Integrate

Freedom to Participate

Freedom to Leave



## Tools

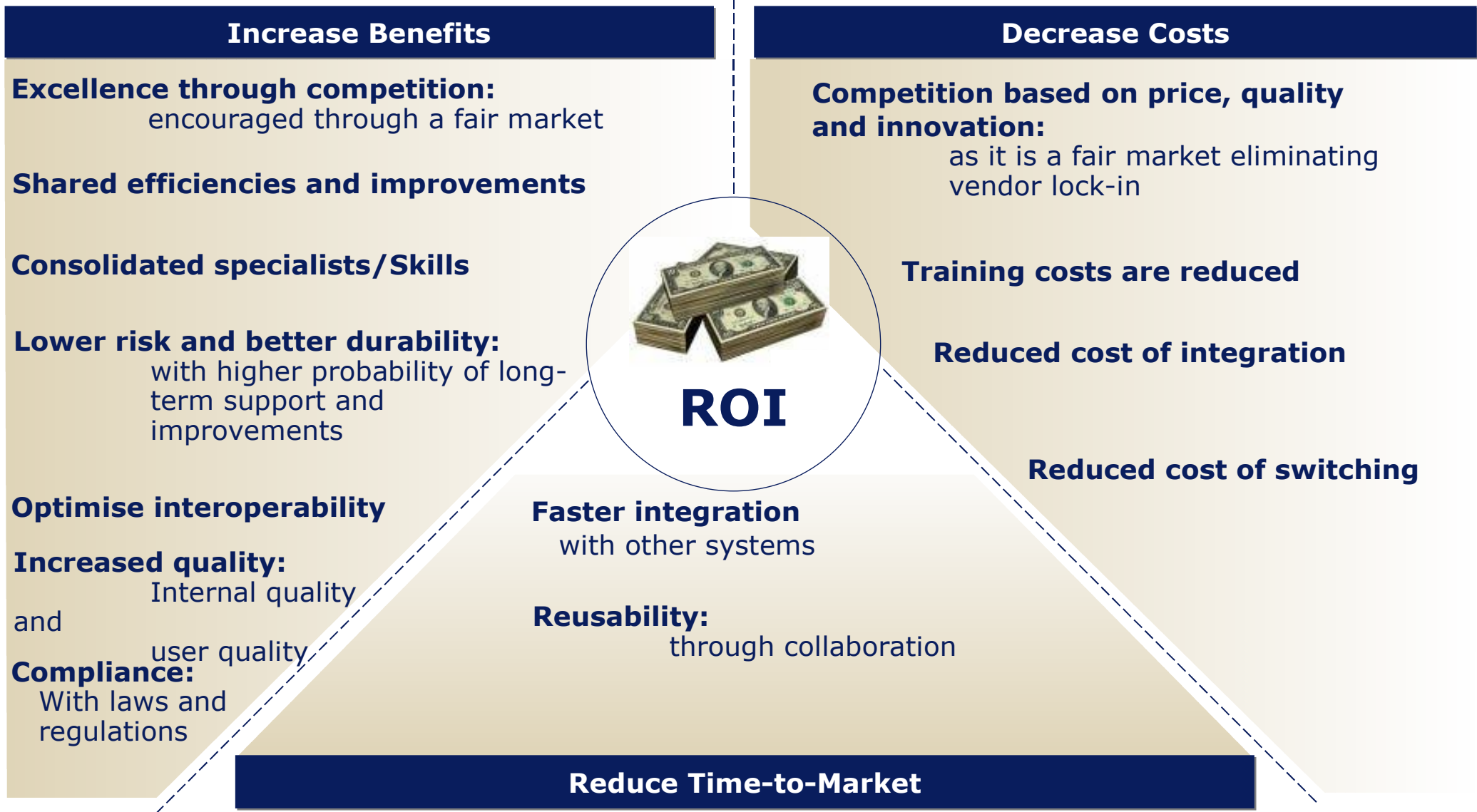
Open Source

Open Standards

Collaboration

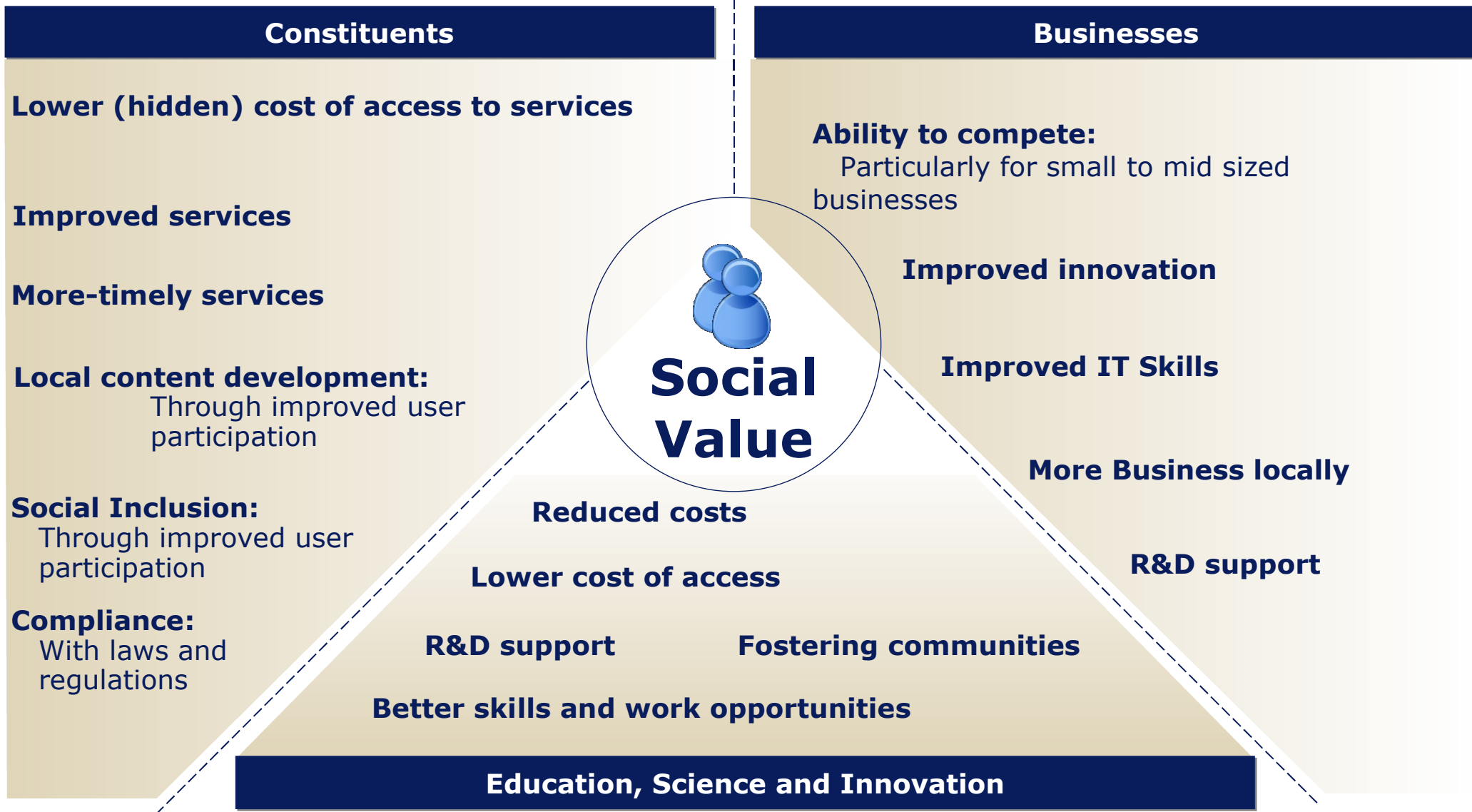
# Why do I want Openness?

## Economical benefits



# Why do I want Openness?

## Social benefits



# What is Openness

## Openness?

- Open, Competitive Choice
- Avoidance of Lock-In

## Open Source/Free Software

- Definition of a Licence
- A Development methodology
- A Business Model
- A Culture
- Value back in hands of the customer

## Open Standards

- Definition?
- Enabler of true interoperability

# Defining an Open Standard

- “The **standard is adopted** and will be maintained by a **not-for-profit** organization, and its ongoing development occurs on the basis of an **open decision-making** procedure available to all parties (consensus or majority decision etc)”
- “The standard has been **published** and the standard specification document is **available either freely or at a nominal charge**. It must be permissible to all to copy, distribute and use it for no fee or at a nominal fee”
- “The **intellectual property** – ie patents possibly present – of (parts) of the standard is made irrevocably available on a **royalty-free basis**”
- “There are **no constraints on the re-use** of that standard”

European Interoperability Framework – IDABC EC

# Document Exchange Formats

- So whats the fuss all about?
- Open Document Format (ODF) – already an ISO standard
- Office Open XML (OOXML) – a Microsoft driven, Ecma driven, fast track proposal to ISO
- More competition or less?
- Innovation or suppression?
- Cost?
- Complexity?

# Background/Market Influencers - Internet

- *“It was the standardisation around HTML that allowed the web to take off. It was not only the fact that it is **standard**, but the fact that it is **open and royalty-free**. If HTML had not been free, if it had been proprietary technology, then there would have been the business of actually selling HTML and the competing JTML, LTML, MTML products. Because we would not have had the open platform, we would have had competition for these various different browser platforms but we **would not have had the web**. We would not have had everything growing on top of it. So I think it very important that as we move on to new spaces [...] we must keep the same openness we had before. We must keep an open internet platform, keep the standards for the presentation languages common and royalty-free. So that means, yes, we need standards, because the money, the excitement is not competing over the technology at that level. **The excitement is in the businesses and the applications that you built on top of the web platform**”*
  - Tim Berners-Lee

# Document Exchange Formats

## - the OFE View

- The market needs another standard like a 'hole in the head' or as the EC put it '....with concern'
- Duplication of standards in the area of interoperability,
  - Add to user costs and complexity
  - They stifle innovation, not encourage it
  - Unless it can be proven that....
- They are necessary because of the provision of required new functionality, which can't be delivered otherwise?

# Document Exchange Formats - the OFE View

- Conclusion

“ Multiple Open standards in the area of interoperability are unwelcome, costly and impractical for both users and suppliers, and will be rejected by the market. Users will get no benefit; suppliers only if they have a commercial proposition to support”

*OFE white paper – Dual Standards, More Choice or Less? May 2007*

# European Interoperability Framework

## Version 1.0

- Released November 2004
- Global recognition
- Focus on technical interoperability
- Definition of an Open Standard
  - (independence of organisation, published freely, royalty free, no constraints on reuse)
- Support for Use of OSS

## Version 2.0

- Publish Spring 2008?
- Gartner Report
- Comments Received
- Debate with National governments

[ec.europa.eu/idabc](http://ec.europa.eu/idabc)

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# Open Source – the Market Opportunity

- Some 50% of organisations already are using OSS in some way
- Firms have already invested €1.2 billion in developing FLOSS software.
- Existing base of quality applications would have cost €12 billion to reproduce internally
- Could reach 35% market share of all IT services by 2010.....and 5% of European GDP
- Potentially saves industry over 36% in software R+D
- Specifically suited to European SME based IT industry

*“The Impact of Free/Libre/Open Source Software on Innovation and Competitiveness of the European Union – UN University MERIT on behalf of the European Commission”*

# Whats Happening in Europe

*Lisbon Ministerial eGovernment Conference 19-21<sup>st</sup>  
September 2007*

## Ministerial Declaration

- Cross Border Interoperability
- Reduction in Administrative Burdens
- Inclusive eGovernment
- Transparency and Democratic Engagement

“...definition and openness of technical standards and publicly available specifications.”

“...propose a revised version of the European Interoperability Framework to foster the development of interoperable European eGovernment services.....”

# Whats Happening in Europe

*"An open, unhindered exchange of information in all areas of life is of fundamental importance for today's knowledge-based society. It is an important foundation for our shared objective: a peaceful, democratic, pluralistic society."*

*The Open Document Format, as a completely open and ISO standardized format, is an excellent vehicle for the free exchange of knowledge and information in the globalized age."*

Dr. Frank Walter Steinmeier  
German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs



Federal Foreign Office

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## The Netherlands in Open Connection

An action plan for the use of Open Standards and Open Source Software

in the public and semi public

# The Netherlands in Open Connection

## Ministry of Economic Affairs – November 2007

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- The objectives of this action plan are applicable to the national government, subsidiary government bodies and the public and semi-public sector:
  - 
  - *1. increase in interoperability between and with the different building blocks and forms of service provision of eGovernment by accelerating the use of open standards;*
  - 
  - *2. reduction in dependence on suppliers in the use of ICT through faster introduction of open standards and open source software;*
  - 
  - *3. promotion of a level playing field in the software market and promotion of innovation and the economy by forceful stimulation of the use of open source software and by giving preference*
  - *in contracts to open source software if equally suitable*

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# The Alternative - Lock-In

“Several sites encountered problems with the migration of existing applications to an Open Source platform. Issues which needed to be addressed included:

- Applications which use embedded facilities of proprietary packages;
- Applications which operate in a proprietary software environment but are incompatible with equivalent Open Source packages (such as an Open Source browser);
- Proprietary applications which are not available in a version suitable for deployment on an Open Source platform. “

*UK Government – Office of Government Commerce : Open Source Software Trials in Government – Final Report*

Up to 90% of public administrations no longer have the ability to freely choose their next IT solution



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- Rigorous but non-complex
- All software models, hardware, solutions
- Current solutions
- New procurements
- Three month free trial



# Certified Open<sup>®</sup>

- Strict Definitions eg
- 20 Questions only
- Explanatory notes
- Weighting Factors
- 5 Views
- Client View (4)
- Software View (5)
- Hardware View (5)
- Data View (2)
- Business View (4)



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## Some Examples

- Q2 Does the product offer its full functionality while conforming to open standards with no restrictions or extensions?
- Q6 Does the product use or provide extensions to existing applicable standards?
- Q7 Is the product substitutable?
- Q15 Does the product offer full functionality while making the data accessible via an open standard?
- Q16 Is the data structure substitutable via an open standard?
- Q19 Are there any licenses, contracts or agreements that would limit use or substitutability?

# More Information

**OpenForum Europe** [www.openforumeurope.org](http://www.openforumeurope.org)

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