Marco Bernasocchi - Think Open, Think future

The following are some of the benefits of Open Source software highlighted by Bernasocchi i.e

- It enables people to share their work, save time and improves knowledge and learning. Individual knowledge is limited whereas a collective knowledge is powerful. There is much more knowledge in a group of people with different interests than a single person.
- It allows the motivated individual to be more creative in finding solutions to a problem.
- It allows knowledge to be shared and made available.
- Is a sustainable project.

The following questions and statements allowed discussions to take place and experiences to be shared in terms of the use of open source software i.e

a. What do you think hinders you and why would you not consider embracing open source / open data?
b. If its free there must be a catch
c. Its for geeks only – I don't code anything
d. I never had to use so it must be irrelevant
e. I can't get corporate support
f. I don't care

Discussions

- There is more than one option which can become a confusing process, while at the same time it requires licenses at some stage.
- People have that sense of ownership in the work that they have produced e.g my data is power and if I share it what will it be used for?
- There is no right answer to weather one should have a commercial software or an open source software, because it depends on the purpose for which it is being used.
- In terms of saving costs it is recommended to always choose open source software's at the beginning of a project and later on consider the purchase of commercial software's if it is required.
- At some stage of using the software, there is a need to engage professional or expert support to progress with the work and this can incur charges on a project, which is not always cheap.
- Capacity development in code writing is to be considered for Ministries that they are familiar with new systems and programs and to provide technical support when needed.