

# The Morfeo Competence Centre

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MORFEO PROJECT

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# What is a competence centre?

- Point of reference for competence on libre (free, open source) software
- Network of professionals capable of generating trust
- Focal point for trustworthy information (licenses, business models, development, etc.)
- Provision of a set of services
- Programmes aimed to extend trust (eg., certification)
- Not replicating common offers, but staying one step ahead
- Vendor neutral

# Precedents

- **Industrial initiatives (Atos, Cap Gemini, Mandriva):** focused on providing services to companies
- **Public initiatives (OSOR, Finland, UK):** focused on public administrations and non for-profit services
- **Community consortiums (Morfeo, OW2, OpenOffice, etc.):** services focused on members and related parties (eg. users)

# The Vulcano Context

- **Avanza project (funded by the Spanish Government)**
- **Large companies, SMEs, research institutions, Universities**
- **Target: improvement of libre software development**
- **New-generation forge (EzForge)**
- **Competence centers:**
  - **transfer and dissemination of results**
  - **provision of expertise**
  - **design from scratch**
  - **some coordination with Qualipso**

# The QualiPSo Context

- **6th Framework Program Integrated Project (funded by the European Commission)**
- **Large companies, SMEs, research institutions, Universities**
- **Libre software for companies, stress on quality**
- **Competence centres:**
  - **facilitation of the promotion of Qualipso results**
  - **provision of expertise and services based on Qualipso results**
  - **network of CCs in several countries (in Spain, linked to the Morfeo community)**

# The QualiPSo Context (CC Services List)

- **Factory: forge and other facilities for software development**
- **Labeling: certification of quality levels**
- **Consultancy: legal, business models, product quality**
- **Legal: licenses compliance, best practices**
- **Business training: business models**
- **Interoperability: testing and assessing**

# The QualiPSo Context (CC Design)

- **International network of “local” CCs (federation with some common rules)**
- **Each CC: active partners and sponsors**
- **Possible organisation models: foundation, company, association**
- **Economic sustainability**
- **Provision of services directly to companies, public administrations and individuals (not always for a fee)**

# The Morfeo Community

- **Community of companies, Universities, R&D centres, public administrations**
- **Focus: exploring new innovation and collaboration opportunities by using libre software**
- **More than 50 members, several chapters, tens of R&D projects**

<http://morfeo-project.org>

# The Morfeo Competence Centre

- Initial partners: URJC (GSyC/LibreSoft), Telefonica I+D, UPM (CETTICO)
- Open to other partners in the future
- Created in the context of the Morfeo Community
- Launched in late 2008
- Currently finishing start-up phase
- Founding member of the QualiPSo Network
- Fulfilling Vulcano requirements
- Important: preservation of neutrality

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# The Morfeo Competence Centre

- **Organisational model: consortium agreement between partners**
- **Asymmetric participation, depending on capabilities and interests**
- **Joint marketing efforts, joint image, joint strategy, joint rules**
- **Funding:**
  - **By the partners themselves**
  - **Some funding from QualiPSO (EC) and Vulcano (Spanish Government), mainly for design**
- **Close follow up of QualiPSO results**
- **R&D area to ensure that provided services are positioned at the edge of the technology**

# The Morfeo Competence Centre (business model)

- **Self sustainability**
- **Provision of services**
  - **Sponsored by third parties**
  - **Demanded by the Morfeo community**
- **Study and follow-up of market opportunities**
- **Partners share income according to commitment of resources and involvement in projects**
- **Outsourcing of some tasks within the Morfeo community**

# The Morfeo Competence Centre (quality assurance)

- **Goal: to ensure high quality standards in provided services**
- **Quality based on competence and experience**
- **Close monitoring of provided services**
- **Clear rules for dealing with low-quality situations**
- **Close monitoring of resources (including human resources) allocated to the CC**

# The Morfeo Competence Centre (relationship with Morfeo)

- **Strongly rooted in the Morfeo Community**
- **Services provided to Morfeo partners, when agreed**
- **Support provided by Morfeo partners, when needed**
- **Strategic decisions linked to Morfeo**
- **Win-win relationship:**
  - **Morfeo provides a reputable brand, prospective partners, market experience**
  - **The CC is expected to leverage Morfeo and facilitate its healthy growth**

# The Morfeo Competence Centre

## Main services (first wave)

- Forge services for the Morfeo community and third parties (including virtual forges)
- Consulting:
  - Based on resources available in partners
  - Also outsourcing to reputable actors when needed (exploring marketplace instruments being designed at Morfeo)
- Training services
- Compliance with catalogue of services of QualiPSo Network

# The Morfeo Competence Center (forge services)

## ■ Basic functionality:

- Basic forge (GForge): code management, issue tracking, mailing lists, release management, documentation management, etc.
- Collaborative documentation (MediaWiki)
- Web content management (Wordpress)

## ■ Service levels:

- Best-effort: free for Morfeo-related projects
- Supported (8x5, 24x7): service fees
- Virtual forge (branding, independent forge): specific agreement
- Corporate forge (specific needs): specific agreement

# The Morfeo Competence Center (consulting and training)

- **Strategic analysis service**
- **Licensing consulting service**
- **Training:**
  - **Specific technologies (Morfeo, Qualipso technologies and others)**
  - **Libre software general aspects (project management, fundamentals)**
- **Certification services (for specific profiles and technologies):**
  - **Trainer**
  - **Developer**
  - **Contributor**

# The Morfeo Competence Centre (training services: master's in libre software)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition in Madrid and 3<sup>rd</sup> edition in Galicia
- Methodology based on blended learning
- Emphasis on the community aspects and relationships
  - Technical studies about different projects
  - Hands-on lectures by community members
  - Involvement in community activities
- Holistic approach: legal, economic, social and technical aspects

<http://master.libresoft.es>

# Impact on the technological fabric

- **Target: institutions already interested in libre software**
  - Provide and support the services they need
  - Outsourcing of non-core services
  - Consulting and training for getting the most advantage from the model
- **Target: institutions approaching the libre software world**
  - Reliable, factual, non-biased information
  - Consulting and training for evaluating strategies, tactics
  - Lower the barrier to acquire libre software technologies

# Comments?

**Ideas and suggestions are welcome!**

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