

# Memorandum of Understanding between ESUP-Portail and the Apereo Foundation

**12 December 2014, revised February 2018 and January 2019**

## Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the relationship between the ESUP-Portail Consortium and the Apereo Foundation. It represents a reciprocal agreement between equal partners, and has the primary aim of developing a closer practical working relationship between ESUP-Portail and Apereo. As increasing numbers of institutions adopt or pilot Apereo stewarded software in France, clear and shared understanding grows in relevance and importance to both organisations.

ESUP-Portail and Apereo spring from common roots; an exploration and realization of the value of open source software for higher education. Our practice is complimentary. ESUP-Portail's institutional membership reaches 80% of higher education in France (75 members). Apereo has around seventy member institutions and commercial entities in a dozen countries. The 2017 agreement between Apereo and the LAMP Consortium of small colleges brings the global "inner network" of collaborating educational institutions to around 180. By establishing deeper collaboration, and by recognizing the distinctive contribution of each organisation to that collaboration, ESUP-Portail, Apereo and other partners will better serve their constituencies.

## Principles

The relationship the signatories seek to build focuses around sharing -

- Practical collaboration, producing tangible results for our respective communities
- Better understanding of our respective operational and strategic contexts
- Better understanding of the strategic position of open source software in the service of higher education

We believe that the early exchange of strategic and tactical information is essential to improving the alignment between our respective organizations, and to maximize the benefit of our collective endeavor.

## Practical Actions

ESUP-Portail and Apereo agree to:

1. Collaborate and encourage participation in the Apereo incubation process.
  - a. Schedule regular discussions exploring recent developments in Apereo incubation, producing summary documents, where necessary, in French and English at key stages in the process.

- b. Assist in direct communication between ESUP-Portail and emerging project governance bodies.
2. Exchange information, in both French and English, at an early stage, regarding strategic software development or other initiatives that may be of mutual interest.
3. Encourage direct French Community engagement with and participation in Apereo software communities (“projects”) and communities of interest.
4. Invite a representative of ESUP-Portail to join the Apereo Foundation Board of Directors. The ESUP-Portail representative would be a standing invited member of the Board, nominated on an annual basis. This does not preclude the election of members based at ESUP-Portail participant institutions as part of the normal electoral process.
5. Work jointly to make Apereo events more hospitable to the non-Anglophone world.
6. Continue to hold a common event in France early in the year, which showcases the work of both communities, in addition to joint work.
7. Collaborate to promote open source solutions in French-speaking countries. Continue to discuss how this should be aligned and organised.
8. Continue to improve Apereo-ESUP-Portail coordination by scheduling two face to face meetings and two regular calls annually. Meeting minutes should be recorded in both French and English and disseminated via the ESUP-Portail and Apereo web sites. Items 1 to 7 should be standing items on the agenda of such meetings.

Apereo recognizes the role of ESUP-Portail in coordinating support for open source software in higher education in France. As a consequence, Apereo does not seek to recruit members in France, but rather direct enquiries to ESUP-Portail-Portail. The two organizations will review this MoU, together with their financial relationship, on a regular basis and make occasional adjustments as necessary.