

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

12 December 2014, revised February 2018

Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding describes the relationship between the ESUP-Portail Consortium and the Apereo Foundation. It represents a reciprocal agreement between equal partners, and has the primary aim, over time, of developing a closer practical working relationship between ESUP and Apereo.

ESUP 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's institutional membership reaches 80% of higher education in France (75 members). Apereo has around eighty member institutions and commercial entities in a dozen countries. The 2017 agreement between Apereo and the LAMP Consortium of small colleges brings the "inner network" of collaborating educational institutions to around 180 globally. By establishing deeper collaboration, and by recognizing the distinctive contribution of each organisation to that collaboration, ESUP, Apereo and other partners can better serve their constituencies.

Principles

The relationship the signatories seek to build focuses around sharing -

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

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

Practical Actions

The parties agree to:

1. Collaborate and encourage participation in the incubation process. Summary documents should be made available in French and English at key stages in the process (for example, entry and exit/graduation) for any given project.
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. Share background briefings, in both French and English, on changes in national or other contexts which may be of mutual interest

4. Encourage direct participation in software communities and communities of interest (“projects”) and improve Apereo-ESUP-Portail coordination by scheduling additional conference calls and an additional face to face meeting per year.
5. Invite a representative of ESUP on the Apereo Foundation Board of Directors. The ESUP representative would be a standing invited member of the Board. This does not preclude the election of members based at ESUP participant institutions as part of the normal electoral process.
6. Work jointly to make Apereo events more hospitable to the non-Anglophone world.
7. Continue to hold a common event in France early in the year, which showcases the work of both communities, in addition to joint work.
8. Collaborate to promote open source solutions in French-speaking countries.
Continue to discuss how this should be aligned and organised.

Apereo recognizes the role of ESUP in coordinating support for open source software in higher education in France. As a consequence, Apereo does not seek to build a membership in France. The two organizations will review their financial relationship on a regular basis and make occasional adjustments. Université de Rennes 1 and Université Valenciennes manage the financial relationship between Apereo and the ESUP-Portail community.

relationship on an annual basis, and publish this in their respective accounts and financial reports.