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Competence Centers  
(Qualipso and Vulcano projects)

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## ¿What is a competence center?

- 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
- Programs aimed to extend trust (eg., certification)
- Not replicating common offers, but staying one step ahead
- Vendor neutral

## Aspects to define

- Organizational model
- Definition of services to be provided
- Relationship with other institutions and communities
- International links
- Business model and long-term funding
- Marketing and dissemination of knowledge

## Precedents

- Industrial initiatives (Atos, Cap Gemini, Mandriva): focused on providing services to companies
- Public initiatives (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 Qualipso context

- 6th Framework Program project (funded by the European Commission)
- Large companies, SMEs, research institutions, Universities
- Libre software for companies, stress on quality
- CC: facilitation of the reusability of Qualipso results
- CC: provision of expertise and services based on Qualipso results
- CC: network of sites in several countries (in Spain, related to Morfeo community)

## The Vulcano context

- PROFIT project (funded by the Spanish Government)
- Large companies, SMEs, research institutions, Universities
- Improvement of libre software development (from several points of view)
- CC: transfer and dissemination of results of the project
- CC: provision of expertise based on Vulcano results
- CC: blank page to start, and some coordination with Qualipso

## Services to provide (Qualipso list)

- Factory: forge and development facilities services
- Labelling: certification of quality levels
- Consultancy: legal, business models, product quality
- Legal: licenses compliance, best practices
- Business training: business models
- Interoperability: testing and assessing

## Likely implementation

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

## The situation in Spain

- Interest in creating one CC linked to Morfeo
- Interest in joining efforts (Morfeo, Vulcano, Qualipso)
- Some interest by other parties
- Open issues: organizational models, funding, business models, partners
- Ideas and suggestions are welcome

## Comments?

- Specially: interest of Morfeo community in CCs?