The Prototype Fund

Open-source software from society and for society

The Prototype Fund is the first low-threshold, public funding programme for independent developers who create innovative open-source software. By providing financial and conceptual support, it offers technically skilled members of civil society access to the necessary resources and processes to test ideas and contribute to the common good. Funding is provided for user-centred software projects with added value for society, which are freely available as open-source software, sustainably accessible and adaptable.

The initiative, officially known as ‘Software Sprint’, has been in existence since 2017 and will offer funding across three tracks from 2027 onwards. The ‘Innovation’ funding line focuses on innovative projects in the fields of data security and software infrastructure, whilst the ‘Up and Coming’ line supports similar projects led by people aged 25 or under. The ‘Resilience’ funding line focuses on free alternatives to proprietary, centralised and dominant software. Up to 50 projects are funded per class over a period of six to ten months.

INITIAL FUNDING PHASE

FUNDING PERIOD	FUNDING SUM
01.06.2027 - 30.11.2027	Up to €47,500 (individuals) or up to €95,000 (teams)

SECOND STAGE PHASE

FUNDING PERIOD	FUNDING SUM
01.12.2027 - 31.03.2028	Up to €31,667 (individuals) or up to €63,333 (teams)

The programme itself and the projects it supports are funded by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space.

Further information and all funded projects: www.prototypefund.de/en.

With funding from the:

Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

OPEN KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION DEUTSCHLAND