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OCCTET

Open Source Compliance Comprehensive tools and resources designed to simplify and streamline the CRA compliance process for SME, allowing them to tackle the complexities of OSS compliance.

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1.1	18-02-2026	ECL	Final	Addressing the recommendations from the Review Report

Executive Summary

The OCCTET project's **Impact Assessment Plan (D1.2)** details the methodology for measuring the project's success in helping European SMEs and FOSS projects comply with the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA).

The plan utilizes the **RE-AIM framework** (Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, Maintenance) to ensure a holistic evaluation of both internal execution and real-world impact. Key objectives and their corresponding performance indicators (KPIs) are defined across these five dimensions:

- **Reach:** Engage at least 100 SMEs and achieve 5,000 unique web users.
- **Effectiveness:** Achieve 100% coverage of pre-market CRA requirements and reduce self-assessment time by over 25%.
- **Adoption:** Integrate solutions into the operational workflows of 100+ SMEs.
- **Implementation:** Ensure timely, high-quality delivery of 10-15 project tools (95%+ adherence to timeline).
- **Maintenance:** Ensure long-term sustainability with 250+ regular tool users 12 months post-project.

Keywords: Cyber Resilience Act (CRA), SMEs, FOSS, Open Source Compliance, RE-AIM Framework, Impact Assessment, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Table of contents

1 Introduction **6**
1.1 Introduction to OCCTET 6
1.2 Impact Assessment Plan - RE-AIM Framework 6
2 Engaging European SMEs and FOSS Ecosystem **8**
2.1 Connecting with Communities and Building Awareness 8
2.2 Strategic Components 8
2.3 Performance Metrics Aligned with KPI5 & KPI6 8
2.3.1 KPI 5 - Number of Awareness Raising, Dissemination, and Stakeholder Engagement Activities 8
2.3.2 KPI 6 - Number of Workshops, Training Sessions, and Events for SME Engagement 9
2.3.3 Performance Metrics 9
2.4 Measurement Tools and Data Collection Approaches 9
3 Improving CRA Readiness **11**
3.1 Measuring Impact on CRA Compliance, Cost, and Time Savings 11
3.2 Performance Metrics Aligned with KPI2 & KPI3 11
3.2.1 KPI 2 - Number of CRA Essential Requirements Fully Covered by Tools 11
3.2.2 KPI 3 - Number of CRA Essential Requirements Partially Covered by Tools 11
3.2.3 Performance Metrics 12
3.3 Evaluation Methods for Measuring CRA Impact 12
4 SMEs and FOSS Uptake of OCCTET **13**
4.1 From Awareness to Integration: OCCTET in Real-world Environments 13
4.2 Performance Metrics Aligned with KPI7 & KPI8 13
4.2.1 KPI 7 - Number of CRA Compliance Use-Cases and Best-Practices Developed 13
4.2.2 KPI 8 - Number of Prospective Companies Benefiting from the Project (including SMEs) 13
4.2.3 Performance Metrics 13
4.3 Evaluation Methods for Measuring Adoption 14
5 Execution of OCCTET **15**
5.1 Delivering as Planned: Quality, Opportunity, and Transparency 15
5.2 Operational Quality Metrics Aligned with KPI1 & KPI4 15
5.2.1 KPI 1 - Number of Tools to Facilitate and Automate CRA Compliance 15
5.2.2 KPI 4 - Number of Tools to Simplify and Automate CRA Compliance Documentation Obligations 15
5.2.3 Performance Metrics 15
5.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Methods 16
6 Sustaining OCCTET Beyond the Project Lifecycle **17**
6.1 Securing Long Term Value 17

6.2 Operational Maintenance Metrics (Aligned with KPI9) 17
6.2.1 KPI 9 - Number of Prospective Products and End-Users Benefiting from the Tools 17
6.2.2 Performance Metrics 17
6.3 Long-term Maintenance Strategies 18
7 Conclusion 19
7.1 Impact Assessment Plan as a key driver of project success 19
8 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION 20
9 BIBLIOGRAPHY 21

1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction to OCCTET

The OCCTET project which stands for Open Source Compliance Comprehensive Toolkit, aims to empower small and medium-sized enterprises to navigate and comply with the requirements of the EU Cyber Resilience Act (CRA), particularly concerning the integration and maintenance of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) components. In an environment where up to 99.9% of software components in digital products are open source, ensuring security and compliance becomes both a technical and strategic challenge.

To address this, OCCTET is developing a comprehensive, open-source toolkit that includes evaluation tools, reporting utilities, federated databases, and automated assessment capabilities tailored to SME needs. However, delivering a robust solution is not enough. It is essential to measure how effectively OCCTET achieves its intended impact.

1.2 Impact Assessment Plan - RE-AIM Framework

To ensure both methodological soundness and practical usability of the assessment, the OCCTET project uses the RE-AIM evaluation framework, a widely accepted and flexible structure used in public health, technology adoption, and systems transformation projects. The RE-AIM model assesses five core dimensions: Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, and Maintenance.

RE-AIM is particularly suitable for OCCTET because it emphasizes both the internal quality of implementation and the external translation of innovation into real-world practice, two pillars that are central to the mission of OCCTET to support SMEs.

For each of the five RE-AIM dimensions, the framework uses a pragmatic question set to guide assessment:

RE-AIM Dimension	**Definition**	**Guiding Question**
Reach	The number, proportion, SMEs and FOSS projects willing to participate in OCCTET.	Who is intended to benefit, and who actually engages with OCCTET?
Effectiveness	The impact of the assessment on outcomes.	What are the main benefits experienced by SMEs and FOSS projects about the toolkit?
Adoption	The number and diversity of SMEs of FOSS projects.	Where and by whom is OCCTET adopted?

Implementation	The fidelity to the implementation plan, including any adaptations and associated costs.	How is OCCTET delivered and with what level of consistency and cost?
Maintenance	The sustainability of the program and its outcomes over time.	How do the results endure over time?

This structured interpretation allows OCCTET to apply the RE-AIM framework in a tailored manner, aligned with the CRA context, the diversity of SMEs and FOSS projects, and the evolving European cybersecurity regulatory.

This document outlines the following key aspects of the impact assessment plan:

- Track and analyse how the tools and self assessment application developed reach their intended users
- Understand the benefits gained by SMEs and FOSS communities
- Measure integration into workflows and existing systems
- Monitor and enhance long-term viability of the project's outputs

This Plan is a comprehensive and living document, which will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

2 Engaging European SMEs and FOSS Ecosystem

Evaluate the extent to which OCCTET tools and outreach activities connect with their intended users, particularly European SMEs and FOSS maintainers.

2.1 Connecting with Communities and Building Awareness

This dimension serves as the foundation for evaluating how far the project's efforts extend into its targeted ecosystems. As a project built to empower SMEs in meeting the demands of the CRA, OCCTET must reach beyond typical technology deployment by ensuring its value is understood and embraced by a broad range of stakeholders — from small, resource-constrained businesses to developers maintaining the most fundamental FOSS components.

This section highlights who is being engaged, where they are, how they are participating, and the ways in which different communication, dissemination, and onboarding strategies are mobilized. By examining the quantitative (e.g. SME participation numbers, webinars, events,web analytics) and qualitative (e.g. satisfaction, geographic diversity) elements of engagement, this analysis helps refine the project's community-building strategies, ensuring equity and inclusion across the European digital economy.

2.2 Strategic Components

Dimension	**Description**
SME Coverage	Geographic and sectoral distribution of SMEs engaged
FOSS Project Involvement	Number and diversity of FOSS projects and contributors participating
Outreach Activities	Events, campaigns, webinars, and their attendance rates
Digital Platform Engagement	Website visits, GitHub metrics, tool downloads, newsletter subscriptions

2.3 Performance Metrics Aligned with KPI5 & KPI6

2.3.1 KPI 5 - Number of Awareness Raising, Dissemination, and Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Target: 100+ dissemination activities.

This includes:

- 70+ LinkedIn posts
- 12-15 newsletter issues
- 5+ press releases
- Website reaching 10,000+ visits

2.3.2 KPI 6 - Number of Workshops, Training Sessions, and Events for SME Engagement

Target: 8+ major events & webinars.

This includes:

- 2 CRA compliance workshops
- 3 in-person events (100+ SMEs engaged)
- 3+ webinars (100+ participants total)

2.3.3 Performance Metrics

Indicator	**Target Value (Mid/End Project)**
Number of SMEs engaged	100 / 500
Countries reached through direct participation	15 / 27
Web traffic (unique users on OCCTET website/platforms)	5,000 / 15,000
Attendance at real and virtual events	200 / 1,000
Newsletter and social media engagement (followers, interactions, etc.)	500 / 2,000

2.4 Measurement Tools and Data Collection Approaches

To effectively monitor reach and performance, a mix of quantitative and qualitative tools will be used to collect data on stakeholder engagement, geographic distribution, tool usage, and interaction quality. These tools will not only help establish whether KPIs are being met, but also inform iterative improvements to outreach strategies.

- **Analytics**: Use social media (linkedin, youtube, bluesky) tracking tools to quantify digital engagement, Google Analytics, GitHub Insights, and website traffic.
- **Event & Campaign Logs**: Maintain registries of attendees for workshops, webinars, and roundtables

- **Surveys and Feedback**: Disseminated before and after engagement to capture satisfaction and impact
- **Stakeholder Mapping**: Updated regularly to reflect the geographical and typological breadth of involved organisations

By capturing and analysing these indicators, the project will be able to adjust its communication strategy and improve outreach efforts. Special attention will be given to underrepresented SME sectors or regions, ensuring a balanced and inclusive SME reach.

3 Improving CRA Readiness

Determine the extent to which the OCCTET toolkit facilitates improvements in SME CRA compliance, cost and time savings.

3.1 Measuring Impact on CRA Compliance, Cost, and Time Savings

Determine the extent to which the OCCTET toolkit facilitates tangible improvements in SME CRA compliance

As OCCTET aims to deliver a suite of open-source tools and services supporting SMEs' alignment with the CRA, it is essential to understand whether these outputs truly empower users, reduce complexity, and lead to improved cybersecurity practices and postures. The "Effectiveness" dimension plays a role in this evaluation by focusing on real-world outcomes: it verifies not just whether the tools function technically, but whether they deliver measurable benefits to their target users.

This means validating the tools capacity to lower the time and cost burden of CRA compliance, enhance the reliability of software supply chains, and strengthen SMEs ability to perform independent self-assessments. Equally important is assessing whether any unforeseen drawbacks emerge, for instance, increased complexity for non-technical users or adding a dependency on a specific ecosystem. This dimension uses both qualitative feedback (surveys, interviews, case studies) and quantitative indicators (KPI2, KPI3) to ensure evidence-based impact.

3.2 Performance Metrics Aligned with KPI2 & KPI3

3.2.1 KPI 2 - Number of CRA Essential Requirements Fully Covered by Tools

Target: 18/22 essential requirements fully covered
The project must ensure 100% coverage of pre-market cybersecurity requirements listed in the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA).

3.2.2 KPI 3 - Number of CRA Essential Requirements Partially Covered by Tools

Target: 4/22 essential requirements partially covered
OCCTET tools should support, but cannot fully automate, lifecycle compliance (post-market obligations).

3.2.3 Performance Metrics

Indicator	Target Value (End Project)
% of CRA requirements fully addressed	100% of pre-market (18/22 total)
% of post-market requirements partially supported	100% of ongoing lifecycle requirements
Time reduction in CRA self-assessment by SMEs	>25% reduction
Cost reduction in compliance activities	Benchmarking under study
SME satisfaction rate with compliance tools	80% positive feedback

3.3 Evaluation Methods for Measuring CRA Impact

To assess the effectiveness of the OCCTET toolkit in improving CRA compliance readiness among SMEs, a combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods will be deployed. The objective is to capture not only measurable changes, such as time and cost savings, but also user experiences.

- **Comparative Studies**: Conduct before and after evaluations comparing SME compliance workflows with and without the use of OCCTET tools, measuring key indicators such as time savings.
- **Use Case Validation**: Systematically document the practical application of OCCTET tools through SME pilots and FOSS projects integration to showcase their contribution to CRA compliance.
- **Surveys and Interviews**: Deploy surveys and conduct interviews to gather feedback from users on tools.
- **Expert Review**: Reviewing with cybersecurity and compliance experts to assess the alignment of OCCTET's outputs with the official CRA requirements.

4 SMEs and FOSS Uptake of OCCTET

Assess how well OCCTET solutions are adopted across different SMEs and FOSS communities and organisational levels.

4.1 From Awareness to Integration: OCCTET in Real-world Environments

Adoption refers to the extent to which the OCCTET tools and self assessment are integrated into the operations and workflows of the target. This dimension evaluates who is actually using the tools, under what conditions, and what influences their decision to integrate OCCTET into their workflow.

Within OCCTET, adoption also reflects how well the tools are tailored to the day-to-day realities of SMEs and how they align with existing compliance and development workflows by addressing the diversity in organisational needs.

4.2 Performance Metrics Aligned with KPI7 & KPI8

4.2.1 KPI 7 - Number of CRA Compliance Use-Cases and Best-Practices Developed

Target: 60+ use cases & 15+ best practices.

This includes:

- 20+ open source software (OSS) case studies
- 15-45 SME product use cases
- At least 15 best practices documented

4.2.2 KPI 8 - Number of Prospective Companies Benefiting from the Project (including SMEs)

Target: 10% of digital products on the EU market
The tools should be adopted by SMEs and large enterprises across Europe.

4.2.3 Performance Metrics

Indicator	Target Value (End Project)
Number of SMEs with operational integration of OCCTET tools	100+ SMEs

Use-case documentation produced (SMEs & FOSS projects)	45+
Contributions to open standards or best practice frameworks	5+ documented contributions

4.3 Evaluation Methods for Measuring Adoption

Monitoring usages help uncover the adoption but also the operational value.

- **Case Study Tracking**: Collect and publication of use-case reports from SMEs and open-source communities.
- **Collect Feedback**: Interviews from early continuous adopters to identify strengths and improvement points. Collect insights with surveys.
- **Platform Metrics**: Tool usages and integrations, active community contributions.

Through these measures, the OCCTET project ensures a continuous feedback loop between users, and dissemination of best practices. Making the project goal still relevant and effective in meeting the needs of SMEs and FOSS communities.

5 Execution of OCCTET

Ensure that the OCCTET project is implemented in alignment with its planned technical outputs, strategic milestones, resource allocations, and stakeholder commitments.

5.1 Delivering as Planned: Quality, Opportunity, and Transparency

Given the project's complexity with technical development, regulatory alignment, and community engagement. A strong internal coordination, timely execution, and quality assurance are essential. The OCCTET project success depends not only on building tools or self assessment but on delivering them on time, with the promised functionalities, and in a way that SMEs and FOSS communities can immediately adopt and trust.

This section focuses on evaluating how well the project meets its commitments in terms of deliverables, resource utilisation, technical integration, and stakeholder satisfaction.

5.2 Operational Quality Metrics Aligned with KPI1 & KPI4

5.2.1 KPI 1 - Number of Tools to Facilitate and Automate CRA Compliance

Target: 10-15 tools developed

These tools should simplify the compliance process, automate CRA obligations, and align with cybersecurity essential requirements.

5.2.2 KPI 4 - Number of Tools to Simplify and Automate CRA Compliance Documentation Obligations

Target: 2 major tools (document generator & federated platform generator)

These tools should automate the self-attestation process and generate Software Bill of Materials (SBOMs) for CRA compliance.

5.2.3 Performance Metrics

Indicator	**Target Value (End Project)**
Number of deliverables completed on schedule	95%+ adherence to initial timeline
Internal quality assurance pass rate	90%+ approval in consortium reviews

Number of significant deviations requiring corrective action	<5 major corrective actions
Consortium meeting attendance and participation	70%+ engagement across partners
Average time-to-resolution for critical project risks	<2 months

5.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Methods

A monitoring and evaluation system is crucial to track progress towards its objectives, ensure continuous quality improvement, and manage risks.

- **Internal Quality Reviews**: Systematic review of all deliverables by WP leaders and the coordinator prior to submission.
- **Milestone-Based Tracking**: Use of predefined internal milestones to evaluate progress and manage dependencies between tasks.
- **Risk Management Dashboard**: Identification, categorisation, and mitigation tracking of project risks, updated monthly.
- **Consortium Coordination Reports**: Monthly meeting/report summarising progress.
- **Stakeholder Satisfaction Checks**: Regular feedback loops with key stakeholders (e.g., pilot SMEs, FOSS projects).

Through this monitoring and evaluation, the project ensures a dynamic ability to adapt, improve, and secure the relevance of its deliverables.

6 Sustaining OCCTET Beyond the Project Lifecycle

Ensure the continuity, evolution, and community stewardship of the OCCTET toolkit post-funding.

6.1 Securing Long Term Value

The objective in the maintenance is to ensure that the tools and best practices developed through OCCTET remain accessible, relevant, and actively used beyond the project's funded period, supporting long-term CRA compliance among European SMEs.

Maintenance within the RE-AIM framework focuses on the sustainability of the intervention's benefits at both the SMEs and FOSS community levels. For OCCTET, this translates into maintaining the developed open-source tools, fostering community ownership, and ensuring that stakeholders continue to benefit from updates, support, and ecosystem growth.

Given the evolving nature of cybersecurity regulations and open-source ecosystems, sustainability must be proactive.

6.2 Operational Maintenance Metrics (Aligned with KPI9)

6.2.1 KPI 9 - Number of Prospective Products and End-Users Benefiting from the Tools

Target: 750+ directly tracked products

Additional indirect impact through:

- 30% of open-source downloads in the EU leveraging OCCTET tools
- 100% of EU end-users benefiting indirectly from improved compliance

6.2.2 Performance Metrics

Indicator	Target Value (End Project)
Number of active tool users 12 months after project end	250+ regular users
Active contributors to the federated data platform	20+ contributors
Frequency of updates/releases of OCCTET	At least 2 major updates per year

tools	
Community events and workshops organised post-project	4+ major events or webinars per year
Integration of OCCTET outputs into SME training or support services	5+ formal integrations

6.3 Long-term Maintenance Strategies

To ensure that the OCCTET project's outputs continue delivering value well beyond the funding period, a set of long-term strategies has been established. Maintenance is not only about keeping tools technically functional, but also about ensuring that they remain aligned with evolving SME needs, regulatory changes, and cybersecurity threats.

These strategies aim to secure a living ecosystem around OCCTET's tools, fostering sustainability through community engagement, stewardship. This approach ensures that OCCTET's impact will be amplified and sustained over time, contributing to a resilient cybersecurity posture.

- **Open Source Stewardship**: OCCTET outputs will be maintained under governance frameworks such as the Eclipse Foundation, ensuring a well known framework, neutral coordination, transparent evolution, etc.
- **Community Engagement**: Encouraging adoption and contributions from SMEs, cybersecurity communities, and OSS developers to drive collaborative tool maintenance and updates.
- **Integration into SME Structures**: Embedding OCCTET solutions into European SME support networks, Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs), and National Coordination Centres (NCCs) to ensure ongoing visibility and utility.
- **Continuous Improvement Loop**: Regular collection of feedback from users and partners to drive roadmap updates, new feature development, and adaptation to emerging CRA requirements.

By implementing these complementary strategies, we ensure that its outputs are not just preserved but continuously enhanced through active collaboration and support.

7 Conclusion

7.1 Impact Assessment Plan as a key driver of project success

The Impact Assessment Plan for OCCTET captures the nature of the project's ambition. Each dimension of the RE-AIM framework contributes to understanding and maximizing the project's success.

Through **Reach**, we ensure that OCCTET tools penetrate the European SME landscape and FOSS communities, extending access across geographies and sectors.

The **Effectiveness** dimension confirms that these tools improve cybersecurity posture and compliance efficiency, directly responding to the operational challenges SMEs face under the CRA.

Evaluating **Adoption**, by measuring the integration of OCCTET tooling into real-world processes and institutions, a critical signal of long-term utility and alignment with stakeholder workflows.

The **Implementation** layer validates the project's internal quality, ensuring milestones are reached, deliverables are timely provided to the European commission and that the consortium has a continuous progress and adjustment.

Finally, **Maintenance** positions OCCTET's outputs within a sustainable community and governance framework to ensure continuity beyond the life of the grant.

All put together, these dimensions create a comprehensive framework that not only assesses but enhances the project's outcomes.

This Impact Assessment Plan will serve as a living instrument, not only to monitor progress, but also to support informed decision-making, enable early corrections, and ensure that OCCTET's goal translates into measurable change.

8 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

CRA — Cyber Resilience Act
ENISA — European Union Agency for Cybersecurity
EU — European Union
GDPR — General Data Protection Regulation
FOSS — Free and Open-Source Software
AI — Artificial Intelligence
IPR — Intellectual Property Rights
KPI — Key Performance Indicator
PII — Personally Identifiable Information
RBAC — Role-Based Access Control
SBOM — Software Bill of Materials
SAST — Static Application Security Testing
DAST — Dynamic Application Security Testing
MFA — Multi-Factor Authentication
SOC — Security Operations Centre
IR — Incident Response
API — Application Programming Interface
TLS — Transport Layer Security
ISO — International Organization for Standardization
IEC — International Electrotechnical Commission
ETSI — European Telecommunications Standards Institute
SUS — System Usability Scale
TRL — Technology Readiness Level
WP — Work Package
DoA — Description of Action

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