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Summary

Reading the Call for Hosts for Akademy 2018 was great, published a long time before the conference should happen. In informal talks, we found together as organizers and started to gather ideas and worked on creating this proposal for organizing Akademy 2018 in Vienna.

Community

The Austrian KDE community is still very small compared to many other cities. At the Akademy 2014 in Brno, we had a KDE Austria BoF and created the kde-at Mailinglist. Since then we've met up a few times and now want to organize Akademy 2018. We believe Vienna can get together a big number of KDE supporters from all over the world due to it's central location in the heart of Europe. Also due to the proposed venue at the Technical University of Vienna, Akademy can reach over 5000 talented computer science students.

Date

Since the proposed venue is a university campus, Akademy should take place during the summer break which starts at the beginning of July and ends at the end of September.

Local Support

KDE has many supporters and contributors in Central and Eastern Europe. Akademy 2018 in Vienna will be a great opportunity for KDE to grow the community even more.

Organizing Team

People from Vienna who have been working on the proposal and expressed their willingness to help organize the conference.

Stefan Derkits

Joseph Wenninger

Lukas Hetzenecker

Jan Vales

Elisabeth Hafner

More people have already promised to help in later phases of organizing.

Local Support Groups

Good contacts to the following groups exist and those can be used for additional volunteers or sponsorship.

Fachschaft Informatik

Fachschaft Informatik (FSINF) is a group representing the student council for computer science students at the Technical University of Vienna. They can reserve lecture halls for free and thus would provide the rooms needed for Akademy free of charge. Additionally they are able to sponsor a small amount of money (up to 300 €, usable for e.g. food/non-alcoholic drinks/cleaning personal). Also they have good contacts to the faculty, which may lead to more support & visibility for Akademy 2018.

HTU Wien

HTU Wien represents all students at the Technical University of Vienna. They support special projects with up to 500 € (same criteria as Fachschaft Informatik) and can help with organizational tasks regarding the venue. Also their contacts to other student councils (e.g. Electrical Engineering, Mathematics & Physics) is valuable in promoting Akademy 2018 at Technical University to students who don't study computer science.

Metalab

Metalab is a non-profit hackerspace in Vienna. Apart from people working there on realizing different projects, it is a meeting place for a diverse

range of user groups (e.g. UX Design user group, Debian user group Vienna & Python user group Austria). They are also the home base of the C3W (Chaos Computer Club Wien).

Previously organized events

In the past we already organized events ranging from around 5 up to 200 people. Not all of them were FOSS or IT related, but nevertheless show our organizing skills.

KDE Austria Meetups – Irregular meetups of the KDE community in Vienna

KIF - Konferenz der Informatik Fachschaften – Around new years eve 2012 Fachschaft Informatik invited over 50 people from other Universities for a 5 day get-together to Vienna

CouchSurfing Vienna Calling – 5 day meetup of around 200 international travellers including BBQs, Parties and other activities

CouchSurfing Vienna Stammtisch – monthly CouchSurfing meetup in Vienna, every month a different location, with up to 100 people

Budget

The budget is based on information we have so far collected and on additional careful estimations. TODO: correct values

	Alternatives	
	Low	High
Venue	€6,479	€6,497
Rent	€4,455	€4,455
Energies	€604	€604
Technician €17/hr.	€1,046	€1,046
Cleaning	€374	€374
Catering	€2,860	€6,690
School Cantina (Sat-Thu)	€2,550	€2,550
Lunch Meals	€0	€3,830
Coffee Breaks	€310	€310
SWAG	€1,500	€2,500
Social Events	€1,820	€4,030
Venue Rent	€1,250	€1,250
DJ	€280	€280
Drinks and Meals	€290	€2,500
Total	€12,659	€19,717

Vienna

The City

Vienna (Wien) is the capital city of Austria. It is in the east of the country on the river Danube. More than 1,800,000 people live there (2016). It is the largest city in Austria. It is also an administrative district (Bundesland) of its own. Before World War I, it was the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Its centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Source: Wikipedia



Source: Wikipedia

For the 8th year in a row, Vienna is ranked number one city according to the Mercer quality of living survey. For a city with nearly 2 million inhabitants, Vienna is a very safe city. The 2017 Global Peace Index ranks Vienna at the 4th place.

Places of Interest

St. Stephens Cathedral In the middle of the inner city, this cathedral is probably Viennas most famous building.

Vienna Ring Road Around the inner city, build when the city walls were torn down and now the Ringstrasse is a grand boulevard with many famous buildings around it.

Inner City The whole Inner City of Vienna is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Schönbrunn Palace This palace and the vast gardens around it, were an imperial summer residence.

Prater (Wurstelprater) is an amusement park and is the location of the famous Vienna ferris wheel (Riesenrad). In contrast to modern amusement parks, entrance to Prater is free and every Ride needs to be payed separately. Nice to walk around and just enjoy the atmosphere.

Danube Island This artificial island was built for flood protection. The main purpose it serves, is a big recreational park with Restaurants, Bars, BBQ places and enough space to sit in the grass & go for a swim in the New Danube.

Vienna State Oper Historical Opera House in Vienna. Performances include operas, operettas and baileys. The cheapest way to see a

performance are the great standing tickets for 4 € or in summer free on the big screen outside of the opera.

Source: Wikipedia



Vienna State Opera | Source: Wikipedia

Wikitravel & Wikipedia

Local IT Industry

TODO: Brno has become the Silicon Valley of Central Europe. Several universities have large ICT faculties that cater to Brno's need for IT expert. The significant presence of IT firms and R&D centers attract professionals from abroad who add to the city's cosmopolitan atmosphere. A list of the most important IT companies in Brno:

2K Czech (formerly Illusion Softworks) – the producer of world-famous PC game titles such as Mafia, Mafia II, Vietcong, Hidden & Dangerous was founded and has about 200 employees in Brno.

Accenture – has a delivery center with about 500 IT professionals.

AVG Technologies – the company, which produces the world-known antivirus and security software, was founded and has its headquarters and a large development and research center in Brno.

CZ.NIC – is an association that serves as a cz domain registry. It largely supports open source and develops several open-source projects. CZ.NIC's research lab is located in Brno.

IBM – opened Global Services Delivery Center 10 years ago. It employs about 2,500 IT professionals in Brno nowadays.

IBA – one of the biggest providers of IT services in Central and Eastern Europe has a development center in Brno.

Honeywell – the company, which produces a variety of consumer products, engineering services, and aerospace systems, has a large development center with over 700 engineers in Brno.

NetSuite – recently opened its development center with 200 engineers in Brno.

Red Hat – has its biggest development office in Brno, over 600 engineers work on many opensource projects including the Linux desktop.

Seznam.cz – is the biggest Czech Internet company and one of the last few companies whose search engines are more popular than Google in their local markets. It has about 100 developers in Brno.

Siemens – Siemens' subsidiary ANF Data has a large development center with around 200 engineers in Brno.

Solar Winds – a leader in downloadable network management software has a development center in Brno.

Y Soft – is a Brno-based, globally operating company that provides print system management solutions.

ZONER software – is a Brno-based software company which is known for its desktop products – Zoner Draw and Zoner Photo Studio.

And many more smaller IT companies.

Local Press

Some Austrian newspapers have dedicated IT news sections or online portals. The most popular are:

- WebStandard <https://derstandard.at/Web>
- futurezone <https://futurezone.at/>
- Computerwelt <http://www.computerwelt.at/>

Other community organized IT conferences in Vienna

Vienna is the host city for a few regular IT conferences. These include:

- LinuxWochen Wien (focused on diverse FOSS topics)
- DevFest Vienna (mixed topics)
- BSides Vienna (focused on information security)

Another upcoming FOSS conference in Vienna is DrupalCon Vienna 2017, happening in September this year.

How to Get to Vienna

By Plane

Vienna International Airport (VIE) is served by around 70 airlines flying to many destinations all over the world. It also offers direct connections to the USA (New York, Chicago, Los Angeles). It is located a bit outside of the City. Trains to the city center run every 15 minutes, take 25 minutes to reach Vienna and cost 4 €.

Some low-cost airlines (e.g. RyanAir & WizzAir) don't fly to VIE directly but to either Bratislava, Brno or Budapest.



Source: Wikipedia

By Train

Vienna has good train connections to several European cities and train is the fastest and most convenient means of transportation between big cities in the region. All trains arrive and depart at the main train station (Wien Hauptbahnhof).

Bratislava – from Bratislava Hlavná Stanica, hourly, 1 hour, 10 €

Budapest – from Budapest-Keleti, every other hour, 2.75 hours, 19 €

Prague – from Prague Main Station, every other hour, 4 hours, 19 €

Brno – from Brno Main Station, every other hour, 1.5 hours, 9 €

By Bus

Long-distance bus lines to Vienna are operated by the following companies: Flixbus, Eurolines, StudentAgency (from/to Czech Republic), Orangeways (from/to Hungary), Polskibus (from/to Poland). If booked in advance, these can offer a cheap alternative to trains or flights.

By Car

Vienna is well-connected to other cities by highways. You can get easily to neighboring countries by car. Travel time examples:

Berlin – 640 km, 6.75 hours

Budapest – 243 km, 2.5 hours

Bratislava – 80 km, 1 hour

Prague – 300 km, 3.5 hours

Brno – 134 km, 1.75 hours

Ljubljana – 384 km, 3.75 hours

Zagreb – 373 km, 4 hours

Parking near the venue and in most inner districts is not free and only possible for short term. We recommend to park either at your accommodation or in a Park & Ride garage (Cost: 17 € for one week).

How to get around

Viennas big public transport system consists of 5 subway lines, tramways, busses and a suburban rail network. The following public transport is reachable in a maximum of 10 minutes walking distance:

- 2 subway stations, Karlsplatz (subway U1, U2, U4) and Taubstummengasse (subway U1)
- Trams #1, #2, #62, #71 and D
- Bus 59A

Ticket prices (valid for the whole city):

- Single ride: 2,20 €
- 24 hours: 7,60 €
- 48 hours: 13,30 €
- 8 days (do not have to be consecutive): 38,40 €
- Week ticket (Monday till Monday): 16,20 €

Conference T-Shirts

Due to the cheaper production costs, we will print the T-Shirts in Slovakia or Czechia. Our first choice would be the Slovakian printing company that did the Akademy 2014 T-Shirts and our second choice would be <http://www.t4u.cz/en/>. With both companies the maximum cost per T-Shirt (for around 300 t-shirts) should be 4 €

The Venue

The proposed Venue would be the Technical University of Vienna (TU Wien). TU Wien consists of over 10 individual buildings, with most of them clustered in the area around Karlsplatz. Out of those buildings, one of them (Neues El) would be a good fit for Akademy. Another building (Freihaus) would be a backup option, especially for the BoF days. The location has good public transport connection (see section "How To Get Around").

Fachschaft Informatik would reserve the necessary rooms, so there would be no reservation fee for them.

Neues El

Neues El ("new electrical-engineering institute") is a recently renovated building located 10 minutes walking from the subway station Karlsplatz and 5 minutes walking from the subway station Taubstummengasse. Apart from four big lecture rooms on the ground floor, there is a big aula in the building and two areas for computers, that could be used as hacking area for over 100 people. Additionally the building has a small courtyard directly next to the lecture rooms. For Akademy this would be the preferred location due to it being more representative, the simple building layout and easy to find rooms.

Conference & General Assembly rooms:

EI7 – 434 seats, one of the biggest & most representative lecture rooms at TU Wien.

EI8 – 139 seats, a lecture room located next to EI7.

EI9 – 181 seats, a lecture room located around the corner of EI7.

EI10 – 375 seats, a lecture room located next to EI9.



Neues El (Source: TU Wien)



E17 (Source: TU Wien)

For the BoFs, the following rooms could be used:

- The 4 lecture rooms from above
- An additional lecture room in the 3rd floor
- Up to 8 seminar rooms on the 2nd to 4th floor

Equipment

All lecture & seminar rooms are equipped with:

- a projector,
- a cable to connect a laptop to the projector,
- audio (hands-free microphones),
- video and audio recording,
- wifi connection (encrypted, guest accounts would need to be organized)

The entire building is covered by a wireless network.

Social Events

Vienna offers venues in different styles & sizes. We already organized different events from student parties at the university to big parties with concerts & DJs. We will split this section into three sections: Locations for a pre-registration event on Friday, Locations for an Akademy party and ideas for the day trip.

Pre-Registration Event

Nelson's This is a cafe in the main building of TU Wien. It can be rented for a price of 130 € for groups bigger than 70 persons. They can also offer Catering.

Fachschaft Architektur & Informatik Fachschaft Architektur has a bar and adjacent to it another big room directly in the main building of TU Wien. If the weather is nice, they also have outside seating. Alone or together with Fachschaft Informatik, they can offer us their space, drinks and maybe food for a low price.

Metalab The biggest hackerspace of Vienna also regularly organizes events. They have a cheap bar and space for around 100 people. And they can show people around their hackerspace (althoug this might not be as fancy as a tour through C-Base).

Tunnel Vienna Tunnel is a student which has space for over 100 people and have good and affordable food.

Derwisch Although Derwisch is located not so close to TU Wien, they are a great location. They have a cellar with it's own bar, which can be rented exclusively. For the number of people expected, we can get them to offer a free buffet of cold turkish specialities.

Akademy Party

We know a few bands that would pay for a small amount for money or for donations. They can be asked to play at the Akademy Party.

Replugged Venue for up to 250 people with 2 floors. The lower floor has a stage for concerts. Can be reserved exlusively, free if a certain amount of income from the drinks was made. Only required to pay for a security guard & technician for a DJ or band. Very good venue for Concerts.

colorkdedarker Webergnecht Bar & Concert location consisting of 3 floors. Two of them can be rented for a cheap rent or a minimum amount of drink income. Good for DJs and concerts.

As an alternative, many bars with outdoor space (e.g. at Donau or Donaukanal) exist and thus can on nice & warm days offer enough space. Some can also be reserved exclusively, but DJs or Concerts are not possible at most of those bars.

Day trip

Accommodation

TODO: We'd like to provide several price levels of accommodation to suit to all conference attendants:

Low Cost

- *Student Dormitories* of the Mendel University in Brno – are the cheapest accommodation option. They can provide a large number of rooms. The current price is CZK 600 (€23.3) for a double-bed room and CZK 400 (€15.5) for single-bed room. Breakfast is additional CZK 110 (€4.3). The dormitories have facilities such as a student cafeteria, pizzeria, sport facilities, and even a cinema. The campus is just 3 bus stops away from the venue and the bus 53 takes you almost from door to door. If you feel like stretching your legs a bit the pleasant walk will take you about 15 – 20 minutes. A tram takes you to the old town in about 20 minutes.

Mid-Range

- *Hotel Avanti ***** – is another mid-range option we recommend. One double bed room is CZK 1,690 (€69) for one person and CZK 1,840 (€75 for two persons). The hotel also offers more expensive options up to a President suite for CZK 4,890 (€200). It might be possible to arrange a discount for Akademy attendees. The hotel is 15 minutes (tram), 25 minutes (walking) from the conference venue. And it's just 12 minutes by tram to get to the city center. The hotel's website: <http://www.brno-hotel-avanti.eu/>

High-end

- *Barceló Brno Palace *****+* – the newest and one of the most luxurious hotels in Brno has airy interior with Spanish-style design and a very good restaurant. It satisfies the highest standards. Rooms start at €137. It takes 10 minutes by car (20 minutes by tram) to get from the hotel to the venue, the city center is just a few minutes of walking away. The hotel's web- site: http://www.barcelobrnopalace.com/BarceloHotels/en_GB/hotels/Czech-Republic/Brno/hotel-barcelo-brno-palace/general-description.aspx

Acknowledgements

Daniel Vrátil – for providing us with the LaTeX source of the Akademy 2014 proposal

Albert Astals Cid & Aleix Pol – for answering quite a few questions about the proposal

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