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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.

Brno has a strong and lively Free Software community. Many talented students who are interested in Linux technologies might get interested in KDE and our software. The university, where the conference will take place, has several research projects in the field of computer graphics and desktop. Also the very active Openmobility group which associates people interested in open mobile technologies operates from here. Brno's Linux community is organized in the "Linux in Brno" group that supports the idea of Akademy in Brno.

Local Organizations that Support our Candidacy

AbcLinuxu.cz – one of the biggest Czech portals about Linux

Fedora.cz – a non-profit organization which is run by the Czech Fedora community and organizes workshops, release parties etc.

Linux in Brno – a local Linux user group which organizes meetings, workshops, conferences etc.

Openmobility – a non-profit organization that associates open mobile technology enthusiasts and organizes Openmobility conference.

Student Union of FIT – organizes many student events, runs several courses and labs and participates in organizing conferences such as LinuxAlt.

Organizers

KDE Community – the KDE community is strong in the Czech Republic and all of the organizers are part of it.

Faculty of Information Technology – Brno University of Technology (FIT BUT) – one of the biggest and most influential IT universities in the Czech Republic – <http://www.fit.vutbr.cz>

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

??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 €

SWAG

TODO: We have promotional goods done quite often and have quality and reliable suppliers for swag. Pricing examples:

- A t-shirt with a big logo/picture – CZK 87 (€3.55) if we order 300 t-shirts.
- Buttons with a logo – the normal price is CZK 750 (€30.61) for 100 pins. If we order for example 1,000 pins the total price will be CZK 7,500 (€306, we may be eligible for a quantity discount).
- Stickers – CZK 49 (€2) for an A4 sheet of quality stickers.

The Venue

TODO: equipment is updated, rest needs to be updated There are several venues in Brno where Akademy could take place. The preferred venue is on Faculty of Information Technology of Brno Technical University (FIT BUT). Due to an unexpected reconstruction works scheduled during the summer, the faculty can only offer date from 5th to 12th September. The faculty has offered to sponsor Akademy by offering 50% discount from the rent.

We are currently looking into other possible venues, especially Faculty of Informatics of Masaryk University (FI MU).

Neues EI

The Faculty of Information Technology at the Brno University of Technology building used to be a Cartesian monastery founded in the 14th century. Recently, it was renovated and now features a beautiful combination of historical and modern architecture. It is located in a calm neighbourhood of Brno within 25 minutes of the city center by tram. There are several larger lecture rooms in two buildings. The building (D), which we propose for the keynote and main talks, has three lecture rooms:

D105 – 300 seats, the most representative room where graduation ceremonies take place.

D0206 – 154 seats, a lecture room which is located underneath D105.

D0207 – 90 seats, a lecture room which is located next to D0206.

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.

Catering

There are several options for Akademy attendants to get meals and refreshment in the campus:

University Cafeteria – can provide regular meals and drinks for lunch. It can serve a larger number of people.

Restaurant Old Brewery – is in the same building as the university cafeteria, provides daily meals during lunch time and usual offering of meals and drinks. It may provide meals without previous order.

Café Ventana – is situated in the same building. The café sells hot and cold beverages, cakes, and snacks.

Catering On Site – basic catering (mineral water, hot beverages, snacks) could be provided on site, so that attendants can get refreshment between talks. There are many other restaurants and pubs within a few minutes walk from the venue, most of them with free wifi access.

Freihaus

The faculty has three big lecture rooms:

D1 – 248 seats

D2 – 122 seats

D3 – 179 seats

There are also many smaller lecture rooms and class rooms that could be used for BoF sessions.

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.

Catering

There is no cafeteria in the building, but there are several restaurants around the faculty:

Al Capone – italian restaurant, offers several vegetarian meals –
www.pizzaalcapone.cz

Magistr – a microbrewery with restaruant – www.pivovarmagistr.cz

AURA restaurant – restaurant, cafe, bar – www.campea.cz

Catering On Site – basic catering (mineral water, hot beverages, snacks) could be provided on site, so that attendants can get refreshment between talks

Social Events

TODO:

Brno offers good venues to organize conference parties. Some of them are really close to the proposed conference venue. Here are some we propose because we've already organized social events there and have good experience with them:

Source: Michal Sänger -
BY-CN-SA

Fléda – a large venue for concerts and other events which is located 30 minutes walk from the conference venue. It has capacity up to 800 people. The rent for one night is CZK 31,700 (€1,230) and can provide discount on catering. Fléda website: <http://www.fleda.cz>

Semilasso – venue for concerts and other events which is just a few hundred meters from the conference venue. The main hall has capacity 700 people, the garden 300 people. The rent for one night is CZK 35,000 (€1,355). The club is also suitable for concerts, both outside and inside. The club's website: <http://www.semilasso.cz/>

Brewery Brno – a large restaurant located on the premises of Brno's brewery. The capacity of the main hall is at least 300 people. It has a dance floor and a DJ can be arranged. A rent for one night is CZK 90,000 (€3,673). The rent is free if you order catering. The restaurant's website: <http://www.pivovarskabrno.cz/>

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

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