

# OSCAL 2022, the 7<sup>th</sup> edition is coming

*18 & 19 June in Tirana, Albania*

**Open Source Conference Albania(OSCAL)**, the first annual international conference of its kind in Albania, will return after 2 years for the seventh edition, to promote **software freedom, open source software, online privacy, open data and open knowledge** locally and in the region. OSCAL 2022 will take place between 18-19 June 2022 in Tirana and is expected to gather over 300 enthusiasts of open source technologies, developers, agencies and professionals of free/libre, open source culture troublemakers, cryptoanarchists and dreamers with the shared goal of making the world and the internet better with open technologies and open knowledge. The conference not only provides everyone with the opportunity to share their knowledge and experience with the audience, but also inspires many others to act upon it.

A wide variety of intriguing presentations and workshops will be held on both days of the conference. More specifically, each day from 9AM to 6PM, participants will have the chance to become acquainted with different topics, as well as explore contribution and professional opportunities. In addition, community info booths will be present on both days. **openSUSE, Fedora, Debian, LibreOffice, OpenStreetMap, Wikipedia, phpList , Mozilla** etc are only a few of the projects that OSCAL participants can get to know better. Our last edition, OSCAL 2019, concluded with **50 presentations**, speakers from many different countries of the world and more than **300 attendants** inspired to advance the free/libre open source movement even further. The best part were all the positive comments, that motivate the organizers to come up with something even more expanded.

OSCAL 2022

*#InternetFreedomFTW #InternetFreedomWTF*

Organized by Open Labs since 2014

# This year theme: Internet Freedom FTW/WTF?!

In this edition we decided to continue where we left in 2020 before the pandemic disrupted the conference and our lives. But many things happened during these 2 years, and we would like to reflect on what has changed and what has gone wrong.

**Internet freedom** is at its lowest. For years, netizens have praised the **collaborative and empowering tools of the internet**, while also warning about the raising interest in **controlling, filtering and censoring** what we see and do online. But in the recent years we've seen a new kind of problem, that of the freedom in the internet being abused and used to disseminate **misinformation, conspiracy theories and hate speech** at levels never heard before. On the one side, governments and corporations engage in massive surveillance of every movement online. On the other side, shady actors are using misinformation to undermine the very sense of truth, and hiding behind slogans of freedom.

With more and more reports about internet shutdowns, domain names being blocked, massive surveillance and censorship, governments fighting privacy friendly tools like encryption, together with massive spread of fake news, what are we to do? How do we **counter censorship and surveillance** coming from both government and corporations alike? Is there a **democratic solution to the spread of misinformation**? Is the new stack of technologies referred to as **web3** a way forward towards a **decentralized internet**, or just a re-branding offering more of the same? The World Wide Web, an amazing tool used to share knowledge, information and one of the fastest communication tools is now being used against us and **we need to act!** In this edition of our volunteer powered conference we want to emphasize that we are here to fight for internet freedom and against misinformation widely spread on the net!

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**OSCAL 2022:** presentations, workshops, community meetups and info booths gearing up for **#InternetFreedomFTW** **#InternetFreedomWTF**. A community run event organized by **Open Labs Hackerspace**, the local community dedicated to empower **free/libre open source culture in Albania** since 2012.

## Important dates:

*Call for proposals: 15 February 2022*

*Call for volunteers: 4 April 2022*

*Call for info booths: 1 March 2022*

*Registration for the conference:*

*Call for sponsors: <https://osc.al/sponsor>*

## Further information:



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