openSUSE conference
The 6th openSUSE conference takes place in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 24 to 28th of April in the University of Dubrovnik. The theme of the event will be "the Strength to Change" and we expect about 300 visitors to participate in about 100 talks, Birds of a Feather (BoF) sessions and workshops. Michael Meeks from the LibreOffice community will keynote on Saturday.

History of the openSUSE conference
The first openSUSE conference was held in 2009 at the BerufsForderungsWerk in Nuremberg. With about 40 talks in 2 tracks, an unconference track and co-location with the RPM summit the conference attracted a little over 200 visitors. The second openSUSE conference grew the attendees by 1/3 to almost 300 attendees and sported a 'collaboration across borders' theme which brought many Free Software contributors from other communities to the openSUSE conference. The openSUSE Conference 2012 was the first to leave Nuremberg, taking place in Prague and kickstarting a yearly Linux Conference there. The 5th openSUSE event brought the community to Thessaloniki in Greece for the first entirely volunteer-organized openSUSE Conference.

openSUSE conference 2014 in Dubrovnik, Croatia
This year, the beautiful old city of Dubrovnik will host our event in Croatia. It is also known as „Pearl of the Adriatic", and since a few years as „King's Landing" from the poular TV show **'Game of Thrones'** that is filmed in Dubrovnik. Since 1979 the city of Dubrovnik is on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. The Old Town of Dubrovnik is surrounded by city walls, medieval fortresses, Rector's Palace and churches from different periods. It is beautiful and is Dubrovnik's main tourist attraction, one that you don't want to miss if you visit the city.

The conference Venue is a building from the University of Dubrovnik, a 5 minute walk from the old town center.

Theme: The Strenght to Change.
With all the changes going on in the world of Free and Open Source Software, we decided to make this a subject for the event. The theme is thus "the Strength to Change". This will be considered by the paper committee to be central for the talks chosen.

Keynote by Michael Meeks
The openSUSE Conference will be kicked off by the openSUSE Board on Friday and a keynote by Michael Meeks from LibreOffice fame on Saturday. The opening speaker on Sunday is still to be determined.

Subjects and fun
The conference itself will feature well over 100 talks, workshops and BoF sessions during the four days it lasts. From the sessions already selected, the talks and workshops around the changes in the openSUSE development processes are most notable. There will be a significant number of sessions concentrating on packaging, the release process and the development of the openSUSE Linux distribution as well as the tool chain surrounding it. Technologies like the Open Build Service and openQA will be discussed in BoF sessions or taught in workshops. With the openSUSE project maturing these sessions are crucial for our participants to discuss and improve the way we work or simply get some hard things done together.

But as always, the event also features end user oriented sessions, be it for system administrators (like optimizing MySQL), home users (including ownCloud, Jolla Phone) or developers (for example in the Ruby on Rails workshop).

Another large part of the conference program centers around community topics. We will talk about how we are building up the openSUSE community with the ambassadors program, where we can improve our marketing efforts and there will be hands-on sessions to create materials or improve wiki pages. Soft skills will be touched upon, such as conflict management in our community or the way we interact with each other.

As usual at events like these, we expect the hallway track and the many meetings-of-mind to lead to new ideas, technologies and progress in Open Source. Ultimately, the openSUSE conference will benefit the hundreds of thousands of users who depend on openSUSE technology for their computing needs!

Last but not least, we will have fun. A welcoming party is scheduled on Thursday night and another party is being prepared.

Goals and expectations: change
The theme makes clear change is in the air. Our development processes bottlenecked around the openSUSE 12.2 release and since then, we've dealt with this by putting more resources in some key areas of our work. However, the openSUSE team has been working on improving our infrastructure and much of the results of that work will be featured and discussed at oSC14. The decision to delay the release from July to November was key to making this work possible and at the event we hope to define a release schedule and put together a release team. Discussing where to go with our release cycle for the future will also be on the agenda.