



free libre open source software kosova

21 03 2022

flossk.org

Letter of Intent to host FOSS4G 2023 in Prizren, Kosovo

FLOSSK would like to express its intent to host the FOSS4G Conference in June 2023 in Prizren, Kosovo.

Free Libre Open Source Software Kosova (FLOSSK) is a non-governmental organization based in Prishtina, Kosovo, established in 2009 to support, promote and develop free and open source software. FLOSSK also contributes to open and participatory knowledge, education in information technologies through open courseware, and open standards, culture, and open society using free communication. FLOSSK is a membership-based organization run by a three-member executive board. FLOSSK is an OSGeo Foundation chapter in Kosovo.

We plan to host FOSS4G 2023 along with the HOT Summit and State of the Map Conference.

Conference Chair and Local Organizing Committee

The conference chair will be Besfort Guri, a FLOSSK member since 2009 as well as the Member of the Executive Board at FLOSSK. Besfort leads OSGeo and OSM local chapters in Kosovo. Besfort was part of the organizing team of different conferences such as Software Freedom Kosova for several years, as well as State of the Map Southeast Europe in 2019. He is in the FOSS4G 2022 organizing committee, as well as in the canceled FOSS4G 2021 Europe. He runs a small company focused on Geographical Information System and Web Development.



Members of the LOC are FLOSSK staff and volunteers:

Arianit Dobrosi is President of the Executive Board at FLOSSK. He's been with FLOSSK since 2009 organizing numerous annual Software Freedom Kosova conferences. Arianit is a Member of the Board at Wikimedians of Albanian Language User Group and an OpenStreetMap contributor. He engages in public policy formation in Kosovo.

Enkelena Haxhiu is an embedded systems software engineer at a local hardware company, working on the Linux Kernel. Enkelena is the DebConf22 lead organizer. She is a FOSS enthusiast and a Board member at FLOSSK. She studies Computed Automation and Robotics at the University of Prishtina.

Valmir Mustafa works as a project manager at FLOSSK, He's been widely engaged in designing projects, funding, and starting up companies and institutions. Since 2010, Valmir has been highly involved in organizing local and international conferences such as Software Freedom Kosova, State of the Map Southeast Europe, and now is part of the local DebConf22 organizing team.

Edonis Hashani is a Project Assistant at FLOSSK. He studied Computer Science and works on projects on cyberspace, digitalization, and the impact of technology on our lifestyles. He has experience in program development and management with non-governmental organizations.

Era Hamiti is Project Writer & Communication Specialist at FLOSSK. She has been engaged in writing proposals for projects related to OSGeo as well as OSM. She is currently finishing her Master's degree in Psychology.

Qendresa Kastrati is Finance Manager at FLOSSK with over 8 years of experience in finance, accounting, and administration of NGOs, corporations, and medium and individual businesses. She has managed budgets up to 5 million EUR.



Experience of committee members with similar events

FLOSSK has a long experience in organizing conferences, starting with Software Freedom Kosova in 2009. [Software Freedom Kosova](#) is an annual international conference held in Kosovo organized to promote Free/Libre and open-source software, free culture, and an open society. Every year, SFK brings together developers and software users, artists, entrepreneurs, and leaders to collaborate, learn and share common interests in the field of open technology through a combination of lectures, training, and workshops.

FLOSSK has also organized the [State of the Map Southeastern Europe](#) 2019 conference. State of the Map Southeastern Europe was a three-day conference held at the Innovation and Training Park in Prizren which brought together stakeholders in the OpenStreetMap and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) ecosystem. Around 150 mappers, software developers, academicians, NGOs, business leaders, and users of OpenStreetMap from the US and Europe came together to create opportunities for knowledge exchange, networking, and partnerships.

FLOSSK is currently working on organizing the international [DebConf 2022](#) conference in Kosovo, which is the annual conference of the Debian operating system, attracting some 500 speakers and attendees. DebConf22 will welcome in July in Prizren, Kosovo, speakers, and developers from around the world who contribute in various ways to Debian.

FLOSSK has been an OSGeo Foundation and OSM Foundation local chapter since 2020. In this area, FLOSSK has organized GIS training, OSM GEO-Week, numerous mapathons, and facilitated geographic data imports. Moreover, FLOSSK has held training on Geographic Information Systems and OSM. FLOSSK has also hosted numerous meetups and mapathons with the OSM and OSGeo community in Kosovo.

The proposed venue for the conference is the Innovation and Training Park (ITP) in Prizren, Kosovo. ITP is a business park located in a suburb of the city of Prizren. The area of 39 hectares offers a networking atmosphere that builds on collaboration and shared resources. ITP acts as a center for the distribution of innovative technologies. The buildings in the area include 23 accommodation houses, administrative buildings, maintenance buildings, workshop sheds, a sports facility,



recreational facilities such as cafes, and a modern canteen. The venue covers internet access in all its corners. The largest hall at the proposed location can host 500 people.

As FLOSSK has a long experience in organizing conferences but also working in open source, our organization is more than suitable for organizing the FOSS4G conference in 2023.

The pricing of ITP is 15€ for rooms in two-person rooms/day and 23€ for food. ITP has multiple rooms for presentations such as two main conference halls (cost 210€) and four training rooms (cost 150€). The Park was a former German military camp. Its [location](#) is 3km outside the city of Prizren, 84 km from the capital Prishtina. Other accommodation options are available in the historic city of Prizren, home to a large documentary film festival in August, with daily hotel rates ranging from 12 /night for hostels to 60 EUR/night for more luxurious hotels.

We are planning to organize the conference from 26 June - 2 July 2023 with prices for conference attendance ranging from 330-400 Euro.

Our COVID-19 safety plans include communication to participants, hand washing, and putting masks in case it is required by the government, as well as rapid testing. We will make sure that participants follow COVID-19 best practices. The financial strategy will be based on a reduced budget in case travel restrictions will be in effect limiting the number of participants.

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