

## PRESS RELEASE

Bolzano, 21st October 2019

### **SFScon 2019, Bolzano, the capital of Free Software Focus on privacy and web vulnerability**

### **NOI Hackathon: the winners will fly to Silicon Valley**

On 15th and 16th November, the international conference on Free Software returns with hundreds of participants from all over Europe. Luigi Gubello, the white hacker, alias Evariste Galois, is eagerly awaited among the 100 speakers

**Bolzano, 21st October 2019** –The major event in Italy dedicated to Free Software returns to Bolzano: the 19th edition of **SFScon**, the international conference that promotes the use of free software as a means of creating innovation and sharing. The event will take place on **Friday 15th and Saturday 16th November** at **NOI Techpark**, the innovation district situated in South Tyrol, where more than one thousand participants from all over Europe will gather, including developers, programmers, companies, students and public decision makers, to share the best IT practices and learn about the latest developments in the sector. At the same time, networking sessions will take place between companies and the **NOI Hackathon SFScon Edition** will be held: a digital marathon that will bring together developers and creative talents to develop new ideas.

SFScon, which is becoming increasingly popular every year, will host more than **100 talks** divided into six themed tracks dedicated to: “Open Data Hub, Analytics & Artificial Intelligence”, “DevOps & Cyber Security”, “IoT & Robotics”, “Contributing to FLOSS & OW2”, “Open Data Hub & Smart Cities” and “Cultural Change”, as well as tracks dedicated to the topics of Agile Open Innovation and the Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE) community. Each speaker will be allocated 15 minutes to present projects and studies, offering concrete ideas for reflection on the topic in question and to answer questions from the audience. And immediately after the first keynote speakers of the new edition, Linux User Group Bolzano will award the “**South Tyrol Free Software Award**” (SFSaward): an acknowledgement that awards the person who has made the greatest contribution to spreading Free Software culture in the province of Bolzano.

“We are now at the 19th edition and year after year SFScon is continuing to grow and attract innovators from all over Europe. We believe that bringing together different experiences, sharing the same free software culture, is the best way to let new ideas thrive and make the South Tyrol an increasingly important benchmark for the sector on a global scale. SFScon and NOI Hackathon are not only a marathon of creativity for programmers and developers but also, and above all, an opportunity to meet the best IT specialists in Europe and take a step into the future with them,” comments **Patrick Ohnewein, an expert in Digital technology at NOI Techpark and the organiser of SFScon and NOI Hackathon.**

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Established in 2001 thanks to the insight of the Linux User Group Bolzano-Bulsan, from 2005 onwards SFscon was organised and promoted by TIS Innovation Park, and then by NOI Techpark. This year, the event is being held in partnership with EEN-Enterprise Europe Network, the European network that supports businesses. It is sponsored by: Gruppo FOS, Top Control, Würth Phoenix, 1006.org, Davide Montesin Innovative Software, Endian, Orma Solutions, Peer, R3GIS, SiMedia, Telmekom and Xpeppers (Claranet Group Company).

**SPEAKERS AND TOPICS** - The 2019 edition will be inaugurated by one of the leading experts of Free Software in Europe: **Oliver Fendt**, Senior Manager Open Source Software at Siemens. He will have the task of introducing the theme for the two days, namely: how to use free software in order to stay competitive (within your company, but not only), in the face of increasingly complex systems. Such systems are not only varied but also often vulnerable, therefore presenting a concrete risk for the **privacy of internauts**. The topic will be addressed on the first day of the conference by **Luigi Gubello**, better known as **Evariste Galois** (the unlucky maths genius who lived in 19th century France), the white hacker who denounced flaws in the Rousseau online platform. The 28-year-old student from Portogruaro (in the province of Venice) is held to be one of the leading experts in the **vulnerability of the Web**, an increasingly pressing and complicated matter that is difficult to solve.

“The economy of Internet services revolves around data collection and analysis, every kind of data regarding users can be analysed and generate profit. To survive in this type of Internet, where the main currency is users’ data, it is important to trust the product we use. How? Open source software can be a partial solution to this problem, since it allows users to see how their data are managed,” reveals the mathematical hacker **Luigi Gubello**.

With a career spanning 42 years in the software world, including 22 years at Intel, also **Andrew Wilson** will be talking about freedom and technology. At SFscon, he will ask: How can we preserve technological freedom and extend it to a new era? In response, he will relate the use of corporate open source, which he has always pioneered, with political liberalism, convinced that the two areas have much in common, as he will demonstrate with surprising revelations. **Deb Bryant**, Senior Director of Open Source Program Office and CTO at Red Hat, keynote speaker on Saturday 16th November, will focus instead on the challenges that await Free Software in 2020, including the reasons underlying profit and social good.

Many other speakers will be taking part in the two-day event, such as: **Barbara Plank**, professor at ITU in Copenhagen and future head of the Master in Data Science programme; **Carmen Bianca Bakker**, a free software activist and software engineering student at NHL Stenden in Leeuwarden; **Maurizio Napolitano**, coordinator of the Digital Commons Lab unit at the ICT centre of FBK; **Cedric Thomas**, CEO of the French Consortium OW2. Many other Italian and international experts will be participating, including representatives of NOI Techpark, **Eurac Research**, **Fraunhofer Italia** and **Unibz** (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano).

**TRACKS** – Data are the greatest asset of modern times and become essential for individual companies and for entire communities. Much attention therefore will be given to implementing projects and initiatives, which, thanks to Free Software, allow activities and

services to be more efficient. The **Smart City and Smart Tourism** will be discussed, as well as **Chatbots and Integrated Mobility**, **Industry 4.0** and **Social Cohesion**, and much more. During the two-day event, two studies conducted in the South Tyrol will also be presented as part of the **Free Software Lab Observatory** at NOI Techpark to measure how much and how local companies are using their databases ("**DataBase Management Systems in the Province of Bozen-Bolzano**" by the Free University of Bolzano) and how they are equipping themselves for the Internet of Things ("**The IoT business and research community in South Tyrol**", by NOI Spa, Fraunhofer Italia and Gruppo FOS). In the field of the IoT & Robotics, also deserving special attention will be the FESR project entitled **Beacon Südtirol – Alto Adige** aimed at installing 3,500 Beacon sensors in the province to promote the continuous development of the IoT and ICT technologies in the South Tyrol, and **Pepper**, the social robot that welcomes visitors to NOI Techpark, concretely showing what it means to interact with words and gestures using an IoT device.

For further information, please visit: <https://www.sfscon.it>

**NOI HACKATHON** – At the same time as the main conference on Free Software, the **NOI Hackathon SFScon Edition** will be held: 24 hours of full immersion in the IT world, where teams of developers, designers, data experts, entrepreneurs and technology enthusiasts will work to develop new Open Data and Open Source projects, promoting innovation culture. The projects will be judged by a panel of experts and only the best will win prizes, including a **trip to San Francisco**, the home of Silicon Valley and of innovators from all over the world, and the opportunity to take part in the **DAHO.AM Developer Conference in Munich**.

NOI Hackathon SFScon Edition is organised by NOI Techpark, Open Data Hub Südtirol and Stiftung Südtiroler Sparkasse. The event is sponsored by: ACS Data Systems, EcoSteer, Infominds, Marketing Factory, Oberalp Group, SiMedia e Systems. **You can register now**. All related information and the registration form are available on: <https://hackathon.bz.it>.

**NETWORKING** – SFScon is also an important networking opportunity for companies and young talent. Two events in particular are not to be missed on Friday 15th November: **Job Speed Dating** and **Digital Technologies B2B Matching**. The former is a meeting point for job demand and supply in a sector that is increasingly in search of new professionals - from Web Developers to IT Managers, Java and Linux developers to System administrators, whereas the latter is an opportunity for companies to get to know each other and network, identifying new partners for collaboration.

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