

## PRESS RELEASE

Bolzano/Bozen, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### **Digital Challenges and Covid-19 at the Centre of SFScn at NOI Techpark**

The virtual anniversary edition will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November. Among the speakers: Huawei with the European Project Open Harmony, Siemens and Intel

**Bolzano/Bozen, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020** - Labour, mobility and communication networks: we are experiencing historical changes which are being further accelerated by Covid-19. Free Software could promote this development as well and revolutionise whole industries. However, there are many aspects to be considered, such as information security, establishing global communities, licensing and legal aspects. The 20<sup>th</sup> international conference on Free Software **SFScn 2020** takes place in the innovation district of South Tyrol, **NOI Techpark** in Bolzano, on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November**. This year, due to the strict precautionary measures against Covid-19, the event (which attracted more than 1,000 people in 2019) will be held online. The talks can be followed via various channels, one of them being **St. Virtual**, a 'virtual village'.

"We are celebrating 20 years of SFScn - an important anniversary in a most unusual year. 2020 is shaped by Covid-19, but difficult times like these also reveal the true potential of open source software, since it offers new development and innovation opportunities for the private as well as the public sector. By means of scientific papers and case studies, we show the new development and innovation possibilities that free software offers to private companies and public institutions," states **Patrick Ohnewein, Head of Unit Digital at NOI Techpark**.

**SFScn 2020** - Over the course of the two-day conference, about **100 speakers** deliver more than **100 talks** to the following seven topics: **data analysis, community management, society and culture, open-source hardware, legal aspects, DevOps and business models**. The experts are going to discuss the various possible applications of Free Software in the private sector, public administration, smart mobility and communication networks. Huawei, represented by Davide Ricci from the Open Source Technology Center, is scheduled to be the first to speak. Ricci will introduce **the European project Open Harmony**, Huawei's new Android-compatible operating system, which is based on the principles of open source and open governance. The project intends to highlight Huawei's effort in establishing more transparency, openness, compliance and privacy within the European context. The collaboration between the Open Source Technology Center, NOI Techpark and FSFE is focusing on equipping the OSTC with a modern and cutting-edge FOSS policy, supposed to create a profitable ecosystem, a guarantee of systematic, organised and excellent standards.

"We considered it important to place particular emphasis on FOSS compliance processes from the very beginning of our activities. Many companies approach open source, but few make IP compliance a priority even before the development phase begins. Concern for IP compliance not only reduces the number of re-discussions related to the re-

lease of our open-source software products. It also relaunches and positively differentiates the image of Huawei, especially in the world of consumer electronics devices. It represents us as a company that actively cares about the protection of intellectual property, a key element in the creation of an open ecosystem that ensures a transparent and collaborative relationship between developers, integrators, companies, and all stakeholders.," explains **Davide Ricci, head of the OSTC of Huawei**.

NOI Techpark connects various players such as companies, the university and research institutions to drive innovation and promote research and development projects. Therefore, it is no coincidence that best practices from the world of digital technology are at the forefront of SFScon. These are going to be presented by internationally recognised experts such as **Oliver Fendt**, one of the leading experts in the field of Free Software and Senior Manager Open Source Software at **Siemens**. Fendt will describe how Free Software enables companies to improve their innovative ability and thus remain competitive. **Andrew Wilson**, software expert with 42 years of experience, of which he spent 22 years at **Intel**, is going to illustrate the advantages of Free Software community playing a key role facing the current challenges due to the **recession and the pandemic**. In the light of the current occupational challenges and the shift to remote work, the talk of Simon Ebnicher of Telmekom, a provider of individual and customised connectivity solutions for companies and individuals. He will share his insights in technologies for a stable and efficient network to ensure a secure and effective work environment while working from home.

"Due to the increasing shift towards working remote and e-learning, our networks are being put to a test, not only in major cities, but also in rural areas where the so-called 'last mile' can make all the difference. Therefore, developing solutions for stable, secure and reliable networks is of the utmost importance. Especially in this context, open-source software can be a valuable tool, as we are going to demonstrate with specific examples. Thanks to open-source software, we can offer stable network access even in rural areas," explains **Simon Ebnicher of Telmekom**. **Gianluca Antonacci of CISMA**, on the other hand, will report on mobility, another sector characterised by major changes. He is going to explain how we can analyse traffic using affordable IoT sensors and implementing state-of-the-art algorithms, in order to achieve a **sustainable mobility**.

**NETWORKING** – To further deepen the topics covered by SFScon, **B2B Matchmaking-meetings** are taking place – to connect companies, researchers and experts in the field of digital technologies, especially artificial intelligence, and create new business opportunities and co-operations for innovation, research and development. The B2B-Meetings are organised within the framework of EEN-Enterprise Europe Network.

SFScon 2020 is sponsored by: Huawei, Telmekom Networks, Red Hat, Made in Cima, 1006.org, Catch Solve, Endian, Gruppo Fos, Peer, QBus, R3GIS, SiMedia.

More information on how to attend the events at: [sfcon.it](https://sfcon.it)

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