

PRESS INVITATION

Bozen/Bolzano, 09/10/2025

Digital sovereignty, ethical AI and free software for health: SFSCON 2025 sparks debate on the rights, responsibilities, and transparency of systems.

The global open source conference returns to NOI Techpark in Bozen/Bolzano on 7 and 8 November. There will be over 150 speakers, as well as an ever-expanding programme of workshops, panels and interactive activities for all ages.

Bozen/Bolzano, 9 October 2025 – The spotlight is on the ethical challenges of artificial intelligence and digital sovereignty, as well as the impact of free software on healthcare. The 25th edition of SFSCON, the prestigious European summit dedicated to free software, will address some key issues for future innovation at NOI Techpark. On 7 and 8 November 2025, South Tyrol's innovation district will welcome over 150 experts from around the globe, alongside more than 1,000 participants, for a programme of events. For the first time, this will extend to Saturday afternoon, offering activities and experiences not only to professionals, but to the entire community.

With its 11 thematic tracks dedicated to **Health, Digital Sovereignty, Engineering, Cybersecurity, Open Hardware, Automation, Fediverse** (curated by FediForum, the reference ecosystem for the world of decentralised and interconnected social networks), **Skills & Training** (curated by FUSS, which has been helping to introduce free software in schools for twenty years), **Culture, Data Spaces and Community Building**, SFSCON 2025 becomes a widespread festival that attracts participants from all over Europe to discuss some of the most relevant and controversial issues ever, such as the ethical boundaries of artificial intelligence and the possibility of adopting open standards in healthcare devices.

Speakers and topics you won't want to miss

With the introduction of the **European AI Act** and the new national regulatory framework, technological choices have become civic choices. SFSCON 2025 translates these rules and principles into verifiable practices, providing businesses, public administrations, and industry experts with the knowledge to design and manage AI systems in a compliant and transparent manner.

Furthermore, the Summit will propose open models in which free software – playing a pivotal role in rendering code accessible, enabling independent audits and reducing

NOI AG / S.P.A.
A.-VOLTA-STR. 13A
VIA A. VOLTA, 13A
I-39100 BOZEN / BOLZANO
T +39 0471 066 600
INFO@NOI.BZ.IT
NOI.BZ.IT

PRESS CONTACT
MARION EGGER
T +39 0471 066 629
PRESS@NOI.BZ.IT

lock-in – establishes itself as a reliable infrastructure for fostering innovation within businesses and **public services**, including healthcare pathways.

Many prominent names will grace the main stage, including: **Karen M. Sandler, the executive director of the Software Freedom Conservancy** – a non-profit organisation focused on ethical technology – will emphasise how code transparency is a prerequisite for clinical safety and equity. She will focus specifically on **gender medicine** and share her personal experience. **Martin Häuer – the scientific director at Martin-Luther Universität** and a member of the Open Source Imaging Initiative (OSI²) – will talk about medical devices as common goods. His aim is to reduce barriers to access and create transparent quality and certification pathways. **Valerie Aurora – a free software developer and community organiser** – will discuss resilience and digital sovereignty, with a focus on European digital resilience. She will demonstrate how free software can enable technological autonomy, local data control and interoperability. This can transform the principles of openness and verifiability into operational protocols for communities, businesses and public administrations. These protocols can help them respond to shocks and infrastructure crises.

Side events and practical experiences

Alongside the talks, SFSCON 2025 offers hands-on experiences such as the **Hacking Village**, a space brought to life by communities where participants can challenge themselves in guided micro-workshops. This open-air workshop provides practical, informal learning that can be applied immediately, fully in line with the spirit of SFSCON and the 2025 programme spread throughout the technology park. The **NOI Hackathon SFSCON Edition** also focuses on participation, bringing together developers, students, researchers and open-source enthusiasts for a 24-hour competition. They will be tasked with devising and prototyping solutions to challenges set by businesses.

On Saturday morning, **EndOf10** will also take place, during which ten “end-of-life” computers made available by companies will be refurbished with the installation of GNU/Linux in two hours and donated to participants to give them a second life. This initiative, carried out in collaboration with the FUSS and LUGBZ communities, was created in response to the end of Windows 10 support, transforming potential waste into a shared, secure, and sustainable resource. Running throughout the event, the **interactive exhibition** will take visitors on a journey from restored 'historic' machines to their contemporary counterparts.

SFSCON will also offer the opportunity to participate in **one-to-one matchmaking** meetings and meet new potential partners. Each participant will be able to select contacts of interest and arrange 20-minute meetings to share ideas, services, and project opportunities.

SFSCON for all ages

Due to the great success of previous years, the meetings for children and school staff are back. On Saturday, there will be two events with **MiniNOI** – NOI's science work-

shop for children – including a special workshop dedicated to a young audience (aged 7 to 10), focusing on coding and programming (in Italian on Saturday morning and in German on Saturday afternoon). Also on Saturday, there will be a meeting entitled '**Ada & Zangemann for Everyone – Using Moodle**' to present a project involving 900 teachers and 600 students from South Tyrol and elsewhere in Italy. This project combines viewing the cartoon or reading the book 'Ada & Zangemann' with interactive games and exercises.

In addition, as per tradition, the summit will open on Wednesday 5 November in Trento with the Speck & Tech community. On 6 and 7 November, **Wud Bolzano** will return with a panel focusing on usability, sustainability, and inclusivity.

Founded in 2001 on the initiative of the **Linux User Group Bozen-Bolzano-Bulsan**, SFSCON has been organised and promoted by NOI Techpark since 2005 and is also made possible thanks to the contributions of its supporters: Gruppo FOS, Telmekom, Vates, Alpitronic, LDV20, Made in Cima, Pandigital, Zirkonzahn, 1006.org, Catch Solve, Christian Gapp, deda.next, Peer, RMBtec, SiMedia, Südtirol Business School, Suggesto. And thanks to our partners: EDIH NOI, FediForum, FSFE (Free Software Foundation Europe), FUSS, Linux Magazine, Loacker, LUG BZ, Maker Space, MCI (Management Center Innsbruck), MiniNOI, Open Source JobHub, OW2, RIOS, Speck&Tech, Sticker Mule, unibz, WUD. SFSCON is co-funded by the EU within the framework of the °ERDF° project 1048 IMPACT.

All information about the conference is available at: www.sfscon.it

We invite journalists and media professionals to attend.