

PRESS RELEASE

Bozen/Bolzano, 7/11/2025

SFSCON 2025 draws a full house with over 1,000 participants

The 2025 edition of the South Tyrol Free Software Conference has honoured Jean-Baptiste Kempf, one of the lead developers of VLC, and Adrian Kuntner, the creator of tyrol.social

Bolzano, 7 November 2025 – The 25th edition of SFSCON began with a keynote speech by Karen M. Sandler, executive director of the Software Freedom Conservancy. The event will bring together the leading figures in the open source community until tomorrow. More than 150 experts from across Europe will take to the conference stage to share their insights, perspectives and best practices relating to the challenges and opportunities of open source with the 1,000 attendees.

The focus will be on artificial intelligence, ethics, health, cybersecurity, automation, and digital sovereignty. Other topics of interest will include training, culture, data spaces, community building and software development. The emphasis will be on the Fediverse, which was the subject of the **SFS Award** presented by the Linux User Group Bozen-Bolzano-Bulsan (LUGBZ) to **Adrian Kuntner**. He is the founder, administrator, and driving force behind tyrol.social, a project launched three years ago that has already become one of the largest Fediverse instances in Tyrol and South Tyrol, with over 1,500 registered users and more than 300 active users every month. It is a symbol of rebellion against social media giants, born from the desire to create a free, open and community-driven digital space. This earned it the SFS Award.

The 2025 European SFS Award, presented by the Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE) and LUGBZ, was awarded to **Jean-Baptiste Kempf**. He is the president of the non-profit organisation VideoLAN, as well as being one of the main developers of the open-source media player VLC. He received the award for being a brilliant developer, a community builder, an ambassador for software freedom and for his dedicating his life to ensure that billions of people around the world can enjoy open and universal access to media. Under his leadership, VLC has achieved extraordinary milestones: billions of downloads; availability on all major platforms; and support for countless codecs.

The opening of SFSCON also marked the start of numerous themed **workshops**. These were extremely useful for learning skills related to open source systems and exploring current issues, from European open source policy to gender inclusion. There were also workshops on building apps based on open systems and learning how to handle images online in relation to privacy and responsibility. The Zanshin Tech work-

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

shop was designed for a lower secondary school class. The curtain also rose on **Hacking Village**, SFSCON's interactive playground featuring exhibitions and showcases dedicated to the culture of digital freedom. Also taking place was the highly anticipated **NOI Hackathon SFSCON Edition**, in which multidisciplinary teams were tasked with solving open-source challenges set by companies.

SFSCON continues on Saturday with a full day of talks, workshops, and laboratories for the first time, including: **MiniNOI** events for children dedicated to coding and programming (in Italian on Saturday morning and in German on Saturday afternoon with readings of "Ada & Zangemann – A Tale of Software, Skateboards, and Raspberry Ice Cream"); The **mapping party**, a workshop organised by Wikimedia Italia to map the NOI spaces using open geographic data and to understand how to improve the mapping of the entire city; The **grand finale of the hackathon**, featuring project presentations and the announcement of the winning team.

SFSCON was founded in 2001 by the Linux User Group Bozen-Bolzano-Bulsan. Since 2005, it has been organised and promoted by NOI Techpark, with the support of the following sponsors: 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, unbz, 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