

Akademy 2018 Proposal

Vienna, Austria

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Summary

When the Akademy 2018 Call For Hosts was published, we knew the timing was right. Student groups at university can support us in 2018, we have time to organize it and we have a good knowledge of what the community wants. In informal talks, we found together as organizers and started to gather ideas and worked on creating this proposal for organizing Akademy 2018 in Vienna.

Community

The Austrian KDE community is still very small compared to many other cities. At the Akademy 2014 in Brno, we had a KDE Austria BoF and created the kde-at Mailinglist. Since then we've met up a few times and now want to organize Akademy 2018. We believe Vienna is an ideal place for a get-together for a big number of KDE supporters from all over the world due to it's central location in the heart of Europe. Also due to the proposed venue at the Technical University of Vienna, Akademy will reach over 5000 talented computer science students.

Date

Since the proposed venue is a university campus, Akademy should take place during the summer break which starts at the beginning of July and ends at the end of September.

Local Support

KDE has many supporters and contributors in Central and Eastern Europe. Akademy 2018 in Vienna will be a great opportunity for KDE to grow the community even more.

Organizing Team

People from Vienna who have been working on the proposal and expressed their willingness to help organize the conference.

Stefan Derkits

Stefan uses KDE as his main desktop since he started studying computer science in 2007. In 2010 he submitted his first patch and since then has been to five Akademies. Although still studying, nowadays he is working as freelancer with special focus on C++/Qt projects used for film tools. He will be the main contact point & main organizer for Akademie 2018.

Joseph Wenninger

Joseph is a long-time member of the KDE community and worked on Kate and other smaller things. He organized a Kate/KDevelop sprint in Vienna and helped organize conferences while working at the Technical University of Vienna. Together with Stefan he already hatched the plan to organize an Akademie as early as 2013. He will be a general co-organizer for Akademie 2018.

Lukas Hetzenecker

Lukas started to use the (at that time called) K Desktop Environment in 2003. Recently he got selected in the Google Summer of Code program, working for KDE and giving back to this awesome community. He is currently enrolled as student at the TU Wien and will help organize this event.

Jan Vales

Jan has been a Linux enthusiast for a very long time and is using KDE since 2012. He also studies computer science and supports students in his work at Fachschaft Informatik. Additionally he is making sure that Fachschaft Informatik always has enough Club Mate & beer. For Akademie 2018 he will be responsible for the Venue due to his prior experience in organizing events at the Technical University of Vienna.

Elisabeth Hafner

Elisabeth has no direct connection to the KDE community, but knows many people from Fachschaft Informatik. When she heard about the plan to organize Akademie 2018 in Vienna she offered to help. In the past she organized many events for CouchSurfing & the Red Cross. She will support the organization in the area of social events & other tasks.

Many more people are eager to help in later phases of the organization process.

Local Support Groups

We have good contacts to the following groups which will support us with additional volunteers or sponsorship.

Fachschaft Informatik

Fachschaft Informatik (FSINF) is a group representing the student council for computer science students at the Technical University of Vienna. They can reserve lecture halls for free and thus would provide the room needed for Akademy free of charge. Additionally they are able to sponsor a small amount of money (up to 300 €, usable for e.g. food/non-alcoholic drinks/cleaning personnel). Also they have good contacts to the faculty, which may lead to more support & visibility for Akademy 2018.

HTU Wien

HTU Wien represents all students at the Technical University of Vienna. They support special projects with up to 500 € (same criteria as Fachschaft Informatik) and can help with organizational tasks regarding the venue. Also their contacts to other student councils (e.g. Electrical Engineering, Mathematics & Physics) is valuable in promoting Akademy 2018 at Technical University to students who don't study computer science.

Metalab

Metalab is a non-profit hackerspace in Vienna. Apart from people working there on realizing different projects, it is a meeting place for a diverse range of user groups (e.g. UX Design user group, Debian user group Vienna & Python user group Austria). They are also the home base of the C3W (Chaos Computer Club Wien).

Previously organized events

In the past we already organized events for up to 200 people. Not all of them were FOSS or IT related, but nevertheless show our organizing skills.

KDE Austria Meetups – Irregular meetups of the KDE community in Vienna

KIF - Konferenz der Informatik Fachschaften – Around new years eve 2012 Fachschaft Informatik invited over 50 people from other Universities for a 5 day get-together to Vienna

CouchSurfing Vienna Calling – 5 day meetup of around 200 international travellers including BBQs, Parties and other activities

CouchSurfing Vienna Stammtisch – monthly CouchSurfing meetup in Vienna, every month a different location, with up to 100 people

Budget

The budget is based on information we have collected so far and on additional careful estimations.

	Alternatives	
	Low	High
Venue	2100 €	3250 €
Rent	0 €	0 €
Cleaning (SA & SU)	100 €	250 €
Lunch (SA & SU)	2000 €	3000 €
T-Shirt	1200 €	1400 €
Social Events	1730 €	5400 €
Venue Cost	0 €	300 €
DJ	80 €	300 €
Food	750 €	2400 €
Drinks	900 €	2400 €
Total	5030 €	10050 €

Vienna

The City

Vienna (Wien) is the capital city of Austria. It is in the east of the country on the river Danube. More than 1,800,000 people live here (2016). It is the largest city in Austria. It is also an administrative district (Bundesland) of its own. Before World War I, it was the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Its centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Source: Wikipedia



Source: Wikipedia

For the 8th year in a row, Vienna has been ranked first in the Mercer quality of living survey, making it the most livable city in the world. For a city with nearly 2 million inhabitants, Vienna is a very safe city. The 2017 Global Peace Index ranks Vienna at the 4th place. Between 2005 and 2010, Vienna was the world's number-one destination for international congresses and conventions.

Places of Interest

St. Stephens Cathedral Situated in the heart of the inner city, this cathedral is probably Viennas most famous building.

Vienna Ring Road Going around the inner city, the Ringstrasse is a grand boulevard with many of Viennas most famous buildings. It was built after the city walls were torn down in the late 19th Century.

Inner City The whole historical Inner City of Vienna is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Schönbrunn Palace Austrians biggest palace and the vast gardens around it, were an imperial summer residence.

Prater (Wurstelprater) Is an amusement park and the location of the famous Vienna ferris wheel (Riesenrad). In contrast to modern amusement parks, entrance to Prater is free and every ride needs to be paid separately. Nice to walk around and just enjoy the atmosphere.

Danube Island This artificial island was built for flood protection. It also serves as a big recreational park with Restaurants, Bars, BBQ places and enough space to sit in the grass & go for a swim in the New Danube.

Vienna State Opera Historical Opera House in Vienna. Performances include operas, operettas and ballets. The cheapest ways to see a performance are the standing tickets for 4 € or during summer on the big screen outside of the opera for free .

Source: Wikipedia



Vienna State Opera | Source: Wikipedia

Wikitravel & Wikipedia

Local IT Industry

Austria is not only famous for its alpine scenery with ski resorts, but recently also became a top destination for entrepreneurs. The central location in the heart of Europe and easy reachability of other major capital cities encourage this.

In 2015, the government devoted grants of 289 million € to over 3000 start-ups, their effect can be seen on the success stories below. According to Tech Cocktail, Vienna is among the top ten start-up cities worldwide. These start-ups are keen to pitch their ideas at the annually held Pioneers Festival, an international conference for pioneers in the soft- and hardware field that takes place in Viennas imperial palace, the Hofburg.

Many coworking spaces can be found throughout the city. Some even act as start-up accelerator.

Some IT startups based in Austria:

Runtastic – mobile fitness company that combines traditional fitness with mobile applications, social networking and elements of gamification; recently acquired by Adidas for \$240 million.

Codeship – fully customizable Continuous Integration service in the cloud

Crate – an open source SQL database with integrated search that is simple to scale

Wikidocs – a real time web page collaboration business, recently acquired by Atlassian

Besides start-ups, there are also many well established IT companies in Vienna:

A1 Telekom Austria – the biggest communication network provider in Austria. For Startups they are hosting the "A1 Start Up Campus".

Kapsch AG – a traditional IT company developing Road Telematics and Telecommunications solutions

Infineon – a semiconductor manufacturer with many bases in Austria and Germany

Siemens – the largest industrial manufacturing company in Europe with branch offices abroad

Philips – a technology company with primary divisions focused in the areas of electronics, healthcare and lighting

Microsoft – the Austrian office of Microsoft employs 350 people

IBM – manufactures and markets computer hardware, middleware and software

TTTech – supplier of dependable networking solutions based on time-triggered technology and modular safety platforms

Noctua – a computer hardware manufacturer of CPU coolers and computer fans

Local Press

Some Austrian newspapers have dedicated IT news sections or online portals. The most popular are:

- WebStandard <https://derstandard.at/Web>
- futurezone <https://futurezone.at/>
- Computerwelt <http://www.computerwelt.at/>

Other community organized IT conferences in Vienna

Vienna is the host city for regular IT conferences. These include:

- LinuxWochen Wien (focused on diverse FOSS topics)
- DevFest Vienna (mixed topics)
- BSides Vienna (focused on information security)

Another upcoming FOSS conference in Vienna is DrupalCon Vienna 2017, taking place in September this year.

How to Get to Vienna

By Plane

Vienna International Airport (VIE) is served by around 70 airlines flying to many destinations all over the world. It also offers direct connections to the USA (New York, Chicago, Los Angeles). It is located a bit outside of the City. Trains to the city center go every 15 minutes, take 15 minutes to reach Vienna and cost 4 €.

Some low-cost airlines (e.g. RyanAir & WizzAir) don't fly to VIE directly but to either Bratislava, Brno or Budapest, which are also well connected to the Vienna.



Source: Wikipedia

By Train

Vienna has good train connections to several European cities which is the fastest and most convenient means of transportation between big cities in the region. All trains arrive and depart at the main train station (Wien Hauptbahnhof).

Bratislava – from Bratislava Hlavná Stanica, hourly, 1 hour, 10 €

Budapest – from Budapest-Keleti, every other hour, 2.75 hours, 19 €

Prague – from Prague Main Station, every other hour, 4 hours, 19 €

Brno – from Brno Main Station, every other hour, 1.5 hours, 9 €

By Bus

Long-distance bus lines to Vienna are operated by the following companies: Flixbus, Eurolines, StudentAgency (from/to Czech Republic), Orangetways (from/to Hungary), Polskibus (from/to Poland). If booked in advance, these can offer a cheap alternative to trains or flights.

By Car

Vienna is well-connected to other cities by highways. You can easily get to neighboring countries by car. Travel time examples:

Berlin – 640 km, 6.75 hours

Budapest – 243 km, 2.5 hours

Bratislava – 80 km, 1 hour

Prague – 300 km, 3.5 hours

Brno – 134 km, 1.75 hours

Ljubljana – 384 km, 3.75 hours

Zagreb – 373 km, 4 hours

Parking near the venue and in most inner districts is not for free and only possible for short term. We recommend to park either at your accommodation or in a Park & Ride garage (Cost: 17 € for one week).

How to get around

Viennas big public transport system consists of 5 subway lines, tramways, busses and a suburban rail network. The following public transport is reachable in a maximum of 10 minutes walking distance from the venue:

- 2 subway stations, Karlsplatz (subway U1, U2, U4) and Taubstummengasse (subway U1)
- Trams #1, #2, #62, #71 and D
- Buses 59A, 4A and 2A

Ticket prices (valid for the whole city):

- Single ride: 2,20 €
- 24 hours: 7,60 €
- 48 hours: 13,30 €
- 8 days (do not have to be consecutive): 38,40 €
- Week ticket (Monday till Monday): 16,20 €

Conference T-Shirts

Due to the cheaper production costs, we will print the T-Shirts in Slovakia or Czechia. Our first choice would be the Slovakian printing company that did the Akademy 2014 T-Shirts and our second choice would be <http://www.t4u.cz/en/>. In both cases the maximum costs per T-Shirt (for around 300 T-shirts) should be 4 €.

The Venue

The proposed Venue is the Technical University of Vienna (TU Wien). TU Wien consists of over 10 individual buildings, with most of them clustered in the area around Karlsplatz. Out of those buildings, one of them (Neues EI) would be the perfect fit for Akademy. Another building (Freihaus) would be a backup option, especially for the BoF days. The location has good public transport connection (see section "How To Get Around"). Fachschaft Informatik would reserve the necessary rooms, so there would be no reservation fee.

Neues EI

Neues EI ("new electrical-engineering institute") is a recently renovated building located in 10 minutes walking distance from the subway station Karlsplatz and 5 minutes from the subway station Taubstummengasse. Apart from four big lecture rooms on the ground floor, there is a big aula in the building and two areas for computers, that can be used as hacking area for over 100 people. Additionally the building has a courtyard directly next to the lecture rooms. For Akademy this would be the preferred location due to it being very representative, the simple building layout and easy to find rooms.

Conference & General Assembly rooms:

- E17** – 434 seats, one of the biggest & most representative lecture rooms at TU Wien.
- E18** – 139 seats, a lecture room located next to E17.
- E19** – 181 seats, a lecture room located around the corner of E17.
- E110** – 375 seats, a lecture room located next to E19.



Neues EI (Source: TU Wien)



E17 (Source: TU Wien)

For the BoFs, the following rooms can be used:

- The 4 lecture rooms from above
- An additional lecture room on the 3rd floor
- Up to 8 seminar rooms on the 2nd to 4th floor

Equipment

All lecture & seminar rooms are equipped with:

- a projector,
- a cable to connect a laptop to the projector,
- audio (hands-free microphones),
- video and audio recording,
- wifi connection (encrypted, guest accounts would need to be organized)

The entire building is covered by a wireless network.

Catering & nearby Restaurants

Throughout the week (during the BoF days & the AGM) the main student mensa (located 5 minutes walking distance away), a small buffet directly at the venue and many nearby restaurants are open.

For the weekend the following catering options exist:

Nearby restaurants While there are a lot of restaurants nearby, not all of them are open on the weekend. Additionally they don't offer cheaper lunch menus on weekends.

Mensa Catering The Mensa of the TU Wien also offers catering. Alternatively they can be asked to open the main mensa and offer 2 menus.

Blue Orange Catering Blue Orange is a cafe near TU Wien offering bagels & sandwiches. They offer mixed boxes of 7 different bagels for 38 € per box.

Pizza Catering Near TU Wien there are many pizzerias that offer delivery. This can also be combined with catering from Blue Orange.

Water & Soft Drinks Vienna has a very good quality tap water. This can be offered for free. Fachschaft Informatik can provide us with crates of cheap soft-drinks that can be sold at the info-stand. Alternatively Fachschaft Informatik can sell drinks for their standard price.

Social Events

Vienna offers venues in different styles & sizes. We already organized different events from student parties at the university to big parties with concerts & DJs. We will split this section into three parts: Locations for a pre-registration event on Friday, Locations for an Akademy party and ideas for the day trip.

Pre-Registration Event

Nelson's This is a cafe in the main building of TU Wien. It can be rented for a price of 130 € for groups bigger than 70 persons. They also offer Catering.

Fachschaft Architektur & Informatik Fachschaft Architektur has a bar and adjacent to it another big room directly in the main building of TU Wien. They also have an outside seating area, if the weather is nice. Alone or together with Fachschaft Informatik, they can offer their space, drinks and maybe food for a low price.

Kontaktraum & Terrace On the 6th floor of Neues EI is an event location with an adjacent big terrace. The room has space for 90 people. A food catering can be organized or a BBQ on the terrace is possible.

Metalab The biggest hackerspace of Vienna also regularly organizes events. They have a cheap bar and space for around 100 people. And they can show people around their hackerspace (although this might not be as fancy as a tour through C-Base).

Tunnel Vienna Tunnel is a student bar that has space for over 100 people and have good and affordable food.

Akademy Party

Derwisch Turkish restaurant located at Viennas partystreet (Gürtel). They have a cellar with it's own bar, which can be rented exclusively for around 100 € or possibly even free. In the cellar a DJ can play music. For the number of people expected, we can get them to offer a free buffet of cold Turkish specialities.

Replugged Venue for up to 250 people with 2 floors. The lower floor has a stage for concerts. Can be reserved exclusively for free if a certain amount of income from the drinks was made. Only required to pay for a security guard & technician for a DJ or band.

Weberknecht Bar & Concert location consisting of 3 floors. Two of them can be rented for a cheap rent or a minimum amount of drink income.

As an alternative, many bars with outdoor space (e.g. at Donau or Donaukanal) exist and thus can offer enough space on nice & warm days. Some can also be reserved exclusively and a DJ could perform there (or music from a laptop or mobile phone could be played).

Day trip

Kahlenberg Bus trip & Heurigen Visit Kahlenberg is a hill in the north-west of Vienna, which offers a scenic panorama view over the city. Every 15 minutes a public bus (standard ticket price) goes all the way up to the hill. On the top there is a cafe, a small church & 2 free terraces with view over the city. After enjoying the views, people can walk down an easy path to Kahlenbergdorf. There we can go to a Heurigen (typical Austrian wine-tavern) for food & drinks.

Donauinsel BBQ & Swimming On Donauinsel, there are big BBQ places to rent for 10 €. We need to bring coal to make a fire & people can bring their own food & drinks. People can bring games to play or can go for a swim in the New Danube. Later in the evening, a bonfire can be made using the firewood that the city provides.

Trip to Bratislava Hop on the train for one hour and be in the capital of another country? Where food & drinks cost only half the price of Vienna? With a train ticket for just 15 € (round-trip ticket including public transport in Bratislava) this is possible from Vienna. Bratislava has a castle with view over the city, a small but nice old-town and many big restaurants.

Accommodation

We'd like to provide several price levels of accommodation to suit all conference attendees:

Low Cost

- *A & O Hostel Hauptbahnhof* is a very big Hostel located close to the main train station of Vienna. They have space for at least 200 people in single- & double-rooms. The price (without a possible discount) is 30 € per night & person in a twin room and 50 € per night & person in a single room. The rooms have a private toilet & bathroom. Due to their location, price & possibility to host nearly all attendees at the Hostel we recommend this as main Hostel. They also have common areas which can be used for late-night hacking. Using public transport it is one subway stop or 25 minutes walking distance away from the conference venue.
- *Wombats Naschmarkt* is a modern & well-located (12 minutes walking distance from the venue) hostel. They offer 22 private double rooms for 30 € per person & night. The rooms have a private toilet & bathroom. They are smaller but a bit more centrally located than A & O, but don't offer the amenities of the close-by train station (late shopping, direct connection from/to the airport). We recommend it for the team or other people who want to stay longer in Vienna.
- The *Dorm room in Hotel Grand Ferdinand* is a room for 8 persons for 35 € per night. Grand Ferdinand is a 5-Star hotel located on the Ringstrasse around the first district. If someone ever wanted to stay in a 5-Star hotel, this is an affordable way to do so :)

Mid-Range

- *Motel One Wien Hauptbahnhof* is a modern hotel near the main trainstation. Their rooms start at 70 € for one person and 85 € for two persons.
- *Other Hotels near Hauptbahnhof* are also in this price range. They are all in 10 minutes walking distance of the subway station Hauptbahnhof: Novum Hotel Congress, Star Inn Hotel Premium, Hotel Zeitgeist and Hotel Schani.

Couchsurfing and AirBnb are also viable options and widespread in Vienna.

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