



Akademy 2020 Call for Hosts

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Call for Hosts

The KDE Community and KDE e.V. are seeking a host for Akademy 2020.

We are looking for a location with a strong team of local, detail-oriented volunteers to help us organize and host the 2020 edition of Akademy.

Hosting Akademy is a unique opportunity to make an impact on your local Free Software community. This brochure explains how you can organize the next Akademy in your city.

What is Akademy?

Akademy is a yearly week-long conference comprising talks, hackathons, and community discussions that bring together KDE users and contributors from all walks of life.

More details about Akademy - including the list of previous locations - can be found at akademy.kde.org.

How to Submit Your Hosting Proposal

If you would like to host Akademy 2020 in your city, submit your proposal to the Board of KDE e.V. at akademy-proposals@kde.org.

The proposal should include:

- Details of the conference venue (infrastructure, facilities, room availability, Internet connectivity, on-site catering)
- A reasonable estimation of venue cost
- Information about local community support, core team members, potential local industry and government support and sponsorships (if possible)
- Lodging options and an overview of airports, train stations, public transport options

What You Need to Know About Hosting Akademy

Basic Information

The primary goals of Akademy are to act as a community-building event for the KDE Community, to communicate the achievements of the KDE Community, and to provide a platform for collaboration with other communities and industry partners. Secondary goals are to engage the local community with Free and Open software, and to provide space for getting together to write code.

KDE e.V. (the non-profit organization supporting the KDE Community) acts together with your organization as the official co-organizer of Akademy 2020. If needed, KDE e.V. can act as a signing party for contracts.

Event Format and Dates

Akademy should take place during the months of June, July or August. Some consideration should be given to the impact of the date on lodging and travel costs, as well as to potential conflicts with public or religious holidays.

Akademy should not take place at the same time as other major cultural events or conferences to avoid a lot of pressure on available accommodation. Hotels and flights are typically more expensive during those events.

Akademy includes the following activities:

- **One-day KDE e.V. meeting**, up to 100 people. Other attendees arriving and pre-registering at a social event.
- **Two-day KDE conference** (Saturday/Sunday), up to 250 people.
- **Five-day unconference**, workshops and hacking (Monday to Friday), 150 people at the start, 100 people at the end.
- **Social activities** such as a welcoming reception, party, and a sight-seeing tour or day trip activity.

Location and Venue Requirements

Travel

Travel to and from the host location must be affordable to the majority of attendees. The hosting country's immigration laws and procedures should not exclude any KDE community members from attending.

It is a plus if the hosting country does not have complicated and expensive visa procurement procedures for attendees.

The venue should be near a major airport, train stations and bus stations and reasonably easy to reach by public transportation.

Venue Infrastructure

About 200 people attend Akademy, and most events have been organized at universities and colleges, but any location with the facilities for talks, group sessions and hacking available for a full week will be considered.

We prefer a conference venue that is free or sponsored. To make it comfortable for everyone, the venue needs to offer:

- a large lecture room that can fit 200 people or more
- a smaller lecture room that fits up to 150 people. A room for a possible third session is a plus
- projectors in all rooms
- microphones and loudspeakers in rooms used for the weekend for talks. It should be possible to connect the audio output of a computer to the loudspeakers
- plenty of power outlets to recharge batteries are mandatory
- several smaller rooms for workshops
- excellent Internet access (with WiFi and Ethernet) for all conference activities during the week
- blackboard, whiteboards and/or flip charts should be available in BoF/coding rooms

There must be no imminent safety threats in or around the conference venue, or between the venue and the accommodation locations.

It is a plus if the conference and hacking session venue, as well as the accommodations, are reasonably close to other public places, such as restaurants, pubs and shops. That said, the surrounding environment should not be too noisy and distracting.

Venue Contract

In some cases, the venue may require signing a contract. Signing contracts is the responsibility of KDE e.V.. Contact KDE e.V.'s board to arrange this.

In the unlikely event that the conference gets canceled, the venue may require a partial or total payment of costs incurred. This must be brought up with the KDE e.V. board as early as possible and, again, KDE e.V. will act as the signing party.

Accommodation

Accommodation must be available for approximately 200 people during the peak days of Akademy. Most attendees prefer a low-cost option and it would be nice if a mid-range option is also available. A list of hotels near the conference venue is needed for attendees who prefer a specific choice.

Transportation

It is preferable for the available accommodation to be close to the conference venue. If this is not the case, there must be safe public transportation (even in the evenings), cheap taxis, or a sponsored shuttle service.

Food and Drinks

Inexpensive food options should be available near the venue, and it shouldn't take much time to get something to eat. Attendees should be able to live on EUR 20 or less per day for food.

Availability of drinks at the Akademy venue is a must. Free water would be nice. A variety of dietary options should easily be available, especially vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free.

Financial Details

Budget

The conference has to be paid mainly by sponsorship. There is no conference fee.

KDE e.V. covers travel costs for some KDE e.V. members, speakers, and other attendees if necessary. Food is usually not sponsored.

In the past, local organizers have managed to get the venues for free or by paying a small amount for services such as cleaning and security, but no actual rent. KDE e.V. will have primary responsibility for acquiring sponsors to cover the costs of the conference.

You may be required to pay for certain resources in advance at the venue or at social event locations (e.g. food vouchers for lunches during the conference or vouchers for free drinks for attendees to the social event). The organizing team will not be expected to advance money for these items. Any such financial arrangements should be discussed with KDE e.V. which typically pays these kinds of costs.

All payments are made by KDE e.V., which is responsible for the budget. The proposal should include a budget draft with the expected local costs. Income from local sponsors is welcome and should be included in the budget.

Sponsoring

International and local sponsor funds cover primarily conference venue, equipment and travel grants. Sponsorship acquisition by the local team needs to be discussed with KDE e.V. board.

Responsibilities of the Local Organization Team

The Local Team

The core local team should consist of around 5 people with one lead organizer who is the main contact. One person alone will not be able to organize a successful Akademy! The organizing team should be involved in the entire planning and preparation process.

The organizer is the main contact for the preparation of Akademy. This person must be available to others who are helping with the preparations or providing services. The lead organizer can expect to work about 5 hours per week in the first few months, 10-15 hours in the weeks leading up to the event, and almost full time in the week or so before the start of Akademy.

KDE e.V. will assist with procedures and provide advice based on several years of experience and organization (such as general project management, managing the travel grants and sponsor acquisition).

It is highly recommended that the conference is supported locally (by a LUG, student FOSS group or similar) for registration, network administration, security, and other tasks. Good press contacts are also helpful.

At least 10 volunteer helpers are needed in the weeks leading up to the event. Prior to the event, there is a call for volunteers, so KDE Community members will be available to help.

If needed, KDE e.V. can also provide the local organizer with a formal letter or references for presentation and negotiations with local authorities (such as universities) and sponsors.

Tasks that the local team takes care of

- Take an active part in the general organizational tasks related to Akademy
- Negotiate contracts with conference venue and liaise with conference venue staff
- Write visa invitation letters for conference attendees (for this, a local legal entity, e.g. a university, is very helpful)
- Assist with setting up the conference network
- Help to research and plan social activities (e.g. social event, day trip)
- Research inexpensive accommodation options and negotiate special rates with hostels
- Research entertainment options (restaurants etc.)
- Assist with video recording during the conference
- Promote the event in local media

- Act as the main contact for local partners like LUGs, city officials etc.

The KDE Akademy Team will guide and support you along the way, helping you coordinate the event preparation. They have done this many times, and have considerable experience with useful event organization tools (such as web apps for task management and attendee accounting, mailing lists and IRC chat rooms).

More Information

Take a look at [Akademy's web page](#) to see how past editions of Akademy were organized. If you need more information or advice, or have any questions, send an email to akademy-proposals@kde.org and we will help you get started.

We look forward to your proposal!