PRESS RELEASE
Bolzano/Bozen, 30th October 2024

Free Software, the SFSCON festival returns to NOI
The new edition of the global Open Source summit focuses on ethics and AI, cybersecurity and Fediverse, with many activities and workshops for everyone.

Bolzano, 30 October 2024 – Not just an event, but a real festival. The NOI Techpark in Bolzano is preparing to host the 24th edition of SFSCON, one of the most popular Free Software conferences in Europe. This year it will be even more "open", with many events not only for insiders. On the 8th and 9th of November, the South Tyrolean innovation district will host more than 100 talks and more than 100 speakers, 9 thematic tracks, 1 hackathon, many introductory events and, among the novelties for 2024, a "hands-on" workshop for girls passionate about Open Source, realised in collaboration with the SheTech community. A very rich programme that will involve more than 1000 people from all over Europe and also children, who will be able to follow the reading of "Ada and Zangemann" and participate in a special miniNOI workshop for SFSCON.

THE PROGRAMME – The activities will start on Wednesday 6th November with the Speck&Tech community and will continue on Thursday 7th November with a conference organised by the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano at the NOI Techpark on the occasion of **World Usability Day**, with the aim of putting usability, co-design and user experience at the centre of the local debate. This will be followed by the traditional **Speaker's Dinner**, a networking evening for all the speakers.

On Friday 8 November, the conference will be opened by the Councillor for Innovation of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, **Philipp Achammer**, and by the Head of Unit Tech Transfer Digital at NOI Techpark and organiser of SFSCON, **Patrick Ohnewein**. Among the main keynote speakers who will take the stage at SFSCON, there are: **Emily Omier**, Product strategy for OSS companies, who will talk about how open source is the best way to finance open source; **benny Vasquez**, President of the AlmaLinux OS Foundation, who will explain how to create and promote a positive and collaborative community; and **Jordan Maris**, European policy analyst and expert on the Open Source Initiative and the AI Act, who will discuss how the involvement of the Open Source community has influenced EU policies.

Wired journalist Luca Zorloni will moderate the main track on "**Ethics, politics, legal and economics**". The speakers on stage will address the issues of software licence compliance, intellectual property rights and privacy regulations, while also exploring the economic dimensions of Free Software ecosystems and their impact on the industry. In particular, French technologist Charles H. Schulz will focus on the concerns of the FOSS communities regarding the CRA, the Cyber Resilience Act, and possible strategies. With the guidance of journalist Vittorio Manti of **Hardware Upgrade**, eyes on **Open Hardware** to explore projects, challenges and practical applications related to the development, adoption and improvement of open technologies. In particular, Joseph P. De Veaugh-Geiss, Project and Community Manager of the FOSS project Blauer Engel 4, will focus on sustainable software by presenting the Opt Green project funded by the German Environment Agency, while Juan Rico, Senior Manager for Oniro and Cloud Programs

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at the Eclipse Foundation, will reflect on device **interoperability**, with an in-depth look at the collaboration between OpenHarmony and the Oniro project, with which the Eclipse Foundation is working to solve one of the biggest challenges in the IoT and smart devices sector.

Also highly anticipated is the **Data Spaces** track, which will provide insights into how organisations can use open data and data spaces to create value, foster innovation and enable data sharing while addressing legal, technical and ethical issues. Speakers include Artemis Yagou, a PhD student at the Research Institute for the History of Science and Technology at the Deutsches Museum, and Petteri Kivimäki, CTO of the Nordic Institute for Interoperability Solutions. There will also be plenty of opportunities for **developers**, with dedicated talks and workshops, such as the seminar on the OpenJDK distribution and the presentation of the Apisense project, developed in cooperation with Open Data Hub, to recover invalid or corrupt data from a REST API. **Cybersecurity** will also take centre stage, with presentations on emerging threats, defensive tactics and the most effective technologies to protect yourself, with a focus on JSON Web Tokens led by Dominika Bobik, software engineer at Microsoft. **Fediverse** also lands at SFSCON with a thematic workshop on the reinterpretation of "decentralised" social media. And more: space for **Community Building** to give participants the opportunity to really become part of the open source community, and the **OW2** track, which will focus on the Good Governance Initiative developed by the OSPO Alliance to assess open source awareness, compliance and governance in any type of organisation.

THE NOVELTIES - In line with the pioneering spirit that has always distinguished the Free Software rebels, the new edition will be accompanied by many novelties. Girls will be given space with a **workshop dedicated to Open Source enthusiasts**, organised in collaboration with the Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE) and the SheTech Trento and Bolzano/Bozen community, while children will be the protagonists of an event organised by the **miniNOI Science Club for Kids**, the workshop that introduces children to the world of science and automation. In addition, the children's book **"Ada and Zangemann"**, a story about the journey of the famous inventor Zangemann and the girl Ada, a curious tinkerer, is being reprinted due to the interest shown in previous editions.

HACKATHON AND AWARDS - SFSCON is also a place of great certainties and unfailing comebacks, such as the **NOI Hackathon SFSCON Edition**, 24 non-stop hours of hacking, collaboration, co-creation and development, during which 90 young participants will have to respond to business challenges set by companies and generate new ideas. The best teams will win prizes provided by the sponsoring companies. In cooperation with the Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE) and the Linux User Group Bolzano-Bulsan, the **European SFS Award** will be given to the person who has contributed most to the spread of Free Software culture in Europe, while the **SFS Award** will be given to the person who has contributed most to the development of Free Software in South Tyrol.

The event will also return to a pure presence in order to create even more space for interaction. 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, Symphonie Prime, Vates, allotropia, Made in Cima, Zirkonzahn, 1006.org, Catch Solve, Christian Gapp, ecosteer, endian, Peer, qbus, RMBtec, (studiohug). And thanks to our partners: EDIH NOI, FSFE (Free Software Foundation Europe), Linux Magazine, LUG BZ, MiniNOI, Open Source JobHub, OW2, SheTech, Speck&Tech, Sticker Mule, unibz, WUD.

All information about the conference is available at: www.sfscon.it. SFSCON is co-funded by the EU within the framework of the ERDF project 1048 IMPACT.