

PRESS RELEASE

Bolzano/Bozen, 8th November 2024

SFSCON 2024 kicks off with hundreds of attendees

Open Source Festival at NOI Techpark starts with awards ceremony for Bram Moolenaar, Angelika Stuefer and Franca Riesch De Pasquale

Bolzano, 8th November 2024 – SFSCON, one of the leading Free Software conferences, kicked off this morning at NOI Techpark in Bozen/Bolzano. More than 600 Open Source enthusiasts from all over Europe have arrived to attend the 24th edition of SFSCON. “Today, NOI Techpark symbolises South Tyrol’s commitment to digital innovation. SFSCON is the perfect platform to promote a culture of openness and collaboration, which is essential to establish South Tyrol as a reference centre for technology,” said Philipp Achammer, Provincial Councillor in charge of NOI Techpark.

One of the highlights was the **presentation of the European SFS Award. Bram Moolenaar**, the creator of Vim, the world-renowned Open Source text editor, was awarded posthumously. The award was presented by the **Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE)** and the **Linux User Group Bolzano-Bozen (LUGBZ)** in recognition of his tireless efforts to promote Free Software worldwide.

For their contribution at local level, LUGBZ presented the **SFS Award to Angelika Stuefer and Franca Riesch De Pasquale of VKE, an association of play and leisure camps**, for the **MiniBZ** project. Since 1990, thousands of children have participated in MiniBZ, a role-playing game that allows them to understand how everyday technology works, using recycled PCs, all equipped with Open Source software. In this way, children can directly experience a secure, open, networked and sustainable environment based on OS and Linux software. Aim: to spread awareness of Free Software throughout the population, starting with the youngest.

To further support the Open Source culture locally, SFSCON has planned many activities for the general public. These include: the **workshop dedicated to female Open Source enthusiasts**, organised in collaboration with FSFE and the SheTech Trento and Bozen/Bolzano community, aimed at encouraging women and girls to get involved in programming. In addition, children from 7 to 10 years old can participate in the **“Scratch Stories with Ada & Zangemann” MiniNOI workshop**. The event will conclude with the presentation of the winners of the **NOI Hackathon SFSCON Edition**.

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