

PROPOSAL FOR SPONSORSHIP

FREESB: Freedom Software in the Balkan Conference 2010

Introduction

FreeSB 2010 is the first in a series about *Free Open Source Software (FLOSS) in the Balkans*. It will travel from country to country, year to year to different locations. The Conference will gather professionals, academics and enthusiasts who share the vision that software should be free and open for the community to develop and customize to its needs and that knowledge is a communal property and free and open to everyone.

The idea of FREESB comes from Flavia Marzano who had been key in making the SFK09 possible.

Milos Rancic has been our contact in Belgrade and he had the idea of a regional conference that would bring the Balkans together.

After successfully hosting SFK09, FLOSS Kosova has decided to help create a BalkanWide conference. It should be more broader and not focused on one country. But it should also help build up the local teams where the conference is hosted.

By starting in Albania, we hope to help create a community there that will continue on next year to host it's own conference.

The FREESB is interested in making the conference a traditional event, which will gather a regional audience once a year for lectures and presentations by a variety of international and national professionals who will present the latest developments in the global FLOSS community. The conference should bring all the activists from the Balkans to one place for cooperation.

The conference will be used as a meeting point for a network of individuals and companies with the aim of sponsoring and initiating projects which benefit the people of Balkans by establishing it as one of the European centers of FLOSS, which should result in commercial benefits for the Region.

The conference aims to introduce Balkan businesses and public to low cost alternatives to expensive proprietary software, train local people in the latest developments in software and social-collaboration tools, promote respect for legal licenses, and introduce the public to the best methods for localization of software and knowledge

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the conference and FREESB is to promote, develop, distribute and support:

- Free/Libre Software as defined by the [GNU.org](http://www.gnu.org) project.
- Open Source software as defined by the <http://www.opensource.org>.
- Open and participatory knowledge such as that supported by the [Wikimedia Foundation](http://www.wikimedia.org).
- Information technology education such as [Open Courseware](http://ocw.mit.edu) from MIT.
- Free culture as defined by the Creative Commons.
- Open society using open and free communication standards such as those from the W3C.org.

FLOSS Kosova

Free Libre Open Source Software in Kosovo (FLOSSK) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established to promote software freedom, open source software, free culture and open knowledge in Kosovo. FLOSSK supports local initiatives in helping businesses and individuals move to legally owned software, education about technological standards, and openness in culture and knowledge, a global movement that originally started more than 25 years ago.

FLOSSK has successfully organized a Software Freedom Conference in Prishtina and collaborating with existing organizations that are interested in creating, developing or simply using free/libre and open source software – based on content/code that can be altered by the users themselves. The direct function of FLOSSK is the unselfish promotion of Software Freedom, Open Source Software and Free Knowledge as well as creating and propagating the awareness of the related philosophical and social questions.

FLOSSK Official Website: <http://flossk.org>

Sponsoring

FREESB, a major event for the Balkans, will attract public attention for the Balkans both regionally and globally. Its higher goal and mission of promoting education, knowledge and software freedom is a new concept in the Balkan market and will put Balkan on the map of the global movement. Supporting an international conference dedicated to educating the Balkans about free legal alternatives to software for business, education, and entertainment would be a direct support for the legitimate development of Balkan and an infusion of technologically educated Balkan workforce.

Companies and other institutions offering their partnership to the FREESB will gain media attention and promote their image through Conference activities. Please let us know if there is any interest in discussing further how we can mutually benefit by making this conference a reality.

FLOSS Kosova:

James Mike Dupont – is Co-Chair of the Conference Steering Working Group of the first Software Freedom Conference in Kosovo. Mike is the initiator and Member of the Board of FLOSS Kosova, the organization that is co-organizing Software Freedom Kosovo 2009 along with the University of Prishtina. He specializes in data extraction and C++ programming.

Contact: james.mike.dupont@flossk.org

Shkumbin Brestovci – is a Steering Group Member and Member of the Board of FLOSS Kosova. Bresta is General Director at Rrota, a successful web and design company in Kosovo.

Contact: bresta@flossk.org

Arianit Dobroshi – is a Steering Group Member and Finance and Sponsorship Group Co-Chair. He is Member of the Board of FLOSS Kosova, where he does community outreach and public relations. His background is in Aviation Management.

Contact: arianit.dobroshi@flossk.org

Bernard Nikaj – is Co-Chair of the Conference Program (Papers) Working Group. He holds a MSc in Analysis, Design and Management of Information Systems from LSE and is interested in crowd-sourcing.

Contact: bernard.nikaj@flossk.org

From Regional Balkan Groups :

Albanian Association for Software Freedom and Open Knowledge aka **FLOSS**

Albania is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established to promote Software Freedom, Open Source Software, Free Culture and Open Knowledge in Albania.

AASFOK/FLOSSAL in collaboration with **FLOSSK** aims to organize and host **FreeSB 2010** in University Ismail Qemali of Vlora.

Baki Goxhaj - Is a Open Source movement supporter. He specializes in web design and development.

Contact: banago@gmail.com

Mirel Lame - Is a Open Source movement supporter. He specializes in Linux OS.

Contact: mirellame@gmail.com

Dashamir Hoxha - Is a Open Source movement supporter.

Dritan Kiqi - Is a Open Source movement supporter.