

Proposal for OOoCon 2009

Budapest, Hungary

Section 1. Mandatory information

Proposed Date

- **Proposed Date for the conference:**
Early September of 2009

Location (country, city)

As Hungary is situated in the heart of Central Europe there are 12 nations with strong local OpenOffice.org communities within 600 km of the Hungarian capital: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The Budapest conference would also contribute to an accelerated building of open source communities in Central and Eastern Europe as well as supporting the growing regional demand for Open Source solutions.

Budapest is a majestic and impressive metropolis with a rich history. It is comprised of hilly Buda on the River Danube's western bank, and flat, vibrant Pest on the eastern side. The city boasts elegant historical buildings and monuments as well as numerous unique and celebrated thermal baths. It is also celebrated for its restaurants, wine culture and night-life.

Special Visa or entry requirements

EU citizens are not required to obtain a visa.

Non-EU citizens require a visa to enter Hungary unless a special agreement exists between your home country and Hungary. These countries are:

The United States, Canada, Australia, Ireland, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, New Zealand.

If you are one of these nationalities, you may enter Hungary without a visa for stays of up to 90 days in any six-month period.

A visa is required for citizens of the following countries:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, China, Columbia, Cuba, Ecuador, Georgia, India, Iran, Yemen, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malta, Morocco, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Peru, Republic of Macedonia, Republic of the Philippines, Russia, Seychelles, Serbia, South-Africa, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam

Obtaining a visa

If you require a visa to visit Hungary, please visit the following page:

<http://www.traveldocs.com/hu/vr.htm>.

If you are still unsure whether you require a visa, please check the website of the / [Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#).

N.B. No vaccinations are required to enter Hungary.

Conference venue

The site of the conference is the Eotvos Lorand University (ELTE), which has 3,500 students in its IT faculty at the “[Innovation and Technology Park](#)” of Budapest (which employs 7,500 people in the IT, telecoms and software industries).

As the conference centre building offers a combination of smaller and larger rooms for both workshops and larger sessions, and has hosted several global events in recent years (of the size of OOoCon and above), it would facilitate more speeches, workshops, presentations and roundtable discussions than at previous OpenOffice.org conferences.

Conference facilities

The building is equipped with advanced facilities such as a **high-tech presentation hall** capable of holding 600 people, along with several different size **auditorium with PCs** and a **WIFI network** all in the same building. Accommodation and Budapest's city center are also easily accessible from the event site with public transport.

Our experiences proved that the infrastructure (**high-quality sound system**, conference hall, Wifi, special IT rooms with PCs) makes the venue an ideal setting for this kind of conference.

An attractive web page will be built to ensure delivery of up-to-date information to guests as well as detailed materials for the press. We will **broadcast the presentations of the keynote speakers in realtime** on the dedicated website. To **ease social networking** we will publish a personal page with a photo and short description of each speaker and registered member that choose this option.

We would like to allow numerous creatives, technologists, scientists and programmers the chance to share their interesting ideas at the conference. For that reason, one of the days of this conference will be set up as a BarCamp, at which a huge number of spokespeople can propose a presentation and attendees will themselves decide on which conference topics and activities will take place on that day. Every registered guest can vote online on the official web page of the conference.

Accommodation

September is the favourite period of tourists for city breaks, so the organizers are ready to make block reservations for the participants. The organizers will also give support (tel., email) to help you to make the reservation in the recommended accommodation. All hotels recommended are standard European quality and price.

External transport links

Hungary is located in the centre of Europe, therefore all the major worldwide airlines (such as British Airways, Lufthansa, Air France, Alitalia, SAS, Aeroflot, etc) fly to Ferihegy Airport. The Hungarian national airline – MALEV also offers daily connections to all the European capitals.

An average return flight ticket from any European country to Budapest may cost between EUR 150 and EUR 450, although flying by low-cost airlines can make big savings.

Budapest Airport: <http://www.bud.hu/english>

Internal transport links

We will provide a three-day ticket for all means of public transport in Budapest to all registered guests.

Check the link of “Budapest Transport”: <http://www.bkv.hu/english/home/index.html>

Team Lead (main contact person)

Peter SZAKAL ([Open SKM Agency Ltd.](#))

Team Members

- Gabor SZENTIVANYI Phd., [LIPSZ](#) (Linux Industrial Association), Hungary
- Daniel DARABOS, [MultiRáció Ltd.](#), Hungary
- Zsolt BAGOLY Phd, [Eötvös University](#), Hungary
- Rudolf FERENC Phd., [University of Szeged](#), Hungary
- Attila SUHAJDA, [IBM Hungary](#), Hungary
- Tamas POLNER, [SUN Microsystems Hungary](#)
- Kazmer KOLESZAR, [MultiRáció Ltd.](#), Hungary
- Andras TIMAR, [FSF.hu](#), project owner of the Hungarian Native-Lang project

Local events taking place in parallel to the conference

- [International Half Marathon](#) – 6 September 2009
- [Szeptember Feszt.](#), Gastronomy, Culture and Entertainment – 4-6 September 2009
- [Budapest International Fair](#) – date: 10-14 September 2008
- [Budapest International Wine Festival 2009](#) – date: 9-13. September 2009

Recommended social activities (half-day programmes) for the guests

Sightseeing: Budapest sightseeing bus tour with English-speaking guide: includes visit to the interior of the Matthias Church and Fishermen’s Bastion.

Cookery Courses: Visit the City Market Hall and prepare classic Hungarian dishes with the help of our expert chef. Guests can enjoy their own dishes, accompanied by a selection of Hungarian wines.

Visit to the Opera House: a backstage tour of this stunning building, including a glass of champagne and a short concert given by an opera singer.

Danube sightseeing: includes drink and informative tour. The tour can be supplemented with lunch or dinner on the boat. Surcharge: from EUR 20, depending on menu chosen.

Excursion to Szentendre (artists' village, 20 km north of Budapest): Walking tour of the town's narrow atmospheric streets, museum visits and shopping opportunities. Coffee and cakes in a traditional café.

Other useful links

Hungarian Tourist Board

<http://www.hungarytourism.hu> - Official site of the Hungarian Tourist Board Tourinform.

Travel to Hungary

<http://www.traveltohungary.com/english> - Clear tourist information on Budapest.

Budapest Week

<http://www.budapestweek.hu> - News, restaurants, performances, exhibitions – all that in English.

Local OpenOffice.org information

Large local OpenOffice.org deployments

- The Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture uses OpenOffice.org on over 340 computers.
- A government IT project entitled E-Magyarország includes the utilisation of OpenOffice.org on more than 2,500 computers.
- The local governments of Szeged, Torokbalint, Salgotarjan, Monorierdo, Zalakomar and other municipalities use OpenOffice.org.
- The Budapest Metropolitan Court employs OpenOffice.org on over 1,500 computers.
- The regional court of Vas County utilises OpenOffice.org.
- The Hungarian Ministry of Defense has initiated a project and employs OpenOffice.org on some 100 computers.
- Universities and high schools in various cities such as Szeged, Budapest, Debrecen, Nyiregyhaza, Kisvarda, Gyula, and others, use different OpenOffice.org code-based commercial distributions (EuroOffice, StarOffice).

Names of local OpenOffice.org developers

- Rudolf FERENC Phd., [University of Szeged](#)
- Andras TIMAR, [FSF.hu](#)
- Szabolcs BAN, [FSF.hu](#)
- Laszlo NEMETH, [FSF.hu](#)
- Kalman SZALAI, developer of [OxygenOffice](#)
- Daniel DARABOS, [MultiRáció Ltd.](#)

Names of local OpenOffice.org vendors/partners (potential sponsors)

- [Prime Minister's Office e-Government Centre](#)
- [FSF.hu](#)
- [IBM Hungary](#)
- [Novell Hungary](#)
- [MultiRáció](#)
- [Open SKM Agency](#)
- [SUN Microsystems Hungary](#)
- [ULX Open Source Consultation and Distribution](#)
- [Eötvös University](#)
- [Budapest University of Technology and Economics \(BME\)](#)
- [University of Szeged](#)

Section 2. Proposal

Key Question: Why should the Community award OOoCon 2009 to our team?

We are proud to propose Budapest as a location for the 2009 OpenOffice.org Conference.

Hungary has a **large and enthusiastic community of OpenOffice.org localizers and developers** who have managed numerous OpenOffice.org related developments: extensions (OxygenOffice, EuroOffice), quality assurance of OpenOffice.org code, the Hungarian spell check library (HunSpell) and several value-added localized OpenOffice.org code-based products (StarOffice, EuroOffice). A consortium of local companies and universities won a EUR 2.1 million tender in 2008. The aim of this three-year project is to develop a software quality assurance service-package for open document format applications and thereby increase the level of inter-interopability of OpenOffice.org. This will significantly strengthen its position on the worldwide corporate market.

The OOoCon 2009 event in Budapest is already attracting a **large number of potential supporters and sponsors**, including the government and universities, as well as multinational and local vendors, as our preliminary negotiations with them have clearly demonstrated.

All the recommended **accommodation offers easy access to the location of the conference** (InfoPark) and also to the city center. We will also provide a **three-day ticket for all means of public transport in Budapest to all registered guests**.

To avoid any problems we will ensure a printed **information package** (city map, emergency card, conference map, schedule, important telephone numbers, recommended bars and restaurants, etc) and will send the same files by email to all our registered guests. We also guarantee a **contact person, who will be on hand** in the event of any problems, from co-ordination to visa issues.

The organizers of OOoCon 2009 are offering a **sponsorship program for long-term OpenOffice.org contributors** - who will all be offered a hotel room free of charge.

We offer the following entertaining facilities for our guests free of charge:

- **Banquet in the Salon of [Bath Szechenyi](#)**
Aperitif and wine tasting, Experience the celebrated Szechenyi Bath
- **Excursion to the historic royal city of [Visegrad](#)**
Visit to the famous fortress of King Mathias, Dinner at a medieval [renaissance-style restaurant](#), “Knights' Tournaments” - special medieval surprise for the guests

Vote Budapest to host the best event in the history of the OpenOffice.org Conference!