

Proposal to host LibreOffice Conference 2025 in Budapest, Hungary

The team

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- From ELTE Faculty of Informatics: Ágnes, Erdősné Németh
- Handling Visa and Sponsor relations: Gábor Kelemen

The organizing entity

LibreOffice Conference 2025 would be co-organized by FSF.hu Foundation and ELTE University Faculty of Informatics.

The [FSF.hu Foundation](#) is about 25 years old, created for supporting the Hungarian localization and marketing of FLOSS. Its leadership is comprised of 3 people, all long term contributors of free software localization or

FSF.hu offered - on top of handling finances - to issue VISA invitation letters.

You can see a list of countries where VISA is required to travel from on the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs page at: <https://konzinfo.mfa.gov.hu/en/visa-free-travel-hungary>

The main venue

Venue is Hungary, Budapest, [ELTE Faculty of Informatics](#). Their intro video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HE4JAGipWU>

The venue is a large university campus with enough larger and smaller rooms, computer labs and open spaces for community gatherings to cover the needs of the typical LibreOffice conference.

The expected date of the conference is the week of September 1 – 5.

The venue offers reliable Wi-Fi connection that should fit the needs of a conference this size.

The auditoriums used for the Conference would be wheelchair accessible.

The university can provide personnel for doing video recording for the main conference days.

Getting to Budapest

Budapest can be accessed by air from many European cities including large change over hubs, which offer connections from other continents. For details see the [Budapest Airports page](#).

Flixbus is also an option from many Central European cities. See more:

<https://shop.flixbus.co.uk/>

[Railway connections](#) are available from neighboring countries and some more distant ones (Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia) and several larger cities in these countries.

More info how to travel to Budapest: <https://www.budapest.net/getting-to-budapest>

Accommodation

Primary accommodation would be the Ibis Styles hotel just across the Danube river:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/TSA8fqWexeqBaWRq9>

You can search other accommodation at [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) or on [szallas.hu](https://www.szallas.hu)

Motivation

The main motivation of the community is that 2025 will be the 15 year anniversary in the projects life and it would be fun to bring everyone back to the city where it started in 2010.

Other information

History of the LibreOffice project in Hungary dates back to 2001. Soon after the source code of OpenOffice.org was released, a commercial fork (MagyarOffice by MultiRacio) was released. A few months later 150 free software enthusiasts translated the user interface into Hungarian over a week-end, and released Hungarian OpenOffice.org binaries. It was a big success and organizers of this effort decided to form the FSF.hu Foundation that still exists and has been instrumental in localization and development of OpenOffice.org and later LibreOffice by spending the collected donation money (€ 7–10k yearly) on good projects and also helping out with voluntary work.

The biggest results are development of linguistic tools, such as hunspell spell checker, improved hyphenation, LightProof grammar checker, number to text conversion library and also support of advanced typography, such as graphite fonts. LibreLogo also can be mentioned here, which is a popular tool in a small niche in education. The Board of FSF.hu Foundation endorses the activity of the organizing team of LibOCon 2025 Budapest, like they also were among the organizers of OpenOffice Conference 2010.

Members of the current organizing team came from different backgrounds. There are veteran open source activists, who have been around for 25 years, there are LibreOffice developers, there are former members of the NISZ LibreOffice team, who have identified, fixed and tested several hundred issues in LibreOffice over the years and provided support to thousands of civil servants, while the Hungarian Government sponsored this kind of activity (unfortunately NISZ LibreOffice team has been disbanded, but many team members continued to work on LibreOffice elsewhere). This diversity ensures success in organizing LibOCon 2025.

During the past 25 years the popularity of open source software in Hungary varied over the time. We had bright years, full of hope. Nowadays the situation is ambiguous. On one hand open source is ubiquitous, on the other hand there are cheap (or free) and good quality proprietary alternatives. But at least we can say that there is still a strong open source community, many open source developers came from this community, and popularity of free software (Linux desktop, LibreOffice, Firefox etc.) are still higher than in the neighbouring countries.