

GUADEC 2008 – Istanbul Proposal



"There, God and mankind, nature and the art created such a beautiful place, which is worth seeing."

Alphonse de Lamartine

Preface – Why Istanbul?

GUADEC is the most important get to gather for GNOME developers and users. It's the most effective synergy factory to make GNOME better than what it was and empower it using powers of "Freedom Lovers". As volunteers of the GUADEC 2008 – Istanbul, we believe that good people that will make GNOME better, should taste the beauty of our World. The beauty they will see, will affect beauty of GNOME. And we believe that people should see Istanbul, breath in it and live some time with it. GNOME is people. Thus, GNOME should see the *Istanbul*.

For us, having GUADEC in Istanbul has so much meaning. We're not living in a country which was focused by Free Software world. It's not because we're incompetent or lacking resources. It's because we had no motivation to bring people here. We believe that GUADEC will change this. We believe that we can make better organizations than proprietary software companies do in here. We need to show that. GUADEC can give us a chance to prove it.

About Istanbul

Istanbul, Greek: Κωνσταντινούπολη, historically Byzantium and later Constantinople) is Turkey's most populous city, and its cultural and financial center. The city covers 25 districts of the Istanbul province. It is located at 41° N 29° E, on the Bosphorus strait, and encompasses the natural harbor known as the Golden Horn, in the northwest of the country. It extends both on the European (Thrace) and on the Asian (Anatolia) side of the Bosphorus, and **is thereby the only metropolis in the world which is situated on two continents**. In its long history, Istanbul served as the capital city of the Roman Empire (330-395), the Byzantine Empire (395-1204 and 1261-1453), the Latin Empire (1204-1261), and the Ottoman Empire (1453-1922). The city was chosen as joint European Capital of Culture for 2010. The "Historic Areas of Istanbul" were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985.

– *Courtesy of Wikipedia*

International Transportation

Since Turkey is residing in the middle of Europe and Asia, transportation has always been no issue

for Turkey and Istanbul is no exception.

There are two International Airports, Ataturk Airport and Sabiha Gokcen Airport, in Istanbul. There are daily flights to all around the world.

Of course there're alternatives to air transportation for people arriving from Europe and Middle East. Istanbul is well connected to Europe inter land. Participants can use their own cars, or train. TCDD, Turkish Railways has Inter rail agreement so cheap travel opportunities are wide open.

Public Transportation

As being one of the crowded cities in the World, Istanbul had improved its public transportation system in the last decades. Traffic jam is a big problem for the city, but that depends where you're located in the city, and where your destination will be. Prospective conference place is at the middle of Istanbul. Fortunately GUADEC participants will experience this problem much more less than Istanbul citizens. They will also be able to use tubes to arrive conference place.



For sightseeing, and discovering the city, transportation vehicles are various, and very cheap compared to other cities of the Europe. It's fantastic that you can use either of ferries and buses in order to pass the Bosphorus. A very detailed public transportation information can be accessed using [wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_transport_in_Istanbul):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_transport_in_Istanbul

Accommodation

Istanbul is a touristic city. There're lots of quality hotels to stay, moreover they are cheap due to low currency value of Turkey. We might also have chance to use dorms for participants need cheap (ie. free) accommodation if conference date does not coincide with summer school. Our price check in order to give us some idea by near campus hotel, which has four stars, with pre-booking and numbers over hundred shows that we can deal for \$30 per night. Of course less quality and cheaper accommodation is not hard to find. That is one of the cheapest prices for Europe with similar quality.

After Hours

If there's something that would regret people attending GUADEC, that must be boring post sessions. And if there's a place in the World that you have unlimited way of joy during day, that place is Istanbul. Istanbul is 24 hour live city. There's no way that you might end up with empty roads, or closed shops at city centers. That will make our job easy to enchant GUADEC experience, with parties, and entertainment.

History, is of course biggest gift of the Istanbul. That's why it has chosen as **Capital of Culture** for 2010. In Istanbul, history and nature are engaged. Buildings dating back to 14th century are still used by contemporary urban life.

Cultural heritage of Istanbul makes it a cultural mosaic. On same street it's possible to see a mosque, a church and a synagogue. Culture is harvested by the hospitality of the people living in Istanbul. Every culture had chance to sow its seeds in Istanbul. We're very confident that GUADEC participants will be amazed with the friendliness of these people.

About Free Software In Turkey

Events

Free Software & Open Source Days

Free Software & Open Source Days is one of the biggest activities in Turkey since four years. It is pioneered by Bilgi University which is located in Istanbul. Before Free Software & Open Source Days open source workshops and seminars was organized by Bilgi University. Every year free days organization hosts seminars, workshops and various activities in these days. Not only national but also international guests attend these days and give seminars about open source.

Linux and Free Software Festival

Linux and Free Software Festival is the biggest activity with the subject of free software in Turkey. The first festival was organized and pioneered by LKD (LUG in Turkish) in 2002. The VI. and the latest festival was organized in May 2007 in Ankara (capital of Turkey). Festivals were organized in both Istanbul and Ankara for seven years since 2002. The goal of the first festival was to form a synergy where Linux and free software volunteers could come together. This was the first and biggest free software activity and meeting in Turkey which had a great impression on the community.



Picture of volunteers after the Linux and Free Software Festival 2007

The festival goes on four days. In this time duration technical seminars, workshops, Linux game tournaments, treasure hunt, Internet cafe with Linux installed computers are only some of the activities performed in Linux and Free Software Festival. In this activities not only free software volunteers but also delegates of companies come together with free software community in Turkey. Every year Year Of The Penguin Awards are given in different categories to motivate free software volunteers. The candidates and winners are selected with the votes of members.

In the latest festival more than one thousand visitors attended more than fifty seminars and workshops.

User Groups and Organizations

LKD

Linux Users Group (LUG, in Turkish LKD) was established in 1995 during the '1st Internet Conference' by Linux Community as an informal association. Linux community started in 1992 at Universities and mailing lists was established to communicate within the community. In 1995, community got together for the first time in person, confirmed a desire to work together in a virtual association to support Linux and the free software philosophy. Since 1995 up to the half part of 2000 Turkish free software volunteers under the name of 'Turkish Linux Users Group' had been trying to promote this philosophy, the softwares of its productions and encourage to use them and softwares to be developed in this model.

Informal 'Turkish Linux Users' become a chartered association in May 2000, realized their first general committee meeting in November 2001 under the name 'Linux Users Association'.

Turkish Linux Users Group aims to be focal point for all Free Software Related Activities; a platform involving all related parties, and a promoter, organizer of Linux and Open Source activities within

the country. Linux Users Group (LUG) will run webs, mailing lists, ftps; conduct seminars, courses, festivals, all kinds of meetings; promote successful case studies, organize roadshows; to promote Linux and Open Software Community, bring together, academic, commercial, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Website: <http://lkd.org.tr/about.us.php>

GNOME Türkiye

GNOME Turkey is an organization which was founded in October 2004 by a group of GNOME user. The basic and primary goal of GNOME Turkey is to organize a community including software developers, translators, users and specialists who are using or interested in GNOME in Turkey and make up a know-how focus on GNOME to support GNOME usage. Currently GNOME Turkey organization gives the services below to achieve this goal:

- Lectures and seminars about Linux Desktop technologies especially focus on GNOME.
- Informing media about new GNOME Releases and important news with press releases.
- Opening new technical committees or supporting people to open new committees like that.
- Translation activities for complete and in quality Turkish support of GNOME.
- Maintaining e-mail lists and web infrastructure to help and inform people in a central platform.



After a dinner with some people from GNOME Türkiye and Miguel de Icaza when he visited Turkey.

GNOME Turkey regularly arrange meetings sometimes with people who are working for GNOME Project in different cities of Turkey. Many people who are interested in GNOME comes together in these meeting and can share their ideas face-to-face.

Website: <http://www.gnome.org.tr>

KDE Türkiye

KDE Turkey is an organization which was founded in October 2004 to spread KDE and support its usage in Turkey. Organization has translation effort and also gives support to KDE users and developers in Turkey. They arrange meetings especially in local activities.

Webpage: <http://www.kde.org.tr>

OpenOffice.org Türkiye

Openoffice.org Turkey is a group of volunteers who are working to give Turkish localization support for Openoffice.org and spread its usage. They have been giving seminars and trainings related with OpenOffice.org. They have an important role in the usage of openofficein chambers, government offices, companies and etc.

Website: <http://www.openoffice.org.tr>

Governmental Organizations

TUBITAK

Turkish Scientific & Technological Research Council of Turkey

TUBITAK is the biggest scientific & technological organization of Turkey which is directly supported by government. It is divided into different institutes to perform R&D tasks in a multidisciplinary fashion.



TUBİTAK NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ELECTRONICS AND CRYPTOLOGY (UEKAE) works on joint projects together with private sector companies and government authorities by utilizing the TEMPEST Test Center, Acoustics Test Center, Hardware-Software Common Criteria Test Center, Cryptographic Algorithm Design and Test Center, Product Development, Electronic Warfare, Microelectronics and Optoelectronics departments.

The institute have been working on a Turkish Linux Distro named Pardus for several years and support the usage of Pardus Linux in the public. Pardus Linux involves new and different projects which are accelerate the migration to Linux and free software in Turkey. Institute sponsors Pardus and free software.

EMO

Electrical Engineers Chamber (EMO in Turkish) is a professional organization of Turkey which has members of electrical, electronics and computer engineering fields. It has almost 350000 members all over the country. Chamber is using Linux and free software in their computers and organize regular seminars both its members and workers. Currently an active committee is working on free software related topics inside the chamber. Moreover is one of the supporters of Linux and Free Software Festival. In addition to this 10000 Pardus Linux CD was distributed by EMO.

About GUADEC 2008

Organization Committee

Organization Committee is composed of representatives from supporting organizations and groups. GNOME Turkiye will lead whole GUADEC 2008 organization and will be the responsible party, ie. contact for GNOME Foundation Board. However supporting groups will be equally involved with “making it happen”.

Pledged supporters are listed on “Supporters” section.

Conference Place

Key for success of the organization is Organization place without any doubt. We spent very good deal of time to decide on which place is best for our bid. Our criteria while electing prospective place are easy of transportation, technical infrastructure and cost.

We had best offer from Computer Club of Istanbul Technical University. ITU Sabancı Cultural and Conventional Center, fulfills all these criteria we stated above.

Sabancı Cultural and Conventional Center

Sabancı CCC is stated in Maslak, Istanbul. Since it's stated in Campus of ITU, transportation to Sabancı CCC is numerous. Both underground, and regular bus connections exists. It's also possible to arrange special services specific to GUADEC. Apart from transportation, its modern architecture and technological infrastructure is well suited for conferences like GUADEC.

Sabancı CCC is stated in ITU campus, and campus has its own security.



Sabancı CCC has one big conference room for keynotes and four relatively small workshop rooms.

There's also one restaurant, one Executive bar and Cafe-Patisserie. It's not guaranteed to be at service for GUADEC but at least restaurant can be used.

As whole campus, Sabanci CCC has wireless and wired network connection with Internet access. We can build a local WLAN special to GUADEC if necessary, as University ICT is also supporting this event.

We don't need to pay any fees for this event as it will be co-organized by University Social Club. We can also get some funding from University as it will be an International Event and Sabanci CCC has funds to support these kind of events.

Website: <http://www.sdcm.itu.edu.tr/>

Building
Entrance



Sabancı Cultural and Conventional Center, is centered at one of the important roper points in Ayazaga Campus of ITU. Entrance and Main Foyer is combined with transparent portal, which samples modern and contemporary architecture.

Atrium



Sabancı CCC, with atrium inside main foyer, has capacity to host waiting participants with Cafe Patisserie. We can use this place for sponsor stands, and for info desk.

Conference Room



Conference room has 210 m² foyer for info desk and registration area, and 650 m² whole area. It has capacity for more than 500 sitting capacity also well suited with sound and audio equipment. Keynote talks and appealing session talks can be hosted in conference room.

Workshop/Session Rooms

Sabancı CCC has four workshop/session rooms, which is equipped with video equipment and enough space to host 60-70 people.

Supporters

Board Contact: Barış Çiçek

GNOME Türkiye

Barış Çiçek
Deniz Koçak (also EMO member)
Talat Uyaer
and many others.

GNOME Türkiye pledges to be the organizer of this event.

ITU Computer and Mathematics Club

Barış Özay (ITU CMC Board Member)
Kerem Can Karakaş (From ITU)

ITU Computer and Mathematics Club will be co-organizers and they will help with binding with University Administration. They will also share their local contacts for sponsorship gained from their previous activities, like IT Human Resource Days (<http://www.ikz.itu.edu.tr/>).

LKD

Ümit Bozkır
Ümran Kumar (Old WSoC student)

LKD is biggest Linux User Group NGO, and organizing Linux Festival every year, they pledged their support for sharing their experience and volunteer power.

MMIstanbul.org

Murat K. Girgin (President)

Not directly Free Software group, but MMIstanbul is an Adobe User Group and pledged support for multimedia and design related work of this event.