



## Strasbourg application to host GUADEC 2013



# Table of Contents

Summary.....	3
Key arguments of the application.....	3
Location.....	3
Date.....	3
Contact.....	3
Strasbourg.....	4
The city.....	4
Food and catering.....	4
Accommodation.....	5
Low cost.....	5
Hotels.....	5
Transport.....	5
Coming to Strasbourg.....	5
Moving within Strasbourg.....	5
Free Software in the area.....	7
Contributors.....	7
User groups.....	7
Businesses.....	7
Events.....	7
RMLL 2011.....	8
GNOME.....	8
Université de Strasbourg.....	9
Presentation.....	9
Free Software and the University.....	9
Campus.....	9
Building.....	9
Organization.....	11
Budget.....	11
Funding.....	11
Cost.....	11



## **Summary**

### ***Key arguments of the application***

Strasbourg is a central hub for Europe, widely connected and easily reachable from other places.

The university, which is friendly to Free Software, provides facilities that are ideal for the event.

The event would be a good opportunity to bring back the Users in GUADEC and to foster a local community.

### ***Location***

France, Strasbourg, Université de Strasbourg (Campus de l'Esplanade), in the Centre de culture numérique (Digital culture center).

### ***Date***

To be defined, late July 2013.

### ***Contact***

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# Strasbourg

## *The city*

Strasbourg is at the center of Europe, geographically as well as historically. It is the seat of many European institutions and hosts many international events.

It is also the capital of the Bas-Rhin department and Alsace region.

With its special place in history, Strasbourg offers many opportunities for sight-seeing.



*Strasbourg Cathedral towering above the Old Town,  
source: Wikipedia (Jonathan Martz) – CC-BY-SA*

The museums cover the different eras the town has gone through, from prehistory to today, as well as many artistic movements.

Wandering in the town center also lets one discover the variety of architecture styles.

At night in summer, two free spectacles are organized: a light and music show that allows to discover the cathedral literally under a different light, and a 25 minutes show with music, light and video projection, and water jets on the banks of the Ill river.

## ***Food and catering***

The Alsatian cuisine is very typical, with its world know dishes such as sauerkraut or flammekueche, but many other ones are also to discover. Attendees will find a variety of choice in town for their evening meals, with prices starting at around 10 euros.

Lunches will be had in the student restaurant which will be opened for us as the students are on holiday at this time of the year and will cost around 8 euros. There are also many low cost restaurants in the vicinity of the venue due to the usual population of students.

## ***Accommodation***

### **Low cost**

The university has rooms for its many students which are mostly free at the time the event would take place. All rooms have network connectivity and are located 10 minutes away from the campus. Cost would be at around 25 euros per person a day.

A second option is a high-end youth hostel in town center (15 minutes walk from the venue) called CIARUS. There are 300 beds, meeting rooms, a lounge area and a possibility to have meals. The price is less than 40 euros/night with breakfast.

### **Hotels**

Strasbourg being the host of European institutions, there are enough rooms for any large scale event. There is a large offering with 2 stars hotels at ca. 35 euros/night, 3 stars hotels at ca. 70 euros/night and 4 star hotels at ca. 100 euros/night.

## ***Transport***

### **Coming to Strasbourg**

Entzheim international airport is 15 minutes away from Strasbourg and has flights from and to major European cities. See <http://www.strasbourg.aeroport.fr/index.php/flights/direct-flights?view=accueil&lang=E> for a list of destinations that have direct connections to this airport. Baden-Baden (Germany), Frankfurt (Germany) and Basel-Mulhouse (Switzerland-France border) airports are all less than 2 hours away and complement Entzheim's nicely.

The train station is located next to the town center and allows to reach Paris in 2 hours with the TGV (French high-speed train). Offenburg (Germany) and Basel (Switzerland) can be directly reached from Strasbourg too.

Finally, Strasbourg (a name that means "the town of roads"), can easily be driven to as it's on the path of the E25 and E50 European routes.

### **Moving within Strasbourg**

The public transportation system is well developed with bus and tramway lines going through the city. Large inner parts of the city are closed to cars; only pedestrians, bikes and public transportation can go there, which means faster public transportation because there's no traffic.



*Tramway in Strasbourg, source: Wikipedia (Eole99) – CC-BY-SA*

Like many other cities in recent years, Strasbourg now also has a bicycle sharing system. With more than 560km of cycle tracks for the greater Strasbourg area (by far the longest in France), riding a bike is really the ideal way to move around.

## **Free Software in the area**

### ***Contributors***

A lot of people that make free software live in the vicinity of Strasbourg. Among them are core contributors to a wide range of projects which includes Tiki Wiki CMS Groupware, Trac, Enlightenment, GeexBox, Coherence (DLNA/UPnP framework), Wormux, NuFW, Jitsi and Debian.

### ***User groups***

The LUG de Strasbourg is very active with monthly get togethers, monthly install parties and booth at various venues several times a year. Members come from all Bas-Rhin, the northern part of Alsace.

The southern part of Alsace also has a LUG, LUG 68, which has regular get-togethers and works with Universities on some local events. There are also several LUGs in Lorraine, the region next to Alsace.

### ***Businesses***

There are several local companies involved in Free Software. Together they created Alsalliance (Alsace Libre Software Alliance), a group whose goal is making Free Software more well known and more used by local businesses.

Many non-free software companies are present in the region and organizing free software related event is always a good occasion to do some advocacy to them. We've even had some success stories such as RBS, one of the biggest IT actors in the area with long ties to Microsoft, releasing their CMS as free software.

We hope that hosting GUADEC will be one more opportunity to show the greatness of free software to companies.

### ***Events***

Many Free Software events have been held in Strasbourg in the past.

Three conferences with the title Journées du Libre (Libre software days) have been organized in the last fifteen years by the LUG de Strasbourg with up to 3000 visitors. The Chambre du Commerce et de l'Industrie (Chamber of Commerce and Industry) of Strasbourg also organized two of them in association with Alsalliance with a focus on the professional aspects.

EuroBSDCon 2008 took place at the Université de Strasbourg.

Our biggest event has been the Rencontres Mondiales du Logiciel Libre (RMLL) in 2011, which is described later in this application.

The Journées Perl 2012 (French Perl Workshop) occurred at Epitech, a private Software Engineering school in the city center and gathered around a hundred people from all over Europe, as <http://journesperl.fr/fpw2012/stats> shows (registration was not mandatory so this is only a subset of

who came).

## ***RMLL 2011***

The Rencontres Mondiales du Logiciel Libre were launched in Bordeaux in 2000 and have been held every year since then in a different city.

The format is a five and half days conference (from Saturday morning to Thursday noon) with around 350 talks in 15 tracks (with keynotes from prominent speakers such as Richard Stallman), 50 project and association booths, and some workshops involving computers, screwdrivers and soldering irons. The event has had up to 5000 visitors from all around the world in the past years.

At night, a free culture festival takes place with concerts, musical and theatrical improvisation, live coding and other forms of artistic performances.

The conference is also the occasion to do experiments. For the Strasbourg edition, we had 1200 liters of free beer brewed by a small local brewery and we sold it till the last drop. Brewing this beer could be done again for GUADEC.

Access to the conference has always been free of charge.

The official web site for the 2011 edition can be found at <http://2011.rml.info/>.

## ***GNOME***

Strasbourg is at the border between France and Germany. Those two countries are the home of many GNOME hackers.

Yet, despite the wide free software community and the many events that have been organized, GNOME does not have a strong presence in that specific area and would greatly benefit from having an event such as GUADEC organized in our city. It would indeed be a way to get in touch with a community that is aware of our ecosystem, but not yet involved in our project.

At the same time, the wealth of non-free IT businesses would be an audience we'll have to try to reach out to.





# Université de Strasbourg

## ***Presentation***

The three universities of Strasbourg (Louis Pasteur, Marc Bloch and Robert Schuman) have merged in January 2009 to become the largest university in France with its 43,000 students.



## ***Free Software and the University***

The university has had a tradition of helping with the organization of events by either providing a place to hold them or advertising them. Many people in the IT staff are deeply concerned by the Free Software movement and are not afraid to take part in the organization. Some of them are the ones who founded the LUG de Strasbourg.

Some projects developed at the university, such as the Lisaac programming language or Jitsi, are free software. The Jitsi crew even organized information sessions in the last few years at the university for the Google Summer of Code.

The university supports the organization of GUADEC and has agreed to provide facilities free of charge.

## ***Campus***

There are several campuses. We chose the main one, campus de l'Esplanade, for its central location.

It can easily be reached as three tramway lines, as well as several bus lines, stop right next to it. It's also not far away from town center which means a 15 minutes walk is all it takes to join it from there.

Wi-Fi is available all over the campus and provides access to the Internet via the OSIRIS and Eduroam networks.

## ***Building***

The event will take place in a modern building, the Atrium, which hosts the Digital culture center. It has two lecture halls and several classrooms which we'll use for talks, BoF sessions and hackfests.



On the main floor is a large hall that can be used as a spot to gather people between sessions, let them socialize and hack.



Right in front of the building is a football field that we'll be able to use for the traditional tournament. Two hundred meters away is a sports hall where other activities could be performed.

## Organization

GNOME-FR is a registered loi 1901 association, i.e. the French form of non-profit organizations, traditionally taking care of representing GNOME at various events in and out of France and making t-shirts for FOSDEM every year, with leftovers sold throughout the year at other events. Its goal is to do advocacy for GNOME in French speaking countries and its board has members from France, but also Switzerland and Belgium. It will handle the money for the event.

## Budget

The co-ordination of the conference is in a very early stage, and so this budget proposal will of course evolve as we approach the conference. It is based on previous experiences, and our belief that we will succeed in raising a significant amount of support from local government and industry.

We intend to delegate talking with the usual sponsors to the Foundation and will focus on getting the local (public and private) parties involved.

## Funding

Private sponsorship	€90,000.00	Based on previous years
Public subsidies	€15,000.00	Based on experience from previous local events
Other income	€12,000.00	Registration fee: 400 people @ €30

There is a potential for significant local sponsorship, and support of local and regional government.

## Cost

Production	€10,000.00	General costs – office supplies, car rental, equipment costs, accountant fees, insurance
Promotion	€10,000.00	Printing, signage in University, t-shirts, video
Keynotes	€3,000.00	Travel and accommodation for 3 invited keynote speakers
Registration	€1,000.00	Printed badges, purchase of badge printer
Infrastructure	€6,000.00	University labour costs (security, A/V), equipment hire for A/V
Events	€10,000.00	3 evening events – expect these to be funded by sponsors
Travel sponsorship	€40,000.00	Includes hotel costs and flights for ~60 people
Labour costs	€15,000.00	We intend to have someone working part-time on this bid for 6 months before the event. We believe that we can have this position financed by the local government

These estimates have been based on previous GUADEC budgets as well as experience with local providers during past local events.