

# Free Software Foundation Europe: vision, structure, work

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Free Software Foundation Europe:

# Spreading freedom since 1985

## Free Software Foundation

- Founded 1985 near MIT in Boston, MA, USA by Richard M. Stallman
- Maintainer and protector of
  - GNU General Public License (GPL)
  - GNU Lesser General Public License (LGPL)
- Fiduciary and Manager of the GNU Project
- Explaining philosophy and creating awareness
- Long term vision!

# ca 2000: The world is changing...

## ...and success creates new challenges

- Community is growing fast  
many people need to learn and understand it
- The giant awakes  
attacks based on law, politics and technology
- We have much to offer  
profiteurs and parasites are closing in

The Free Software Foundation  
had to learn, adapt and grow

# 2001: from node to net...

## The Free Software Foundations today

- Free Software Foundation (FSF; founded 1985)
- Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE; founded 2001)
- Free Software Foundation India (FSFI; founded 2001)
- Free Software Foundation Latin America (FSFLA; founded 2005)

**A global network of independent and equal sister organisations**

# Free Software Foundation Europe

## FSFE fact sheet

- European NGO/Civil Society (est. 2001)  
stability, reliability, transparency
- active in 10 European countries through  
25 core team from 10 countries  
9 general assembly from 6 countries  
13 associate organisations in 10 countries
- part of large international network  
including Asia, Latin America, USA
- 6 full-time, 2 half-time employees, 1 intern  
hundreds of volunteers and Fellows

# FSFE Areas of Activity

- United Nations
- European Union
- National Politics
- Legal Work
- Business Work
- Essentials
- Fellowship

# FSFE @ United Nations – 1/2

## Where the global trend is made...

- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS; 2003-2005)
  - Global rules for information society
  - Free Software, Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks among most controversial
  - Coordination of PCT Working Group and European Caucus
- Internet Governance Forum (IGF; 2006-)
  - more than DNS: internet related regulation
  - Dynamic Coalition on Open Standards and Access to Knowledge (A2K)

# FSFE @ United Nations – 2/2

## Where the global trend is made...

- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO; since 2004)
  - 23 treaties on limited monopolies
  - traditional platform for "more IPR"
  - "Access to Knowledge" (a2k)
  - Software patent ban?
- Lectures at UNCTAD, World Bank, UNESCO

**Slow, tedious and almost unstoppable  
when it reaches us in 10 years!**

# FSFE @ European Union – 1/2

## European overrides national law...

- Legislation: Software Patents, IPRED2
  - political work in changing alliances
- Antitrust: Microsoft vs European Commission
  - Two cases: media bundling & protocols
  - FSFE involved in investigation and case
  - cooperation with Samba Team
  - SUN, Novell, CCIA bought out of the case
  - RealNetworks reinvented itself, left case
  - Microsoft expense easily beyond 4bn EUR
  - market behaviour? would gladly pay more!

# FSFE @ European Union – 2/2

## European projects

- AGNULA: Freedom in Multimedia (IST-FP5)
  - <http://www.agnula.org>
  - GNU/Linux Distro: Debian&Red Hat based
  - professional audio environment
  - Free Software to the desktop & niche!
- SELF: Freedom in Education (IST-FP6)
  - <http://www.selfproject.eu>
  - Free Software platform
  - Free Software educational material
  - knowledge on and about Free Software

# FSFE@every day – 1/2

## Europe consists of countries...

- Meeting, advising, briefing politicians
- National initiatives:
  - German health card
  - Italian SIAE law

## Legal Maintenance

- GNU (L)GPL based
  - questions, advice, counseling
  - GPLv3: conferences, input, communication
- upcoming: Freedom Task Force

# FSFE @every day – 2/2

## Free Software means business...

- counseling, advice, input
- neutral third party for conflict
- occasional mediator

## The Essentials...

- Web, Translations
- Trade Shows
- Awareness building

**Awareness building!**

# Fellowship

## Become a part of the FSFE...

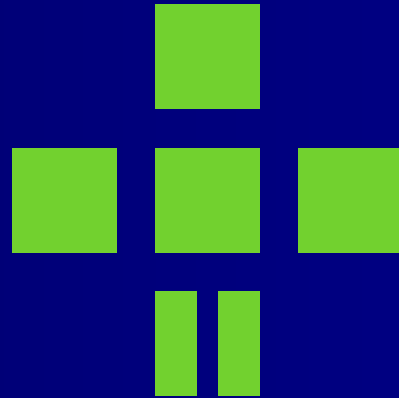
- bring together people with interest in freedom
- become visible part of work: <you>@fsfe.org
- portal for exchange: <http://www.fsfe.org>
- OpenPGP smart card for privacy & security
- contribute to work with 60/120 EUR per year
- professional design to reach "the unusual suspects"

**Join the Fellowship,  
protect your freedom!**

# Contact

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?



- Free Software Foundation Europe:  
<http://fsfeurope.org>
- Get involved, defend your freedom:  
<http://www.fsfe.org>