



OpenFest 2023

OpenFest is Bulgaria's largest annual conference dedicated to open culture, free software and the boundless exchange of knowledge. It's not just an event; it's a festival of open creativity.

Every year, OpenFest draws together enthusiasts, creators and newcomers to the world of open arts and free/open-source software.

The goal of OpenFest is to shine a spotlight on projects developed with free and open-source software. It is a forum for the exchange of ideas and best practices in these domains, while also offering a stage for artists to showcase their open artistry.

Hailing all the way back to the fall of 2003 in Sofia, where the first OpenFest took place, the conference has subsequently inspired a few smaller local events that year, that took place in Varna, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora and Chepelare.

The tradition continues with OpenFest being a two-day event, consistently hosted on the first weekend of November.

In 2023 OpenFest will take place on the 4th and 5th of November at Sofia Tech Park, within the "John Atanasov" forum. Access is completely free and open to all, no prior registration required.

If you are passionate about these subjects and resonate with the OpenFest ethos and wish to share your insights, or you want to help us out by being a volunteer, have a look at the opportunities at <https://cfp.openfest.org>

Additional information can be found here:

- * <https://openfest.org>
- * <https://linkedin.com/company/openfest-bulgaria/>
- * <https://facebook.com/OpenFestBulgaria/>
- * <https://youtube.com/@openfestbulgaria>
- * <https://twitter.com/OpenfestBg>
- * <https://instagram.com/openfestbulgaria/>
- * <https://mastodon.social/@openfest>



The OpenFest logo is a work of true art with a profound meaning. The depiction of a human eye lies at the centre of this striking logo, and it being wide open shows us the willingness to absorb knowledge and information. Those are not just eyelashes, they are the rays of the rising sun, symbolizing the birth of unshackled freedom. The mastermind behind the concept and realization of this visual piece is the maverick artist-hacker Zdravko Zdravkov.

What is really the essence of “free software”? It is an ancient concept that predates the idea of software itself, because this is not about technology, it’s about perspective – an outlook that is humane and natural, the call for unfettered freedom. This is the same primal freedom that we are born with and carry onto ourselves, freedom that guides us in our path to be kinder, more just, and in the end - more humane.

OpenFest is the conference that welcomes all by proclaiming “Share **YOUR** freedom!”

Besides the standard lecture formats, OpenFest additionally offers two more flavors: lightning-talk and workshop.

Lightning Talk – a specific and short 5-minute format, for which no prior program exists. Suggestions can be submitted during the whole time of the conference by any of the attendees. There is at least a one-hour window, each day of the conference, where people are given their 5 minutes time to grab the mic and talk niche projects, hobby ideas and much more.

Examples of what lightning talks can be about:

- * Presentation of new, unique or unknown projects that spark interest or are neat and deserve attention for it.
- * Showcases of personal, passion-fueled creations, be it your quirky lab setup; your latest artistic masterpiece (featuring loads of LEDs), or even mind-bending proofs-of-concept.

Workshop – a longer than lecture, yet shorter than a whole-day seminar format. This is a format at the heart of OpenFest its aim is to give an in-depth knowledge of a specific topic or theme. Workshops are generally the most crowded places during the conference, and for a reason.

Specific examples of workshops:

- * Soldering workshop. Every year there is an interesting project that incorporates the basics on how to use a soldering iron. Besides that, the attendee can walk away with something practical that they made – be it a binary clock, turn signals for your bike, or even a mini levitation system.
- * 3D design workshop. Recent years mark this as the place to visit in order to learn the secrets of 3D design, both in software and in real life. The focus is on how to create unique designs for fun, or maybe even how to make a custom case for your mini levitation system.