

# Report on the proceedings of FSCONS 2017

Kacper Wysocki

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FSCONS 2017 had great speakers, a well-managed location, good attendance and stayed within its budget targets. Participants and speakers were happy with the breadth of topics, the focus of the conference and its intimacy.

The event was held in three lecture rooms and the lobby in Ole Johan Dahls Hus at the Institute of Informatics at the University of Oslo, 4th and 5th of November. 104 people were in attendance - of these 70 were paying participants, 6 were volunteers helping at the event, 24 were speakers and 4 organizers.

Arguably the location and organization could handle two to three times the number - especially if there were a corresponding increase in volunteers, so there is much to be gained from more pre-emptive marketing of the event.

Still, this was a good crowd and it is fair to say that made FSCONS 2017 successful: just small enough to not feel crowded, and thereby fostering the inspired adhoc conversations that are the main reason for our organizing the event.

We had 49 total submissions from potential speakers, most of which the program committee contacted and encouraged to submit a talk. Out of these 49, 36 were confirmed to speak. In the two weeks before the event we had 7 cancellations for various reasons. In the end, there were 29 speaking sessions out of which two were keynotes, two were lightning talk sessions, two were workshops and the rest were lectures.

We had two great keynotes: Linda Sandvik spoke about Code Club, a very successful grassroots effort to bring back computer education to grade school kids in the UK, while Vladan Joler spoke about Networks of Metal, Sweat and Neurons, his efforts to quantify and qualify the deep effects of the global infoeconomy embodied by internet giants such as Apple, Google, Amazon and Facebook.

Generalizing beyond our Technology/Culture/Society tracks, we had several identifiable threads to the program: censorship, hacktivism, information security, cryptocurrency, and libre software. Each of these threads recurred in two or more talks. These engender fields of interest that sometimes overlap in one individual but are distinct topics that pertain to a free society.

The gender distribution of speakers were 7 women and 17 men, a ratio is nearly one woman for every three men. This inequality is best amended with a future fairer gender distribution in the organizing committee itself. There are many great woman speakers there that we simply did not know to reach!

20 talks, two lightning talk sessions and the welcome & goodbye events were video taped and published. Three events opted out of recording.

All 24 recorded videos can be found at these two addresses:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkHV8IJZ1cfDaX\\_vaVd2r3H21GLbvJAFq](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkHV8IJZ1cfDaX_vaVd2r3H21GLbvJAFq)

[https://archive.org/search.php?query=subject%3A%28FSCONS%202017%](https://archive.org/search.php?query=subject%3A%28FSCONS%202017%29)

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FSCONS met a net result of NOK 57309.68, with NOK 168340.32 in expenses and NOK 225650 in income. Income is broken down into 73% funding, 14% private sponsors and 13% ticket sales. Expenses were 48.5% speakers travel and lodgings, 21% catering including speakers dinner, 16.5% location, 7.5% marketing and 3% video production, with the remaining 2.5% shared by logistics, admin and party costs. Please find the attached sheet for an itemized account of income and expenses.

As the event neared, it became apparent that the initial budget would not be filled for income, and therefore several cutbacks in non-essential conference services ensued. Tight budgetary control was essential for the event to remain in the green.

The proceeds from this event will contribute to the budget for the next event organized by FSCONS Norway, which is currently planned for November 2019.