

**1/19 Culture and Art Programme****Application 20829****Status: application received**

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**Basic information****1.1. Project title**

FSCONS: The Free Society Conference

**1.2. Describe the project briefly**

The conference is a meeting place for social change, focused on the intersection between technology, culture and society, bringing together people from a wide range of fields, and merging the technical with the social, seeking both to activate and challenge. Discussion are as important as the talks.

**1.3. Estimated start date:**

08.11.2019

**1.4. Estimated completion date:**

30.11.2019

**1.5. Project description**

Free Society Conference and Nordic Summit (FSCONS) is a non-profit conference and networking event that has been organized in Gothenburg for 10 years and was held in 2017 in Oslo. The aim of the conference is to stimulate open peer conversations around the relationship between culture, technology and democracy.

To achieve this goal we invite artists, technologists and political activists to show their work and give talks on a range of subjects including freedom of speech, patent laws, alternative models for society, the role of culture in our economical system, as well as talks on software that enables new forms of expression or interaction with society.

The ultimate result of such a combination of talks is the unavoidable crosspollination of ideas between technologists, journalists, movie makers, authors, engineers, freedom fighters small and large, scientists and others that are passionate about a more democratic, sustainable and culturally richer earth.

This year FSCONS will be held at the University of Oslo on November 8th to 10th.

**1.6. Main project activity? State the primary activity/activities for which you are seeking**

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**support.**

- Performance
- Exhibition
- Conference
- Meeting
- Seminar
- Lecture
- Workshop

**1.7. Describe the project's activities and time schedule (what, where, when?)**

The conference is being planned by two teams, one in Norway and one in Sweden. Both teams meet up as often as required, currently monthly, online to share progress and blockers. The venue has already been booked.

We are currently in the process of securing funding, a process that may last until June. At the same time we are seeking participants and inviting speakers, an activity that will persist until August.

During August we will be finalizing bookings for speakers as well as putting up posters in relevant institutions & newsletters.

September is for booking room and board for our speakers as well as sending out information to speakers and attendees about the event.

Any last-minute changes to the programme which will be handled in October.

This year FSCONS will be held at the University of Oslo on November 8th to 10th.

**1.8. Briefly state the project's main objectives**

The goal of FSCONS is to inspire free-thinking individuals to collaborate in creative ways and to do so in a participatory and inclusive way. We believe that most such collaborations start with a conversation, and FSCONS aims to be the place where that conversation starts.

**1.9. Does the project contribute to any of the following?**

- Nordic cooperation
- A multifaceted Nordic region
- Sustainability - cultural/economic/social and/or ecological
- Artistic and/or cultural quality
- Creativity and innovation

### **1.10. Where is the project implemented / taking place?**

- Norway
- Sweden

### **1.11. Please indicate if the project will be implemented in any of the following countries or regions:**

#### **1.12. Main field of art:**

- Cross-disciplinary

#### **If you chose "cross-disciplinary", specify which fields of art are included:**

- Visual arts
- Design
- Literature
- Media

### **1.13. Have you applied for funding from Nordic Culture Point before?**

- No

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## **Information about project's participants and co-operating partners**

### **2.1. Briefly provide a personal biography and state the country of residence of the key participants (for example, art director, invited participating artists/cultural bodies).**

I started attending FSCONS in 2009 on the recommendations of a colleague with whom I have worked on organizing the Oslo Hackerspace, Hackeriet. My field of work is in computer science, and I have also been involved in the production of a DAB+ broadcast radio channel (Oslo Bass Radio), as well as serving as the member of the board of stewards for Hausmania, a culture house in Oslo, where I have organized several cultural events including a music festival, a series of workshops and two conferences.

FSCONS Norway was started by a group of like-minded organizers with backgrounds in technology and culture who wanted to see the conference grow from its beginnings in Gothenburg into a Nordic collaboration.

As the list of keynotes is not finalized, I cannot provide details yet about who is invited to the event, however a list of speaker highlights from FSCONS 2017 can be found archived here:

<https://fscons.org/2017/> and is representative for the type of people we seek to invite to the conference.

**2.2. State the project's participating partners (name, registered address and country)**

The Association FSCONS, Gothenburg, Sweden and FSCONS Norway, founded and centered in Oslo are the two sole collaborating organizations.

**2.3. Which Nordic countries participate in the project?**

- Denmark
- Iceland
- Norway
- Sweden

**2.4. Which other countries participate in the project?**

- Belgium
- France
- Italy
- Poland
- Russian Federation
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Czech Republic
- Germany
- United States of America
- Hungary

**2.5. Will the project have participants from:**

- Poland
  - Germany
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## **Assessment of the project's sub-areas**

### **3.1. Nordic cooperation**

State the number of Nordic project participants : 8

State the number of project participants besides Nordic project participants: 5

State the number of professional project participants: 3

State the number of project participants besides professional project participants: 10

### **3.2. In which language(s) will the project be conducted?**

- Any of the Nordic languages (Swedish, Finnish, Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic, Faeroese, Greenlandic)
- English

### **3.3. Tick whether the applied project aims to attain any of the following:**

- New Nordic and/or international contacts
- New professional and/or international contacts
- New Nordic and/or international networks

### **3.4. Does the project have Nordic content?**

- Yes

#### **If yes, briefly describe the content:**

"FSCONS" the name is an acronym for "Free Software and Society Conference and Nordic Summit" and connotes both its origins in the free software movement and the locality of the event. Most participants will out of practical concerns be from the Nordic countries.

Furthermore, despite online collaboration becoming more and more practical it is still a lot more effective to collaborate with other people who are local or live in nearby cities. Despite inviting some of our speakers from faraway countries we are building a long-standing collaboration that is centered around the Nordic countries.

### **3.5. Does the project promote a multifaceted Nordic region either through the theme or implementation?**

- Yes

**If yes, briefly describe how?**

FSCONS is an egalitarian initiative which has a stated goal of having inclusiveness as one of its primary goals. Without an inclusive agenda we cannot hope to have the kind of conversations about culture, technology and society that we aim to have. We achieve this by always having one male and one female keynote speaker, by attempting to balance the sexes in our programme, and by including speakers from widely different backgrounds.

**3.6. Provide an estimate of gender among the participants.**

Men: 77

Women: 65

Other: 10

**3.7. Which age groups are included in the project?**

- Children and youth (0-25)
- Adults (26-65)

**3.8. Which target groups does the project aim to reach out to?**

Young people, students and people who are working in politics, journalism, technology and art. People who like to read and write and are interested in this planet and its people, and people who would like to see a more harmonious, sustainable future. People who like to engage in society's challenges.

**3.9. Does the project aim to engage new audiences?**

- Yes

**If yes, describe how?**

We are reaching out to new audiences by contacting interest groups in countries from which we have yet to get a lot of attendees (especially Denmark, Finland and the Baltics), and asking their help in finding speakers that will attract new audiences.

**3.10. Does the project take into account ecological aspects? Either thematically or in the implementation itself?**

- Yes

**If yes, how?**

One of our recurring main topics is the state of the planet's ecology and what can be done to improve the situation. We will have at least one speaker specifically on the topic of ecology, but the subject usually comes up in several unrelated talks because the implications are so far-reaching that they are some of the most important issues in politics, art and technology.

**3.11. Do you aim to further develop the project after the applied project period ends?**

- Yes

**3.12. Does the project's theme address sustainability?**

- Yes

**If yes, briefly describe how?**

The theme of sustainability permeates our conference, not only when talking about ecology, but also in terms of discussing what activities humans are engaged in that are not sustainable and how to build a future that is more sustainable. We will be hosting talks about such topics like food sustainability and infrastructural security, to name a few, all to inspire conversations and collaboration around sustainability.

**3.13. Does the project contribute to innovation within the field of culture or art?**

- Yes

**If yes, describe how?**

It is hard to measure the impact of our work on others, but if you believe conversations can change minds then our attendees, many of them are engaged in creative work on a daily basis go home from FSCONS with fresh inspiration and perhaps new connections to create together with. We realize that our goals are quite ambitious, as this is the ultimate ambition of the event: to create a better world by inspiring people to create.

**3.14 Does the project contribute to conveying new knowledge and experiences?**

- Yes

**If yes, describe how?**

By actively inviting people to attend who are from different backgrounds and walks of life, and by creating a context where these people seek to share and experience each others work as well as engage in discussions, FSCONS directly contributes to sharing and distributing new knowledge and experience. We also video most of our talks and make these available online so that those who cannot attend can still have some benefit from the conference in terms of the knowledge that is disseminated there.

**3.15. Does the project contribute to any of the following themes:**

- The sustainable Nordic region
- The creative Nordic region
- The intercultural Nordic region

- The digital Nordic region
- Equality in the Nordic region

### **3.16 Does your project have stated goals for gender equality?**

- Yes

#### **If yes, how will you work with gender equality?**

We aim for an equal gender distribution within our attendees by inviting equal amounts of women and men speakers.

The risks are that we do not attain an equal distribution of attendees, or that discrimination will occur despite this, which will cause a negative feedback loop that will result in an ever worse gender distribution, not representing society as a whole.

We have two keynote speakers, always one woman and one man. To ensure gender equality we have a stated written code of conduct which is enforced by the organizers before, during and after the event. We also encourage non-confrontational, open peer discussions and explicitly do not tolerate discrimination of any kind.

### **3.17. Does your projects have stated strategies for sustainable development?**

- Yes

#### **If yes, how will the project work with sustainable development?**

Our goals on sustainable development are very much tied to our stance on gender equality and discrimination, which again are tied to our strong preference for an open democratic society. We aim to be accessible to anyone interested in the issues of democracy, technology and culture, and to that end we record our talks, choose wheelchair-accessible venues and have guidelines for accessibility in our physical and virtual spaces. We are also advertise the event and network to people from a broad range of gender identity and ethnic backgrounds.

### **3.18. Does your project have stated strategies for inclusion of children and young people?**

- Yes

#### **If yes, how will the project work with inclusion of children and young people?**

Our event and talks are available to teenagers and young adults, whom we aim to include by providing discount tickets and by putting up posters in high-schools in Oslo and Gothenburg, as well as announcements in online forums. We welcome the young and curious, thinking and creative to attend our talks and participate in the discussions. The event does not yet have any stated strategies to involve younger participants apart from being invited by and participating together with their parents.

## Communication, marketing and additional information

### 4.1. State the project's communication plan comprising preliminary schedule, activities, target groups and communication channels (answer the questions when, what, for who, how)

We will mainly use internet newsletters, web pages and twitter to reach our current and past participants. In December we announced the next conference, and we will be using these three channels throughout to communicate the agenda and other details, relying on our broad network of participants and speakers to reach out to people interested in participating in FSCONS.

Two months before the conference we are putting up posters at chosen local sites in Gothenburg and Oslo - libraries, universities, schools and special interest groups.

After the conference we will use our web pages and youtube to post videos and other information about the conference.

### 4.2. What is (are) the primary language(s) of communication?

- English

### 4.3. Link to website where additional material about the project is accessible:

<https://fscons.org/>

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## Project's financing

### 5.1. The applied amount and the project's total budget in Euro

Applied amount: 6150 €

Budget: 41905 €

### 5.2. Expenses

Technology, material, equipment and different accessories: 6352

Communication, marketing: 3586

Cost of space and rent: 3087

Travel and transport costs: 10246

Food and lodging costs: 11270

Other costs: 7198

### 5.3. Income

Applied amount    Granted amount

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Applied from Nordic Culture Point with this application	6150	
Own share	5269	
Tickets, fees, sales revenue and similar	11527	
Support from other joint Nordic organisations, eg. Nordic Culture Fund	6148	
Support from other funds and foundations	11270	
Support from the State and municipalities	0	
Other financing, sponsors	1537	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>41901</b>	<b>0</b>

#### **5.4. Specified budget and financing plan**

FSCONS2019, EUR for applications - Budsjett.pdf Budget FSCONS 2019

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