

**Proposal to Host
GUADEC 2009
and
aKademy 2009**

A Coruña

Galicia, Spain



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Executive summary

Regarding the organization of GNOME and KDE users and developers' conferences together for the first time, GPUL -GNU/Linux user group- and Igalia -Free Software Engineering company- with the collaboration of the University of A Coruña are pleased to submit the candidature of A Coruña (Galicia, Spain) to co-host these magnificent events together.

In the next paragraphs, we summarize the key points which, according to the call for hosts for GUADEC and aKademy 2009, will be taken into account when deciding among candidates. The strongest point of this bid is the experience and the group of people behind this proposal: GPUL has been organizing multiple middle-sized events (100-200 people) in the last years, and several members of the organizing team are students, professors and professionals that have been attending and involved in the organization of big conferences. Our team is used to take care of all the small details around a conference, and also knows what events such as aKademy and GUADEC do mean, based on the attendance for several years. A Coruña has a mixed group of GNOME and KDE community actors that allowed the first GUADEMY edition, in 2007, based on the feeling that these different communities can share experiences and destroy myths.

Local team will be honored of hosting these two different conferences and will try to maintain their different flavors although they are hosted together. The University of A Coruña has already acquired the commitment to provide us all the necessary resources for this conference, such as the building of the Faculty of Computer Science and any other infrastructure in the campus university (5 faculties + sports facilities).

Local community support for hosting the conference

Given the support of all local and regional organizations, from the University to the Regional government, the local community support is absolutely guaranteed. Moreover, the venue and infrastructures to host the conference are already confirmed by the University of A Coruña.

Regarding the needed staff to coordinate the organization: on the one hand, Igalia offers 9 months of a full time person to coordinate the whole process. On the other hand, GPUL has already gathered more than two dozens of volunteers, a year in advance, but given our experience organizing GUADEC-es 2006, Guademy 2007 and other similar events, we know that a larger number of students and teachers will help us. Founded in 1988, GPUL is one of the oldest GNU/Linux User Group in Spain, and its membership list includes more than two hundred fifty students, teachers and supporters from the Galician Free Software Community.

The availability and cost of travel from major European cities

A Coruña is a very touristic city, well connected with major European cities through A Coruña (LGC) and Santiago de Compostela (SCQ) airports.

On the one hand, 8km away, LCG offers daily flights to European destinations such as London-Heathrow and Lisbon, with also many daily connections with Madrid-Barajas and Barcelona (1h & 1.5h flight, respectively), two cities from which most European destinations can be reached. There is a bus link to A Coruña's city center from the LCG airport (ticket price: 1€) every half an hour daily, being a taxi ride from the airport around 15€.

In the other hand, 65km away by railroad and highway is the airport of Santiago de Compostela (SQC), with daily flights to Frankfurt, Paris, Dublin, Rome, Liverpool, London/Stansted, Geneve... Although railroad is a cheap and convenient option to reach Coruña from Santiago, the organization would set up buses to come directly from the airport.

Finally, for those attendants coming from Spain and Portugal, rail and road links are also an option. A

Coruña has very good road connections with Portugal and Madrid.

The availability of sufficient low-cost accommodation

Low cost accommodation is guaranteed by the existence of multiple Halls of Residence near to the conference venue. Thus, for instance, sharing a double room would mean only 105€ per week. The end of the academic course two weeks before the conference is started means an important number of vacancies to our disposal. Furthermore, the local team in collaboration with the local council can get low-price fairs for groups in several hotels in the city.

The budget for infrastructure and facilities required to hold the conference

Facilities and infrastructure are provided by the University of A Coruña. This institution is actively collaborating with the organization of the meeting, so all the infrastructure and basic services would be provided free of charge. The Faculty of Computer Science that will host both events has all the facilities that are needed to have a successful conference. KDE and GNOME users and developers will have suitable spaces to share experiences and new ideas for the future of Free Software Desktops. University wifi network has complete coverage in all buildings of the Campus. University is connected to Internet at 155Mbps using the Galician Network of Science and Technology.

The availability of restaurants or the organization of catering on-site

There are multiple canteens all around the campus with very affordable menus. Since there are no students in the campus in summer, all the canteens will be available for us. They are serving thousands of students, professors and researchers during the academic terms, so the capacity of the service is guaranteed even for a huge crowd of people. The menus are ranging from 5€ to 8€ per person. Local team will ensure the existence of special menus for vegans and vegetarians, since we are aware of the fact that events such as Guadec and aKademy are meeting points for people coming from different cultures and habits.

Local industry and government support

Both local industry and government are fully committed to support the organization of GUADEC and aKademy in A Coruña:

The Regional Government has started a clear politivity to leverage information society development through free software and open standards, so its support is not only a compromise but a fact. The University has already helped us in the past with its infrastructure for hosting DudesConf, GUADEC-es and Guademy. The Council of a city focused in congresses' tourism like A Coruña would be very pleased to receive us, as they have done in the past. Furthermore, Igalia's strong relation with the local industry, holding the presidency of the Galician free software companies association -AGASOL- warranties also the support from the local industry. The support from the recent Spanish association of Free Software Companies has already been communicated to the organizers.

Ability to organize sponsorship

Local team has a lot of experience managing sponsorship based on previous conferences. GPUL has been registered as legal non profit organization since 1998. Javier Vázquez has contributed in sponsorship prospection in GUADEC 2006 and José María Casanova has managed all economical issues related to sponsors in several conferences GUADEC-ES 2005, GUADEC 2006, GUADEMY 2007-2008 and DudesConf 2007-2008. We have experience dealing with public administration managing public subsidies and sponsorship of international companies.

Location

For the location of GUADEC and aKademy in 2009 we propose the city of A Coruña, in Galicia, Spain.

Description

Lying in the north west of the Iberian Peninsula, A Coruña, a window onto the Atlantic is an ancient city, Atlantic and cosmopolitan, where the ocean has played a major role over the two thousand years of its history. The most emblematic symbol is the Tower of Hercules.

The population is c. 247,000 and the climate is **mild**- average maximum temperatures are 22°C in summer and 14°C in winter. From the calm seafront to cosmopolitan streets full of life, lit up by the sun or by signs. From voices shouting at the fish market to walks through the Old City, around the promenade or on the fine white sand of the city's beaches. Places to relax, natural areas to enjoy the view and the spectacular landscape. Art and museums, restaurants, taverns, pubs and bars to discos, the casino and classical music concerts.



During summertime (when GUADEC and AKADEMY will be held), A Coruña enjoys [excellent weather](#), with sunny days that are specially appropriate for sightseeing, hacking or going to beach.

More detailed information of the city of A Coruña can be found in the following Web sites:

- For global information the official website of the city council.
 - <http://www.coruna.es>
- For tourism information.
 - <http://www.turismocoruna.es>



Getting to A Coruña

By Plane

Airport of Alvedro (La Coruña)

P.O. Box No.10
15174 Rutis - Vilaboa - Culleredo - La Coruña
Tel: +34 981 187 200
Fax: +34 981 187 239

Distance from city centre: 8 km (15 minutes)

Direct flights to Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao, Sevilla,
Lisbon and London (Heathrow)

Airlines:

- IBERIA
- CLICKAIR
- PGA-PORTUGALIA
- SPANAIR

Transport to city:

Taxis: There is a taxi stand at the airport

Buses: Every day (both ways): Alvedro Airport, Vilaboa, Corveira, Portazgo, Fábrica de Armas, Avda. Alfonso Molina, Plaza de Orense, Casino, Puerta Real. Service run by ASICASA Tel: +34 981 231 234



Airport of Lavacolla (Santiago de Compostela)

Lavacolla, s/n
15820 Santiago de Compostela - La Coruña
Distance from A Coruña - 65 km. (45 minutes)

Direct flights to Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao, Malaga, Palma de Mallorca (connections with Germany Air Berlin), Seville, Valencia, London, Paris, Rome

Airlines:

- IBERIA
- AIR EUROPA
- SPANAIR
- RYAN AIR
- AIRBERLIN
- VUELING
- CLICK AIR

Transport to A Coruña:

Taxis: There is a taxi stand at the airport

Buses: Daily from the Jardines de Méndez Núñez (NH Atlántico Hotel) to Lavacolla (both ways). Service run by Viajes Travidí

By train

RENFE Station Joaquín Planells Riera, s/n - 15008 A Coruña

Services - Vehicle rental, shops, National Police, left luggage, autoexpress, telling machines.

Long distance routes Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao-Irún (France)



By car

A-9 motorway links A Coruña to Ferrol, Santiago de Compostela, Pontevedra, Vigo and Portugal

Norh east road links A Coruña to Madrid

N 634 across the north of Spain to France



Venue

The conference would be held at the Faculty of Computer Science of the University of A Coruña (www.fic.udc.es). The building takes in more than 2000 students every academic year season, and would be almost empty, available for the conference on summer. It has an assembly hall or auditorium with capacity for more than 800 people, 10 large classrooms (about 200 people each room), 6 small classrooms (about 50 people), multiple labs and two huge halls. All rooms are equipped with projectors and audio systems. WIFI facilities are available in all the building. Although this combination of facilities might be enough, there would be available some other complementary buildings, like the Civil Engineering School which is the next one and has another auditorium of 600 seats.



One possible layout could be:

- 3rd Floor: GNOME (4 rooms for 200 people)
- 2nd Floor: KDE (4 rooms for 200 people)
- 1st Floor: Labs and coffee
- 0 Floor: Hacking Room and auditorium.

The organization will provide special rooms for KDE e.V. Meetings and GNOME Foundation Board and GNOME Advisory Board. We will provide a room reservation system so that different groups can organize improvised meetings.



Dates

The proposed conference dates will be during July, the university has suggested these dates because academic lessons will finish during late July, we propose a 7 days conference from Monday July 13rd to Sunday July 19th but University is going to be flexible to other suggested dates proposed by KDE e.V. And GNOME Foundation, current dates have been chosen based in the availability of Students because they would have finished their exams and we know that part of the community are students. Choosing the second week of July is done because it is not still very high season in A Coruña so traveling on Sunday would not be very expensive.

The schedule of the conference will be defined based on the objectives defined with the help of GNOME Foundation and KDE e.V. We propose that core days will be during the middle of the week.

Accommodation

Low cost accommodation

A Coruña is a city adapted to the influence of the University. The great number of foreign students during the academic year season and the number of rooms available during summer season are one of the strong points of this bid. A Coruña has almost 1000 vacancies of low cost accommodations near the University Campus, all of them with direct link by bus. The range of prices are from 15€/day to 30€/day person. Although GUADEC/aKademy will be held in high season the availability of these Halls of Residence allows the organizers to provide affordable low cost accommodation. All the selected options provide Wi-Fi Internet connection, because being online is really important when being away from home. All these Halls of Residence are suitable to continue the Conference experience after hours and allow hackers to continue sharing experiences and ideas. Some members of the local team have been living for years in these accommodations as students and can assure that are really nice places to stay for a low cost.

The following ones are some of the most important Halls of Residence in the City:

- **Residencia Universitaria Rialta** (www.rialta.net), the residence has a total of 180 double rooms and 172 single rooms (532 vacancies) and direct bus link to the University campus where the conference will be held (5-7 minutes). 20 minutes walking to the conference. WIFI facilities are available. Rooms are compact and functional. They are perfect for those looking for ensuite bedrooms at affordable prices. All of the rooms are ensuite and rates per day are **14,56 € person/day** sharing a double room. GUADEC/aKademy week would cost 105€ per person for people looking for low cost and nice quality accommodation. Facilities of the residence are really good (swimming pool, fitness center and sauna).



- **Residencia Universitaria Resa-Siglo XXI** (www.resa.es/eng/residencias/siglo_xxi), 199 single rooms and 32 double rooms (263 vacancies). All the rooms have their own bathroom, heating, telephone and Wi-Fi Internet connection. Rates per day are **30€ person/day** each single room including breakfast. GUADEC/aKademy week will cost 210€. Bus link to the conference (15 min).

- **Residencial Los Lagos**, about 50-60 available vacancies. Also with bus link to the conference (5-10 min). 20-25 minutes walking to the conference. WIFI facilities.

Hotels

Although low cost facilities are available, some people could be interested in staying in a Hotel near the beach or in the City Center of A Coruña. Being a very touristic city, there are a wide variety of accomodation facilities in A Coruña, with more than 3000 lodgers in a wide range of hotels:

Category	Hotels	Rooms	Prices
5 stars	1	92	208,65€
4 stars	9	1253	102,20€
3 stars	2	256	43,83€
2 stars	3	227	30,70€
1 stars	8	239	26,50€

The number of 4 star hotels has been increased due to the interest and effort from the city's council to attract conference-related tourism. We will contact with several hotels to arrange a special price for GUADEC and aKademy attendants. So this accommodation option and the opportunity of a very affordable accommodation in some of the multiple Halls of Residence available near the conference venue allow us confirm that A Coruña would be a nice city for a week thinking and innovating in Free Software.

Social Program

aKademy and GUADEC are not only conferences. People coming to these confereces want to have fun, meet old friends and new ones that only meet before in chat rooms or mailing lists. To ensure the other important part of the conference organizers proposes several activities in the Social Program, including time for tourism, healthy sport exercise and getting in touch with local traditions.

Community Queimada

Queimada is an alcoholic beverage of Galician tradition. Queimada has origins in the [Pagan](#) festivals of [Galicia](#). Traditionally while preparing the punch a spell or incantation is recited, so that special powers are conferred to the queimada and those drinking it. Then the queimada is set alight, and slowly burns as more brandy is added. The finality of the preparation ritual is to distance the bad spirits that, according with the tradition, lie in wait for men and women to try to curse them. All occasions are good for a queimada: a party, familiar meetings or gatherings of friends like GUADEC and aKademy. After dinner, in the darkness of night (one of the best times for it), the people who take part in it gather around the container where it is prepared, ideally without lights, to cheer up the hearts and to be better friends. One of them ends the process of making the queimada while reciting the spell holding up the burning liquid in a ladle and pouring it slowly back into the container.



Football championship (Free Software Sports)

University Sport Facilities of the Campus, just in front of the Faculty, include an athletics stadium with a football pitch, there is also the sports pavilion where it is possible organizing a basketball team. So organization will provide opportunities to self organization of the people attending the conference supporting their initiatives.

It will be warranted the organization of a football championship if this bid is the selected by the KDE e.V. and the GNOME Foundation with a final match GNOME vs KDE. In GUADEMY we have the experience in 2007 and team followers of KDE Team with Aaron Seigo as captain are waiting for a rematch against the GNOME team.



Family program



Probably some people attending GUADEC and aKademy during summer time like coming with its family, as A Coruña is a nice place to stay in summer. The organization will provide a complementary program of activities with the support of the local tourist office, including a visit to the "Monte de San Pedro", place with the best views of the city.

The visit to the Tower of Hercules, the symbol of A Coruña, is also mandatory. It is the only Roman lighthouse in the world that is still working. Almost 2,000 years of history - according to legend the remains of the giant Gerion are buried under the Tower. A visit to our city is not complete if you don't enjoy the magnificent views from the lighthouse.

A Coruña is well known for its scientific museums. Known as the three museums, people will discover the submarine world, the secrets of the human being and the enigmas of the firmament. All the museums have been designed with the philosophy "**Please do touch!**". The organization recommends this visit to Aquarium Finisterrae, Science Museum Planetarium and the Museum of Mankind (DOMUS). We suggest this visit to children and not so children.

For those who like walking, the promenade would be their best option. Miles of Promenade take us past beaches, voices and cliffs from the Castillo de San Antón past the port, bringing us to the [Tower of Hercules Sculpture Park](#), an open air museum in a setting steeped in legend, all the way round to the beaches of Orzán and Riazor.



Local Team and Experience

Local team members

Emilio J. Padrón González, Conferences Coordinator.

José Millán Soto, aKademy Organization Responsible.

José María Casanova, GUADEC Organization Responsible

Javier Vázquez Lamas, Sponsorship relations Responsible

Francisco Tsao Santín, Volunteers group management.

Juan José Sánchez Penas, Sponsored participants responsible

José Juan González Alonso, Finances and Accountancy responsible



Volunteers

GPUL has launched a call for volunteers with a commitment to participate in next edition of GUADEC and aKademy, this ask for volunteers received and excellent answer from the GPUL members.

- Francisco Jose Delgado Montes
- Jaime Delgado Horna
- Alejo Pacín Jul
- Brais Arias
- Alberto Rodríguez Ferraces
- Laura M. Castro Souto
- Alberto García González
- Serafín Villar
- Mauro Silvosa Rivero
- Eduardo Vazquez Palacios
- Diego Pérez Montes
- Estefanía Rabadán Martínez
- Sergio Otero
- J. David Codesido López
- Diego Fernández Perdomo
- Montserrat Fernández Dopico
- Henrique Ferreiro García
- Diego Blanco Girón
- Andrés Gómez
- Xabier Rodríguez
- Marío Sanchez
- José Dapena Paz
- Javier Fernandez
- Isabel Lema Blanco

Volunteers responsibilities will include: Inform people about whatever doubt they can have, keep the schedule on track, help Filming sessions, take care of the rooms & sessions & material, and welcome participants and help in information desk.

GPUL volunteers have experience in the organization of previous events, almost of all them have participated in more than two events. The association will also welcome the participation of international volunteers providing them the **volunteer accident insurance** and will pay their accommodation.

Previous experiences

GPUL has been organizing Free Software related events since its foundation in 1998.

However, it has been since "Congreso de las Tecnologías del Software Libre" in 2005 when GPUL began to organize bigger conferences.

Since then, GPUL has organized GUADEMY 2007, which proved that it was nice to have GNOME and KDE hackers working together, DUDESconf2007 and DUDESconf2008 the Debian developers meeting in A Coruña.

- GUADEMY 2007, <http://2007.guademy.org>
- DudesConf 2007 <http://www.dudesconf.org/2007/>
- DudesConf 2008 <http://www.dudesconf.org/2008/>
- I Conference on Free Software Technologies <http://congreso.gpul.org>

Everybody who came to those events was really satisfied, moreover people were really surprised for the quantity of the volunteers who were working in the event and the hard work they were doing.

Services to participants

GUADEDEC and aKademy are events organized by people from the community for people of the community. Our main interest is that everybody interested in attending the conference can have the chance to do it. feels comfortable and happy attending the conference, . So the management of sponsored participants will be one of our priorities, so once that main part of the expenses of the venue are covered by University the main part of the budget will be employed in helping people coming to A Coruña.

Local team will try start as soon as possible the program dates for applying for funds to help with the travel expenses of KDE and GNOME contributors. The organization will help to participants with Visa and legal requirement for people from countries that require visa for traveling to Spain.

Conference Managing System

GPUL has been working with CDS Indico for 3 year as Conference Management System, this software has been developed by CERN Document Server Software Consortium. This web application is able to schedule and organise events, from simple lectures to complex meetings, workshops and conferences with sessions and contributions. The tool also includes an advanced user delegation mechanism, allow paper reviewing, archival of conference information and electronic proceedings. CDS Indico is currently in production at CERN at <http://indico.cern.ch>.

GPUL has used this platform successful for its own events including several workshops and conferences as GUADEMY 2007, DUDESConf 2007 & 2008. GPUL provided technical support and allowed the use of this platform to Polinux (GUADEMY 2008 organizer in Valencia, Spain) and GNOME HISPANO (GUADEDEC-ES organizer in Granada 2007 and Fuenlabrada 2008, Spain).

We have experience managing Indico and we think that is important using a Conference System that allows managing two conferences at the same time. The system can handle registrations, abstracts submissions, timetable management,

Catering

Lunch, although it will not be included in the registration fees, the conference meals will be served in a building just 80 meters away from the venue building. The services available in the building include the University's cafeteria, suitable for more than 800 people. For the dates when GUADEC and aKademy 2009 are held the cafeteria will be dedicated almost exclusively to the conferences, as students will be on vacation. The company that will provide this service is the same company that operates the cafeteria throughout the year, which ensures that no logistic issues will arise. **The organization team will take care of people with special meals needs** as has been done in all previously organized events of GPUL, in the registration there would be options to know the different restrictions of people meals (vegetarians, vegans, coeliacs, etc).

For attendants that wish to have lunch outside of the conference venue building, as well as for dinners, they will be recommended to enjoy the vast cuisine diversity that A Coruña has to offer, from the extraordinary seafood to the typical *tapas* and *pinchos*. The conference venue is located within 10 minute by taxi/bus distance from the city centre, which ensures endless possibilities for attendants to enjoy their trip to A Coruña, and simply find a restaurant that satisfies their budget and taste. It must be noted that A Coruña is a very safe city, even at late hours of the night.

There is an enormous amount of restaurants in the area, which makes it unlikely for attendants to require a list of recommendations, but a selection can be provided on demand. Prices for lunch range from 8€ and 18€ for dinner, and can go up to the attendants' budgetary limit. Rather than providing a list of restaurants with their prices, we encourage to look in <http://www.coruna.es> (English interface) for restaurants.

The organization will provide **fruit, snacks, sweets and chocolate in the hacking area** during all the conference.

Attendants to the conference will receive a guide updated at the time of the conference recommending restaurants for having dinner.

Budget

The organization team will manage two different budgets for the two conferences sharing common expenses in order to reduce costs, mainly differences will be related to the number of attendants and the number of sponsored participants. The global budget proposed in next page includes the expected incomes and expenses for organizing the two conferences, as more of the costs are related to the number of participants cost will be reduced in case that only one conference was organized. The proposal is based on a total of 800 attendants, but as fixed cost are provided for free by University a limitation in budget would not imply a reduction in the quality of the conference.

Economical management will be managed by an enterprise of consultancy in accountancy and finances.

INCOMES		TOTAL		
<i>Registrations</i>				
	Professional	150	160	24000
	Hobbies	300	30	9000
	Sponsored	100	0	0
	Volunteers	50	0	0
<i>SPONSORS</i>				
	CORNER STONE	1	30000	30000
	SILVER	5	6000	30000
	GOLD	6	12000	72000
	PUBLIC SUBSIDIES	1	25000	25000
TOTAL INCOME:				190000

EXPENSES

TRANSPORTS

	MAILING SERVICES	200		200
	BUS	6000		6000
	PAQUETERIA	1200		1200

TAXES

	VAT	8000		8000
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BANK EXPENSES

	PAYPAL	500		500
	BANK ACCOUNT	75		75
	BANK TRANSFERS	500		500

SPONSORED PARTICIPANTS

	TRAVELS	70000		70000
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ACCOMODATION SPONSORED AND VOLUNTEERS

	RESIDENCE HALL	150	120	18000
	BREAKFAST	150	21	3150
	MEALS	150	56	8400

RENTING

	VIDEO AND STREAMING TEAM	6000		6000
	MOBILE PHONES	300		300

MANAGEMENT

	ACCOUNTANCY	2000		2000
	SECURITY	4000		4000

MARKETING

	BAGS	12000		12000
	FUTBOL T-SHIRTS	800		800
	T-SHIRTS	12000		12000
	LAYERS	4000		4000
	PRINTING	8000		8000
	DESIGN	2500		2500
	CONFERENCE PARTY	10000		10000

MISC

		10000		10000
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TOTAL EXPENSES:

187625

Supporters of this Bid



University of A Coruña.



Galician Regional government.



Centro de Referencia e Servizos de Software Libre Galician Reference Center on Free Software



Galician Free Software Enterprises Association

ASOLIF Spanish Federation of Free Software Enterprises



GNOME HISPANO

Contact information:

Association GPUL <http://www.gpul.org>

Igalia <http://www.igalia.com>

University of A Coruña <http://www.udc.es>

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