

Report of the Free and Open Source Software Developers' European Meeting (FOSDEM) 2026

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This report summarizes some of my experiences and outcomes of attending FOSDEM 2026 in Brussels. Thanks to the sponsorship of NUUG.

1 Introduction

FOSDEM is the biggest open source conference, where you can hear directly from the developers and non-developers about the latest updates in their projects. With over 1,000 talks, there's a high probability of discovering projects you hadn't heard of before. But most importantly, FOSDEM gives you the opportunity to meet and talk to people engaged in open source in person.

This was my seventh time attending FOSDEM and the first time I was sponsored by NUUG. As a NUUG board member and part of the activities group, I had a specific task: to seek out prominent speakers who might be interested in giving talks to the NUUG community in Oslo. A list of speakers we could potentially invite to Oslo is provided in Section 3.

This report is primarily intended to inspire other FOSS enthusiasts to attend FOSDEM. It focuses on sharing my personal experiences at this year's event rather than providing an in-depth report of technical updates.

2 Key Insights

I would like to highlight two quotes from the presentations, with the first one being:

There is no Claude, just another peoples code.
– *Michiel Leenaars*

Related to this quote is the closing keynote by Daniel Stenberg about the current challenges faced by open source projects as AI-empowered individuals overwhelm already overburdened maintainers with low-quality pull requests and bug reports.

The other quote is:

Open Source has always been political.

– *Richard Hartmann*

The organizers have started find ways to incorporate a dedicated forum for political topics next year. Watch the opening and closing talks for more information.

The majority of my time, which reflects my interests, was spent in these dev rooms, in the following order:

1. Open Media.
2. Rust
3. Audio, Video & Graphics Creation
4. RISC-V.
5. Software Performance
6. AI Plumbers

Among the talks I attended, several focused on multimedia advancements. These included updates on GStreamer, FFmpeg, VLC, and GIMP. Among those talked I watched an AI presentation about using TensorFlow Decoder and RISC-V in multimedia streaming. For those interested in building multimedia streaming projects with open-source technologies, the talk on *Streamplace* stood out as an excellent example. I further discovered an interesting alternative to WebRTC called *imquic*, a QUIC library for real-time media.

The RISC-V track ranged from a historical perspective covering 40 years to detailed insights on debugging ongoing bugs. Additionally, there were very good talks combining Rust with RISC-V, notably on using Rust for cheap bare-metal RISC-V development.

Some other technical highlights included learning about innovations with YAML/CABAC in H.264/AVC software decoding and learning about Gitoxide, a Rust-based tool for taming Git complexity.

On the social side, I learned more about the Fediverse. I learned about Lemmy, a promising alternative to Reddit or Hacker News. I have been exploring its various instances and I am now registered in one of them. During a dinner, I had the opportunity to meet some of the people behind FediVariety, a platform designed to enhance the discoverability of smaller or niche federated projects.

This conference was also a very good chance to reconnect with old friends. On my flight to Brussels and back to Oslo, as well as at the social event hosted by the Brussels hackerspace HXBXL, I caught up with people from Hackeriet, the hacker space in Oslo. One evening, I was fortunate to meet up again with folks from GStreamer, exchanging ideas and updates.

If any of these topics resonate with you, I highly recommend checking out the recordings on the FOSDEM website. Feel also free to contact me (my details are at the end of

this document). I'd be happy to share more if I'm familiar with your areas of interest or attended the relevant talks.

3 Possible Speakers to Oslo

I spoke with a few people who I think could be very interesting for NUUG members in Oslo. They seemed quite interested in coming to Oslo. However, we still need to follow up to make it happen.

- Zeeshan Ali Khan, author of `zbus` and `zlink`.
- Steven Goodwin, the *Marquis de Geek*.
- Paolo Bonzini from Meson, the build system.
- Tim-Philipp Müller, Edward Hervey, and Philippe Normand from GStreamer
- Victoria Neumann and Peter Mechels from FediVariaty.

4 Conclusion

The best thing about FOSDEM is the opportunity to talk to people. It's a great place to network with people engaged in open source!

In addition to attending FOSDEM, if you'd like to share a project you're working on but feel it's not mature, big, or interesting enough, consider signing up for a lightning talk. I saw many of these presentations, and I think the opportunity to showcase your project to a large audience is fantastic.

Finally, I would like to thank NUUG for their sponsorship.

Contact Information

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