

ÖzgürKon 2026 returns to Istanbul on April 25-26, after a five year break

The international free software conference ÖzgürKon, organized by the Free Software Association in Turkey (Özgür Yazılım Derneği), is returning after a five-year hiatus. ÖzgürKon 2026 will take place on April 25–26, 2026, at the Barış Manço Culture Center in Kadıköy, Istanbul, and participation will be completely free.

Launched during the pandemic as one of the first examples of online conferences, ÖzgürKon was held twice in 2020 and 2021, bringing together dozens of speakers, mostly from international communities, and thousands of participants. With ÖzgürKon 2026, the conference sets out once again to carry the legacy and accumulated experience of the past into the present and the future, aiming to respond to the need for an inclusive conference in Turkey where the present and future of free software can be discussed, along with its policies, social impacts, and directions.

In the 40th year of the free software movement, with the rise of large language models and generative systems commonly referred to as “artificial intelligence”, the struggle for freedom in the field of software has entered a new phase. At the same time, in the face of approaches that do not prioritize user freedoms and the public good, the need for solidarity, unity, and producing a shared voice has become more prominent than ever. In this context, the Free Software Association in Turkey invites everyone who does not see freedom as separate from software, or free software as separate from other freedoms, to take part in ÖzgürKon 2026.

Within the scope of the conference, there will be talks, panels, forums, and hands-on workshops covering all areas of the struggle for freedom, including free software, free knowledge, free culture, free art, internet freedom, freedom of expression, and freedom of the press. Applications for those who wish to participate as speakers or session organizers will be open until March 13, 2026.

ÖzgürKon 2026 aims to be a shared meeting and production space for everyone who has something to say in the name of freedom.

You can find the call for participation and other details on the event website at www.ozgurkon.org and on the Free Software Association’s social media accounts.

Who is Free Software Association (Özgür Yazılım Derneği)?

is a community of people defending the free software movement and the freedom of all people in the modern world. Starting with the software freedom, Free Software Association advocates the freedom of people with the motto “Use, Study, Share, Improve!” in connection with hardware freedom, Internet freedom, document freedom and freedom of information.

In addition to organizing the international ÖzgürKon conference once a year, the Free Software Association carries out workshops, seminars, trainings, and outreach activities. It also continues its information and awareness-raising efforts for all segments of society through informative publications such as the ÖYD Security Guide.

www.oyd.org.tr