

Vienna, Austria to host WordCamp Europe 2016

WordCamp Europe 2015 is over, which makes it a great time to share the date and location for WordCamp Europe 2016.

After a short application process in March, April and May, the organising team has chosen Vienna, Austria, as the host city for 2016.

WordCamp Europe 2016 will be happening in Vienna, Austria, on 24th - 26th June.

The WordCamp Europe Application Process

In March of 2015, the organising team for WordCamp Europe 2015 [opened up the 2016 application process](#). Applications were invited from any city across Europe who wanted to host to WordCamp Europe.

Applicants were asked to complete an application form and a budget. The application process was open for around 6 weeks, giving applicants time to look for a venue put together a rough budget for the event.

The Selection Process

When the application period closed, the organising team had received three applications:

- Vienna, Austria
- Bratislava, Slovakia
- Berlin, Germany

To make the decision, all of the applications were reviewed based on the following criteria:

Organisers

- How many WordCamps (or other events) have they organised?
- Do they have experience with large scale events?
- How many local organisers are there?
- How well developed the local community is

Location

- has this location held a WordCamp before?
- has the WordCamp been successful? (success = well-managed budget, enjoyable WordCamp, no major drama)
- does it have a local meetup?
- is there a broad range of accommodation options that suit every budget?
- is there an accessible airport?
- are there low-cost airlines operating in this area?
- is the city an appealing destination for attendees?
- is the city an affordable destination for attendees?

Venue

- are the rooms adequate? One room should have a minimum capacity of around 800, the other a minimum capacity of 300.
- do the available dates suit?
- does the venue have adequate space for registration, happiness bar, sponsors, etc?
- what is the proximity of the venue to the city centre and possible accommodation?

Contributor Day

- is there a contributor day venue available?
- does it have a capacity of at least 300 people?
- does the venue have wifi capacity?

Budget

- is the submitted budget complete?
- how does the budget compare to previous WCEUs? More? Less?
- can we reasonably raise all of the sponsorship money?
- has everything been accounted for?
- do any figures seem out-of-the-ordinary? (do we need to ask the organisers to justify them?)

The organising team reviewed all of the applications and decided to interview the teams from Bratislava and Vienna. The reason that Berlin was ruled out is that there hasn't yet been a WordCamp in Berlin and the team needed more WordCamp organising experience.

What Made Vienna and Bratislava Stand Out?

The applications from Vienna and Bratislava were both extremely strong, but for very different reasons.

What made Vienna stand out was the location and the venue. Vienna is an incredibly beautiful city, and the organising team had put a lot of work into securing a stunning venue in a great location. Also, overall the application had a lot of thought put into creating a marvellous experience for attendees.

We loved the Bratislava application because of the strength, diversity, and passion of the local team. There has been four WordCamps in Bratislava and the meetup has been going for as long. They are also starting to have meetups in other parts of Slovakia. The application for WordCamp Europe reflected this diversity, with 13 co-applicants representing a broad spectrum of people.

Why Vienna?

In the end, the venue, location and available dates for the WordCamp won out. We loved the Bratislava application, but none of the venues were completely suitable for our event. There was one suitable venue, but the only dates available were in 2017 and that's a bit late for WordCamp Europe 2016. The venue in Vienna, however, was perfect. We also have 100% confidence in the Vienna local team: they organised a successful WordCamp Vienna in 2015, and Paolo Belcastro, the lead applicant for WordCamp Europe 2016, has been involved in WordCamp Europe for the past three years. This means that the local team will have an experienced lead.

Integrating local communities

WordCamp Europe is all about creating ties between local communities. The organising team itself consists of people from more than 10 different countries. When people build things together, they form friendships and build relationships. That's why we felt that even though only one city could host WordCamp Europe 2016, we could make it so that it benefits both the Austrian and the Slovak communities. With such close proximity between Vienna and Bratislava, it seemed like a great opportunity for some cross-community building.

That's why we have invited Bratislava team members to participate in the local and remote organising processes of WordCamp Europe 2016. They proved how great they are with an excellent application and we felt the global organising team would benefit greatly from their passion and experience.

We're really excited about WordCamp Europe 2016 in Vienna, but we're equally excited about growing the WordPress community in Europe, creating new connections, crossing borders, and strengthening what has become one of the most diverse and vibrant WordPress communities in the world.

The Application for WordCamp Europe 2017

From October - December 2015, the WordCamp Europe organising team will be available to answer questions and help local communities put together an application for hosting 2017. In January 2016, the application process will be open for 6 weeks and a final decision will be made by the end of February 2016. Members of the 2017 team will be invited to be involved in the 2016 organising team.

The WordCamp Europe organising team is open for questions from local organisers interested at applying at hello@wp-europe.org.

Contact

For any questions or further inquiries, please don't hesitate to contact us at hello@wp-europe.org