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Bridging the Gap: R, LaTeX, and the Future of Open Source at OSSConf 2026

The 14th annual OSSConf (July 1-3) at the University of Žilina, Slovakia, is a deep-dive into the tools that power modern research, education, and IT infrastructure.

📍 Venue: Faculty of Management Science and Informatics, University of Žilina, Slovakia.

📅 Dates: Wednesday, July 1 – Friday, July 3, 2026.

🔗 Registration & Full Program: See Comment Section

For the open-source community, 2026 is shaping up to be a landmark year. While many are preparing for the global useR! 2026 conference, there is a specialized, high-impact "pre-event" happening just days prior that deserves your attention.

A Powerhouse for the R Ecosystem

OSSConf has consistently been a regional hub for the R programming language, and 2026 is no exception. This year's lineup features developers who are actively shaping the CRAN ecosystem:

🇸🇰 Jindra Lacko (Author of RCzechia)

🇸🇰 Matúš Maciak (Author of ProfileLadder)

🇵🇱 Antoni Czołgowski (Author of PacketLLM)

From spatial data science to the integration of R with Large Language Models (LLMs), the technical sessions offer a rare opportunity to discuss package development and statistical computing directly with the authors.

Document Engineering: The LaTeX Track

In an era of automated content, the art and science of precise document preparation remain more relevant than ever. OSSConf continues its tradition of being a premier venue for TeX-perts.

🇸🇰 Petr Olšák, the visionary behind OpTeX, will be providing direct consultations.

✍️ Leading editors from the CSTUG (Czechoslovak TeX Users Group) will be exploring the future of typesetting, including Markdown integration and the evolution of the CTAN ecosystem.

2026 Focus: AI in Research & Education

The core theme for this 14th edition is the practical application of Artificial Intelligence. Rather than focusing on hype, the conference explores:

⚙️ The Engineering Side: Machine learning construction and the high-level use of Gemini and OpenAI CLI tools. 🖥️

🎓 The Pedagogical Side: How AI tools are fundamentally transforming the educational process and curriculum in STEM. 📖

🌟 The "Vibe Coding" Era: Real-world experiences and deep dives into modern, AI-assisted coding workflows. 🚀

Why OSSConf Matters

In a landscape of increasingly commercialized tech events, OSSConf remains a free, community-driven initiative. It is a place for hardware enthusiasts (including a Mobile Linux showcase) and software developers to share solved problems and peer-reviewed research in an informal, collaborative environment.

If you are traveling for useR! 2026, consider starting your journey in Žilina to connect with the engineers and researchers who are keeping the open-source spirit alive and well in Central Europe.

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