Report of KDE Free Qt Working Group + Foundation

Akademy 2025

Who we are and what we do

- Advise and assist KDE's elected board members in the KDE Free Qt Foundation.
  - Albert Astals Cid
  - Olaf Schmidt-Wischhöfer
  - Chris Rizzitello
  - David Redondo
  - Eike Hein
  - Frederik Gladhorn
  - Martin Konold
  - Victoria Fischer

Our work of the past year

- WG discussions on the Matrix group when more immediateness is needed. Live calls on meet.kde.org when appropriate

- Albert had some informal talks with the Qt Group members of the Foundation on Qt World Summit 2025 in Munich.

- Many Qt World Summit attendees mentioned that they were very happy that KDE is maintaining the Qt 5.15 Patch Collection.

- We recovered access to the bank account

Lessons learned and success stories

- Good relations with the Qt Group Foundation members

- „No news is good news"

- WG continues to be of lot of help to the 2 Foundation members

- Increased collaboration at a technical level between KDE and Qt developers

Obstacles during the year

- Sorting bank access was not easy, thanks to the various Qt Group Oslo employees that helped :)

Where we need help

- Continue building good relationships with Qt Group in general (i.e. outside this WG/Free Qt Foundation work)

- We are starting to think on an updated agreement, if you have suggestions they are very welcome.

- The agreement mentions X Window System as the main supported platform and has a mechanism to change that to a successor platform (i.e. Wayland). The community needs to decide when we should start this transition.

Our key goals and plans for the coming year

- Keep good working relationship with the Qt Group members in the Foundation

- Continue talking with Qt Group to more clearly define what is Qt and what is not

- Collect possible improvements to the agreement

Talk to us!

- Our focus points
  - Qt licensing
  - Qt Community
  - Anything Qt!
- kde-ev-free-qt-wg@kde.org
- Ping us (any of us) on Matrix/IRC/e-mail/Akademy

Report of Community Working Group

KDE e.V. AGM 2025

Who we are and what we do

- The Community Working Group takes care of KDE's community members. It enables the KDE Community to work effectively and efficiently by helping the community members maintain healthy interactions and resolving conflicts.

Our work of the past year

- The previous 12 months showed a drop in cases from the year before. However, cases treated in 2025 demanded a lot of work and coordination. The CWG does not report on individual situations nor does it spread specific decision information about cases. We are committed to keeping cases private to the best of our ability as protection for all parties involved.

- Total cases reported: 5
- Total cases with a decision: 4

Where we need help

We are looking for more members. 2 new members, at least. For any interest, connect with the CWG during Akademy or via email.

Our key goals and plans for the coming year

Current initiatives:

- Create security guidelines during Community Events
- Hold office hours during Akademy
- Expand association guidelines for joining CWG
- Create a channel dedicated to online moderation from the Community - Unified Community moderation

Talk to us!

- communit-wg@kde.org

Sysadmin WG Report

KDE e.V. AGM 2025

Our work of the past year – main infrastructure

- Deployed instance of Listmonk to support newsletter format communications

- Largely completed our migration away from Cloudflare

- Significant amount of planning for migration to new cluster setup which has some additional challenges

    - SSL Certificates are one notable area of complexity in a clustered setup, however we believe we have a couple of options and a path forward here now.

    - This is complicated by not all domains pointed at our systems being under our control.

- Completed the process of getting onboarded with Fastly's open source program, which allows us to utilise Fastly services. This will help us provide reliable services in an increasingly hostile internet (thanks AI scrapers!)

- Assisted the PIM developers in obtaining access to a Microsoft 365 workspace for developing our software against

- Deployed an instance of UptimeKuma to improve monitoring of our services

- General maintenance of our pre-existing systems: Gitlab, Mediawiki, Wordpress, Matomo, Limesurvey, etc.

- Processing countless releases for self-released projects, as well as various other general support / change requests.

Our work of the past year – CI

- Introduction of VM based CI. This has yielded significant benefits including:
  - Enabling support (or improving it) for building binary distribution formats such as Snap, Appimage and Flatpak
  - Enables various unit tests that require a fully functioning system which has already allowed for bugs in our software to be eliminated
  - Significantly improved the reliability of the CI system for non-Linux platforms
  - Essentially eliminated the maintenance cost of supporting various special purpose builds (such as Snap and KDE Linux images)
  - This also permits contributors to run the same environment used by the CI system locally
- Introduced native ARM build support, needed for Flatpak and Snap in particular
- Introduced a secure token service that allows for temporary access to be granted to parts of storage.kde.org during a CI job based on the job being run
- Automated deployment process for new CI nodes. Configuration of a new build node from base OS installation to performing builds now takes less than 30 minutes.
  - This proved out a concept that will form part of the deployment of the cluster mentioned on the previous slide.
  - Once fully worked through this should provide greater transparency on how our systems operate and allow people to contribute changes without needing them to be granted direct access to sensitive systems. This continues a theme of tooling and other components of our infrastructure moving to public Git repositories over the years.
- Supported members of the community with introducing new CI functionality (Qt Next)

Other items of note

- During the year we received two requests from copyright holders relating to infringing content that had been posted to services we operate.
    - One related to a spam posting that linked to the actual infringing content.
    - The other related to pirated content that had been posted on store.kde.org.
    - Both were taken down
- As a result of the EU Digital Markets Act, various additional information had to be provided to the proprietary store fronts that host KDE software which was completed in time to avoid the removal of our software.

Where we need help

- The story we have around packaging for the various binary formats (Flatpak, Snap, etc) continues to be challenging.
  - Sysadmin often receives queries for assistance in this area which takes away from other work we do.
  - Improved documentation would be welcome.
- The software supporting LXR is unmaintained and in desperate need of replacement.
  - Community views on what a suitable successor is would be appreciated.
  - Ideally alongside options for software we could deploy that is off-the-shelf.
- We are currently unable to rebuild docs.kde.org as it has failed to make the transition to being Qt 6 based.
  - The generation of this ideally would be done incrementally as part of normal CI duties to eliminate the need to have a dedicated build box for this site.
  - Luigi has already written up some comprehensive notes on the build process

Our key goals and plans for the coming year

- Initiate the migration of the bulk of our systems to the VM cluster.
    - This will include migrating away from DigitalOcean and Iomart (formerly Bytemark).
    - Should significantly improve the resilience of our systems to the current attacks they experience.
- Rollout of Fastly protection for the majority of our services (where appropriate) to guard against AI scrapers and abusive attacks such as those currently being experienced by ArchLinux.
- Initiate steps towards closing down Phabricator
- Depending on how the translation migration goes, close down and archive svn.kde.org.

Talk to us!

If you are looking at building application functionality that depends on server side actions please do reach out first – we can provide some guidance on how it may be best to implement it.

- Matrix: #kde-sysadmin:kde.org
- Email: sysadmin@kde.org

Financial Working Group

— Akademy Report 2025 —

August 2025

Mission & Goals

- Support KDE e.V. Board in Financial topics.

- In collaboration with the Treasurer, propose financial decisions to the KDE e.V. Board.

- Support Board members in commercial activities.

- Support the Treasurer in communication actions related to financial topics.

- Evaluate financial reports submitted by the Treasurer.

- Help the Community implement the annual Budget Plan.

Members: Elected for two-year terms

- Eike Hein (hein@kde.org)
  Active. Treasurer.

- Marta Rybczynska (marta.rybczynska@kde.org)
  Running for re-election. (August 2025).

- Till Adam (adam@kde.org)
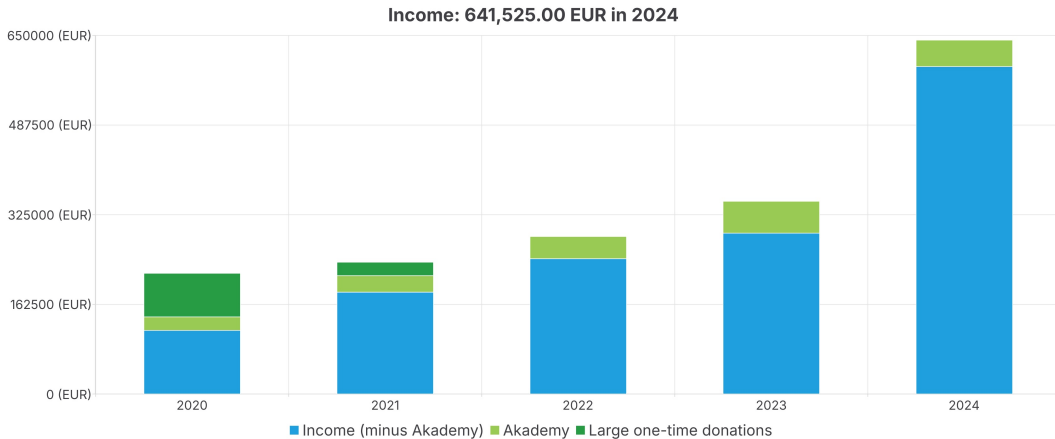 Running for re-election. (August 2025).

2023 Financial Review

- Income increased from 350k to 642k thanks to amazing EOY fundraising performance.
  - Big thanks to our donors and fundraisers!
  - Mostly from individual donors. Attributable to high campaign quality + the new donation popup in Plasma.

- Other income channels remained stable.

- Our expenses grew from 483k to 508k, well within our expectations (we had set a high-water mark budget of 568k).

- In short: Our goal was to limit our expense growth to achieve a significant burn rate reduction, based on what we thought was an achievable income increase.
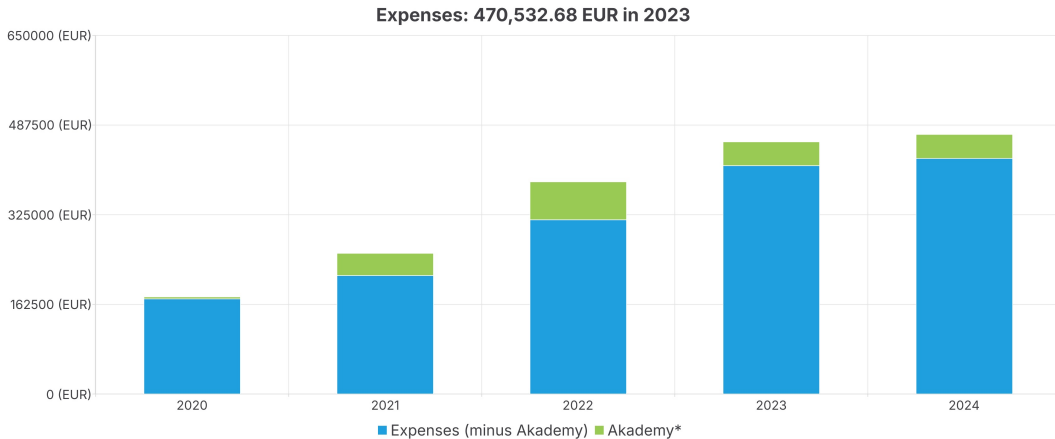
  Expense control worked.
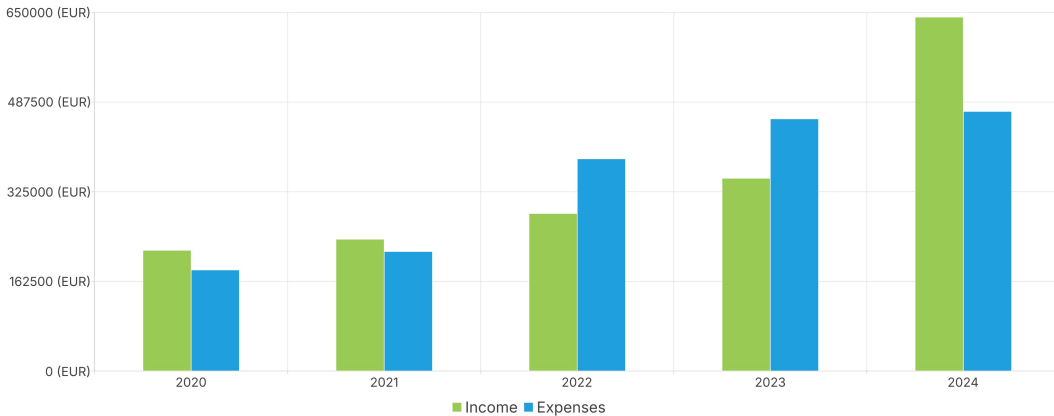 Income far outpaced our ambitions!

Income 2020-2024

Income: 641,525.00 EUR in 2024

■ Income (minus Akademy) ■ Akademy ■ Large one-time donations

Expenses 2020-2024
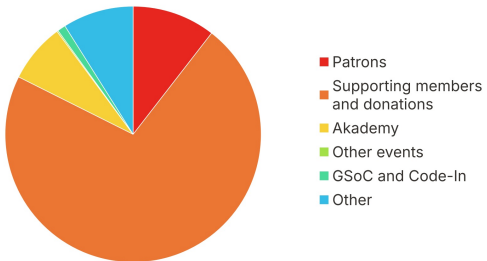
Expenses: 470,532.68 EUR in 2023

* = Akademy expenses do not include the compensation of our Event Organizer, who works on multiple events. It is is accounted in our personnel expenses instead.
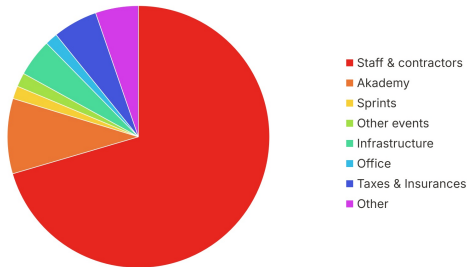
Income vs. Expenses 2020-2024

2024 in Detail

Income

- Patrons
- Supporting members and donations
- Akademy
- Other events
- GSoC and Code-In
- Other

Expenses

- Staff & contractors
- Akademy
- Sprints
- Other events
- Infrastructure
- Office
- Taxes & Insurances
- Other

2025 Budget Plan

- We expect income growth to 661k EUR (2024: 642k, 350k), despite cautiously assuming less impressive H2 and EOY fundraising.

- Until we gain more experience with our new fundraising platform, we keep expenses relatively flat at a high-water mark of 595k EUR (2024: 568k).

- It looks like we can meet our goal of achieving a sustainably balanced budget ahead of our 2026/27 goal, providing a stable platform for future growth.

- Lowered office costs!

- Increased delegation & spending autonomy within line items, e.g. Promo takes care of allocating event funding and materials.

2025 Mid-Year Review

- Strong H1/25 on invidual donations, up 36.9% from H2/2024.
  - Lots of people reward us for major Plasma releases.

- Sub-project donations remain stable: This approach works.
  - Consider fundraising for your sub-project if it has a strong brand and community. We are here to help.

- Akademy costs are flat, but sponsorship is down almost half from the previous two good years. We're not breaking even on the conference this year.

- The KDE League has been dissolved, and its remaining 14k in assets have been transferred to KDE e.V.

Notworthy trends & changes

- KDE e.V.'s income is now over 70% from individual donors.
  - It used to be more 50:50 between corporate and individual donors.
  - It's where we put most of our effort to improve recently. Outcomes reflect actions.

- The end-of-the year fundraising campaign makes the difference between being in the red or green. There is a lot of pressure on the campaign to be high-quality.

- Sprint activity in the KDE community did not return to pre-pandemic levels, but travel support for attending non-KDE events is on the rise.
  - We should investigate the reasons why sprint meetups have become less popular.
  - It looks like KDE developers increasingly wield influence & get work done at e.g. middleware conferences. This is a good thing.

Food for thought!