

Hosting the Federal Committee Spring 2024

A Joint Proposal by JEF Estonia & JEF Finland

Tartu, Estonia as the Host



City of Tartu

Why Tartu

[Tartu](#). A city with a long and storied history, dating back to the 13th century. It has been a centre of learning and innovation for centuries, with its university being one of the oldest in Europe. This legacy is reflected in the city's architecture, which boasts a stunning mix of medieval, baroque, and neoclassical buildings, including the iconic Tartu Cathedral. But Tartu is not just a city of the past. It is a city of the future, with a dynamic cultural scene that attracts visitors from all over the world. In fact, Tartu has been named the European Capital of Culture for 2024 [[Tartu 2024](#)], which will bring a range of exciting events and activities to the city throughout the year.

Hosting the JEF Federal Committee in Tartu would allow members to experience first-hand the city's unique blend of history and modernity. The committee would have access to state-of-the-art meeting facilities, as well as the opportunity to explore Tartu's many cultural attractions, from its museums and galleries to its bustling cafes and restaurants. Furthermore, Tartu's location in the heart of Europe makes it an ideal meeting point for members of the committee from all over the continent. The city is easily accessible by air, rail, and road, and its compact size makes it easy to navigate once you arrive.

The University of Tartu, founded in 1632, the University of Tartu is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Europe. It has played a significant role in the city's history and culture. It has been a beacon of scholarship and innovation for centuries, producing

a long line of distinguished alumni including Nobel laureates, presidents, and prime ministers. The university's impact can be felt throughout the city, with many of its buildings and faculties occupying prime locations in Tartu's picturesque Old Town. Despite numerous challenges over the centuries, from war and occupation to political upheaval and censorship, the university has always remained committed to its core values of academic freedom, intellectual curiosity, and the pursuit of knowledge. Today, the University of Tartu is a thriving institution with a strong international reputation. It attracts students and scholars from all over the world.

Tartu is also the location of the main academic Political Science department in Estonia and is also the location of the Estonian Supreme Court of Law. We foresee an interesting possibility to connect the 2024 FC with the upcoming European Elections thanks to the potential high interest of the stakeholders in the location, such as the departments of Political Science and Law, the Tartu City Council, and local associations of the civil society.

Hosting the JEF Federal Committee meeting in Tartu would provide an opportunity to showcase the university's contributions to the city and to European intellectual life more broadly. The committee could visit the university's historic buildings and learn about its rich history, as well as attend talks and seminars by renowned scholars and researchers.

Joint Proposal by JEF Estonia and JEF Finland

The idea to host the Federal Committee in Spring 2024 comes as a joint venture from JEF Estonia and JEF Finland. This collaboration is particularly crucial in light of the historical ties between the two countries and the common geopolitical challenges they face, specifically the threat posed by Russia. Estonia and Finland have a long and intertwined history, dating back centuries. Despite their different languages and cultures, the two countries share a bond that is rooted in their shared experiences of oppression and domination by larger powers. This shared history has created a strong sense of solidarity between the two countries, which is reflected in their close economic, political, and social ties. Furthermore, Estonia and Finland face a common geopolitical threat in the form of Russia. Both countries share a long border with Russia and have experienced aggression and interference from Russia in recent years. This shared threat has brought Estonia and Finland even closer together, as they seek to work together to counter Russian aggression and protect their shared values of democracy, freedom, and human rights. In these uncertain and unstable times, it is more important than ever for European countries to work together to promote stability, security, and prosperity in the region.

By collaborating on this project to be hosted in Tartu in 2023, JEF Estonia and JEF Finland are demonstrating their commitment to this shared goal. Through this collaboration, the two organisations can pool their resources, share their expertise, and build stronger relationships with each other. Furthermore, hosting this project in Tartu sends a powerful message about the importance of European unity and solidarity in the face of common threats. Tartu, with its rich history and vibrant culture, is the perfect location to showcase the shared values and aspirations of Estonia, Finland, and Europe as a whole. By coming together in Tartu, JEF Estonia and JEF Finland can demonstrate their commitment to building a stronger, more prosperous, and more secure Europe. By

working together, the two organisations can demonstrate the power of cooperation and solidarity in the face of common challenges.

While JEF Estonia is still a candidate hoping to become a full national JEF section in the JEF Congress in November 2023, we have demonstrated ambition, passion, strong momentum, and rapid growth since we started 2 years ago. We have had numerous successful projects with JEF Europe and our members have won 2 awards for those projects as well.

JEF Finland is already a well established JEF section with massive experience in organising large events such as their Castle Seminar that hosts about 100 people each year. They have strong experience in event organisation and searching for funding to make events successful.

Additionally, although before there was little JEF activity in the Baltic region, we now have a very active JEF Latvia, a very active JEF Estonia and most recently, a very rapidly rising JEF Lithuania as well. With such high JEF energy being generated in this region, it is also a fantastic opportunity to bring the full JEF energy of a Federal Committee here. There has not been any such event in this region before, at least not for a very long time, and this would be a fantastic way to celebrate and welcome the rise of all of the Baltic JEF sections.

Meet The Team

JEF Estonia

Benedetta Veneruso President	Abdullah Siddiqui Operations Manager	Selbi Komekova Membership Officer
Susie McAdam Finance Officer	Mathilde Pottier International Officer	Eryk Lasek Event Officer

JEF Finland

Amanda Alvesalo President	Saana Ylikruuvi Secretary General	Sami Matikainen Vice President
Antti Avoranta Vice President	Samuel Tammekann	Nea-Maria Törmänen

Notable Venues

Venues for the Federal Committee



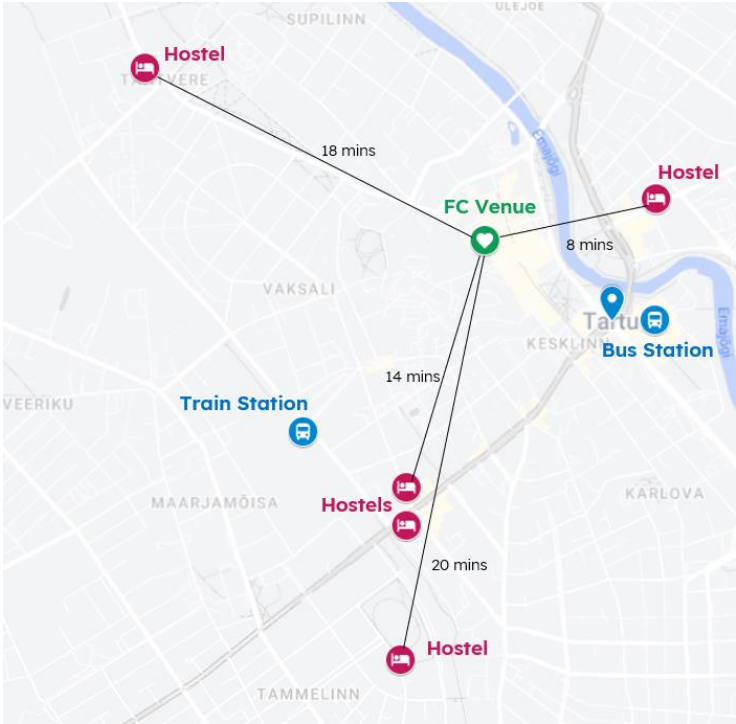
University of Tartu

The University of Tartu is an obvious first contender, not only because of its cultural significance, but they have also, on many previous occasions, given rooms for free for holding events by youth organisations of various kinds, including related to democracy and political activism. The best option would be to get access to their auditoriums and host the FC there. This would drastically reduce costs and involve an important entity in the Tartu in the event as well.

In the unlikely possibility that we are not able to get rooms at the University of Tartu, there are several other conference centres that can be booked for a cost.

Among such possibilities and also within the vicinity of the city centre, we have the [AHHAA Science Centre](#) where small rooms (50 seats) cost up to 39 euros per hours, and large halls (150 seats) cost 295 euros per day. We also have an option for the conference halls at the [V Spa Hotel](#) where a variety of small rooms (10-60 seats) cost 38-90 euros per hour, and large halls (125 seats) cost 450 euros per. Also in the city centre is the [Tartu Nature House](#) where small rooms (10-40 seats) cost from 22 euros per hour and the large halls (100 seats) costing 385 euros per day.

Options for Accommodation



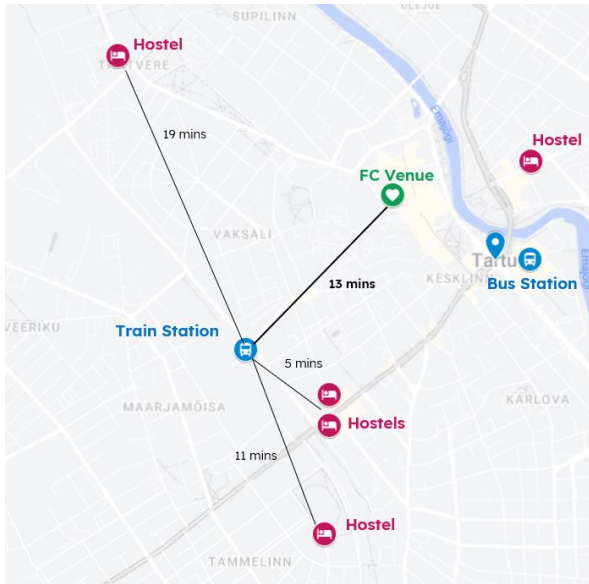
Map: Walk time between the FC Venue & Hostels

Among several possibilities for accommodation, a few of the options close to the possible venues were contacted and a general price estimate was requested.

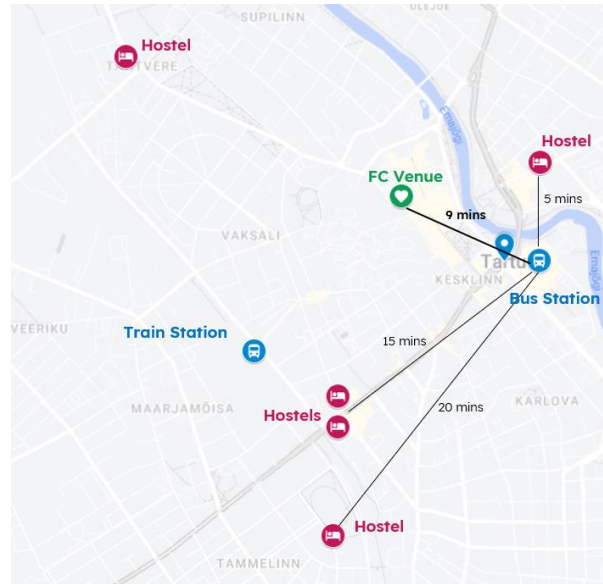
Hostel	Total Capacity	Average Price/bed/night
Hektor Design Hostel	39	27
Tamme Hostel	45	23
Tornin Hostel	26	20
Tartu Downtown Hostel	25	17
Looming Hostel	52	23

The average price for accommodation is then **21-24 euros**, per person, per night. This is before any possible group discounts have been agreed upon.

As there is no single hostel that can accommodate the total group of 80-100 attendees of the Federal Committee, the idea is to split the guests into groups. All hostels are nearby to the selected venue.



Map: Walk time between the Train Station & Hostels



Map: Walk time between the Bus Station & Hostels

The venues, hostel and the bus and train stations are in close proximity to each other, all within 1.8 km. While walking is not any issue for most people, Tartu has public transports buses that would cost 1.5 euros per person. Using the ride hailing app Bolt, guests can also travel between locations easily, with the typical cost being between 3-4 euros for any of the trips.

For maximum inclusivity, we plan to make car transport available for all guests for whom special needs access is required to ensure their equal inclusion and participation in the federal committee.

Food & Catering

Options for food include catering at hostels or nearby restaurants as well as catering service providers. The plan is to find an optimum balance of costs, convenience and best possibility between the options that best suit the breakfast, lunch and dinners that will be part of the programme.

All the options listed below can provide catering or have seats in their restaurant for up to 100-300 people. These are a short list of the several possibilities.

Restaurant/Catering	Average Cost (Euros)
Tamme Hostel	7.5
Seeking Kitchen	6-8
Vapiano	9
Gun Powder	12
Coffee/Refreshmnets	3-5

How to get to Tartu

Tartu can be reached from multiple locations air, rail, and road. The closest international airport is the Tallinn Airport where guests from all over Europe can arrive and hop on to a bus right outside the airport. A railway line from Tallinn to Tartu is very close to the airport as well. The journey takes a short 2.5 hours across the beautiful landscape in Estonia. [Bus](#) or [train](#) tickets from Tallinn to Tartu cost 10-13 euros.

Some guests might find it more suitable to arrive to other nearby major airports such as the Helsinki Airport in Finland or the Riga Airport in Latvia. From Helsinki, Tallinn is a short 2-hour ferry away, if guests want to avoid a short haul flight that can take you from Helsinki to Tallinn in 30 minutes. From Riga, guests can choose to take either a short 1-hour flight to Tallinn or take a bus from Riga to Tartu.

A short table of travel routes via bus/rail, durations and costs are below:

From X to Tartu	Travel Time	Cost
Tallinn (Estonia)	2.5 hours	10-13 euros
Riga (Latvia)	5.5 hours	15-30 euros
Vilnius (Lithuania)	11 hours	29-45 euros
Warsaw (Poland)	18-21 hours	60-70 euros
Prague (Czech)	29-34 hours	80-90 euros
Berlin (Germany)	25 hours	40-70 euros

An idea of long-haul flights from several places around Europe can be understood from the table below:

From X to Tallinn	Average Cost (Euros)
North Europe	120-150
West Europe	100-250
Central Europe	100-250
South Europe	200-300
East Europe	150-250

Examples of low-cost airlines flying to Tallinn: Air Baltic, Wizz Air, Ryan Air, LOT, SAS, Lufthansa, Finnair, etc.

Options for co-funding

We have already found multiple sources at the local and regional level to help fund this event.

One such is the [Support for international conferences from EAS](#), with the maximum grant of 30 000 euros and a requirement of 30% of self-financing. Currently the applications for 2024-2025 are due to open soon, but we already fulfil all the major requirements to be eligible for this grant.

As part of the European Capital of Culture for 2024, the [Tartu 2024](#) project has several events already in plan and have shown in interest in any events that can promote Tartu and Estonia and the showcase the work they have been doing. As a major part of the

federal committee revolves around culture exchange and international visibility, this would be a fantastic addition for the Tartu 2024 programme.

Another possible partner could be the [Estonian Youth Association](#). They have in the past funded several events related to youth, society, activism and democracy and in our discussions with them in the past they have already offered support in helping fund events.

From the side of JEF Finland, they have extensive experience a well proven track record in organising, managing and delivering major events, they have a large group of passionate volunteers and task forces to execute events professionally, and they have a lot of experience in applying for funding.

Besides this, we are already looking for more opportunities, partnerships, sponsorships, and grants from governmental and NGO entities that can help bring a successful Federal Committee to Tartu 2024 that will be remembered for years.

Provisional Budget

Expected Participants	
Delegates	48
Observers	16
Others	16
Total	80

Expenses	Unit Cost	Total
Accommodation (2 nights)	50	4000
Dinner Friday	7.5	600
Breakfast Saturday	7.5	600
Lunch Saturday	7	560
Coffee breaks Saturday	4	320
Dinner Saturday	9	720
Breakfast Sunday	7.5	600
Lunch Sunday	7	560
Materials *	1	500
Miscellaneous **	1	300
Total		8760

Income	
Participation fee	3680
EAS	1500
Tartu 2024	2000 Possibly in kind, support with food/catering, miscellaneous
Estonian Youth Association	1200
Sponsors	500 Possibly in kind, support with materials, miscellaneous
Total	8880

Materials * e.g. Volunteer/facilitator T-shirts, participant ID badges, posters, printouts, stationary, flipcharts etc.
 Miscellaneous ** e.g. Special transport arrangements for special access needs, unforeseen expenses etc.

Notes:
This represents a fair estimate of what would be the most likely costs.
While there has been no agreement as of writing with funding partners, based on our discussions and past experience with them, the amounts indicated are considered to be very much possible to achieve. Additional funding sources will be looked at as well for backup.
It could be possible to reduce accommodation costs if group discounts can be negotiated. This is the current standard average price without discounts.
All mentioned expenses are currently the best quotations, and are possible to change marginally for next year inline with factors such as inflation for example.

The budget estimates are based on a lower bound using the lowest quotation and 80 participants and an upper bound using the highest quotation and 100 participants. Prices are based on current prices and are subject to change for next year.

The Venue costs can be zero if we can get the University of Tartu to provide adequate rooms. If not, the cost would be an average of the quotations we have with a mix of the large halls for the full day and small rooms for short periods as needed for the Federal Committee agenda. As the venues are within a few minutes of walking from each other, it could even be possible to take advantage of the short distance and use different venues if this does not cause inconvenience to the event agenda.

Special needs transport is based on an average on 3-4 euros per car per trip, with up to 3 cars needed on each trip and 2 trips taken on each of the 3 days. It is entirely dependent on the number of users who have special access needs.

While there has been no agreement as of writing with funding partners, based on our discussions and past experience with them, the amounts indicated are considered to be very much possible to achieve. Additional funding sources will be looked at as well for backup.

See annex 1 for a worst-case budget.

Organisational & Budget Strategy

1. Organise the event keeping in mind the Tartu 2024 [guidelines](#) for organising environmentally friendly events.
2. Maximum effort for equal inclusion of guests regardless of special access needs, and this includes catering to dietary restrictions and allergies.
3. Effort will be made to design the event in a way that promotes social interaction and communication between all guests, with an emphasis on guests from different sides of Europe for maximum cultural exchange. Perhaps a method of gamification can be used to make the social interactions an optional game as well.
4. Depending on funding we will seek to also subsidise or entirely cover different parts of the social programme so they can be a free of cost addition for guests.

Prospective Ideas for the Social Programme



[Tagurpidi Maja](#)
(Upside Down House)

[Toomemägi Ruins](#)
(Tartu Cathedral Ruins)



[Leaning House of Tartu](#)
(Art Museum)

[V Spa](#)



[AHA Science Centre](#)

[Eesti Rahva Muuseum](#)
(Estonian National Museum)



Annex 1

Expected Participants	
Delegates	48
Observers	16
Others	16
Total	80

Expenses	Unit Cost	Total
Venue	1500	1500
Accommodation (2 nights)	50	4000
Dinner Friday	7.5	600
Breakfast Saturday	7.5	600
Lunch Saturday	8	640
Coffee breaks Saturday	5	400
Dinner Saturday	12	960
Breakfast Sunday	7.5	600
Lunch Sunday	8	640
Materials *	1	500
Miscellaneous **	1	600
Total		11040

Income	
Participation fee	3680
EAS	3000
Tartu 2024	2000 Possibly in kind, support with food/catering, miscellaneous
Estonian Youth Association	2000
Sponsors	500 Possibly in kind, support with materials, miscellaneous
Total	11180

Materials * e.g. Volunteer/facilitator T-shirts, participant ID badges, posters, printouts, stationary, flipcharts etc.

Miscellaneous ** e.g. Special transport arrangements for special access needs, unforeseen expenses etc.

Notes:
<p>This represents a fair estimate of what would be the most likely costs.</p> <p>While there has been no agreement as of writing with funding partners, based on our discussions and past experience with them, the amounts indicated are considered to be very much possible to achieve. Additional funding sources will be looked at as well for backup.</p> <p>It could be possible to reduce accomodation costs if group discounts can be negotiated. This is the current standard average price without discounts.</p> <p>All mentioned expenses are currently the best quotations, and are possible to change marginally for next year inline with factors such as inflation for example.</p>