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GeoForAll

Monthly Newsletter

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4. Conferences

Europe

May 2026

1. 4-6: FOR2026 Conference: The Future of Open Research

Venue: Munich, Germany

2. 21-23: EUROGEO Conference (more details in near future)

Venue: Fontys University, Tilburg, The Netherlands

September 2026

3. 16-18: PLATIAL '26: International Symposium on Platial Information Science

Venue: Salzburg, Austria

October 2026

3. *6-8: RDA 27th Plenary Meeting*

Venue: London

Asia

August 2026

4. 30-September 5: FOSS4G 2026

Venue: Hiroshima, Japan

North America

November 2026

6. 2-4: FOSS4G NA 2026

Venue: Sacramento, California, USA

GeoForAll

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	Paulo César Coronado Sánchez, Professor of computer sciences at Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas, Head of GISEPROI and OSGeoLabUD research Group. Bogotá, Colombia paulocoronado@gmail.com	Translator and designer of the Spanish Edition

GeoForAll Themes

- **OpenCity Smart**

  Theme under revision

- **Teacher Training & School Education**

➢ Chairs: Elżbieta Wołoszyńska-Wiśniewska (Poland), Nikos Lambrinos (Greece)

➢ Mail list: geoforall-teachertraining@lists.osgeo.org

➢ Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoForAll_TeacherTraining_SchoolEducation

- **CitizenScience**

➢ Chairs: Peter Mooney (Ireland) and Maria Brovelli (Italy)

➢ Mail list: https://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-geocrowd

➢ Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Geocrowdsourcing_CitizenScience_FOSS4G

- **AgriGIS**

➢ Chairs: Didier Leibovici (U.K.) and Nobusuke Iwasaki (Japan)

➢ Mail list: https://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-agrigis

➢ Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Agrigis

GeoForAll Regional Chairs and Contact Information

North America Region

Chairs: Helena Mitasova (USA), Charles Schweik (USA), Phillip Davis (USA) Subscribe at mail list http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-northamerica

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Iberoamerican Region

Chairs: Sergio Acosta y Lara (Uruguay) and Silvana Camboim (Brazil) and Antoni Pérez Navarro (Spain). Subscribe at mail list: https://lists.osgeo.org/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-iberoamerica

Email: geoforall-iberoamerica@lists.osgeo.org.

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Chairs: Msilikale Msilanga (Tanzania), Serena Coetzee (South Africa) and Bridget Fleming (South Africa) Subscribe at mail list http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-africa

Email: africa.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

Asia Region (including Australia)

Chairs: Tuong Thuy Vu (Malaysia/Vietnam) and Venkatesh Raghavan (Japan/India) Subscribe at maillist http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-asiaaustralia

Email: asia.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

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Email: eu.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

GeoForAll

GeoAmbassador Content table

July 2016, Vol.2, no.7	Prof. Georg Gartner, Vienna University of Technology
Aug 2016, Vol.2, no.8	Prof. Silvana Philippi Camboim, Federal University of Paraná, Brazil
Sep 2016, Vol.2, no.9	Nimalika Fernando, Sri Lanka
Oct 2016, Vol.2, no.10	Sergio Acosta Y Lara, Montevideo Uruguay
Nov 2016, Vol. 2, no. 11	Victoria Rautenbach, Centre of Geoinformation Science Univ. of Pretoria, South Africa
Dec 2016, Vol.2, no.12	Dr. Daria Svidzinska, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine
Jan 2017, Vol.3 no.1	Dr. Mark Ware, University of South Wakes, UK
Feb 2017, Vol.3, no. 2	Dr. Rafael Moreno Sanchez, Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado Denver, USA
March 2017, Vol.3 no.3	Dr. Tuong Thuy Vu, School of Environmental and Geographical Sciences, University of Nottingham, Malaysia campus
April 2017, Vol.3 no.4	Michael P. Finn, U.S. Geological Survey
May 2017, Vol.3 no.5	Dr. Peter Mooney, Maynooth University, NASA
June 2017, Vol.3 no.6	Patrick Hogan, NASA
July 2017, Vol.3 no.7	Prof. Dr. Josef Strobl, Salzburg
September 2017, Vol.3 no.9	Bridget Fleming, South Africa
October 2017, Vol.3 no.10	Sven Schade, Joint Research Centre, Italy
November 2017, Vol.3 no.11	Luciene Stamato Delazari, Universidade Federal do Paraná in Brazil
December 2017, Vol.3 no.12	Charlie Schweik, Univ. of Massachussets, USA
January 2018, Vol.4 no.1	Julia Wagemann, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
February 2018, Vol.4 no.2	Barend Köbben, Department of Geo-Information ProcessingUniversity of Twente
March 2028, Vol.4 no.3	Kurt Menke, Birds Eye View
April 2018, Vol.4 no.4	Dr. Clous Rinner, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada
June 2018, Vol.4, no.6	Martin Landa, Department of Geomatics, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Czech Technical University (CTU) in Prague

Lab of the Month, Content table

Aug 2015, Vol.1 no.1	Open Source Geospatial Lab, Kathmandu University, Nepal (Asia)
Sep 2015, Vol.1 no.2	FOSS4G Lab, University of Colarado Denver (USA)
Oct 2015, Vol.1, no.3	Open Source Geospatial Lab, University of Southampton, UK (Europe)
Nov 2015, Vol.1 no.4	The Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology of Chinese Academy of Science, China (Asia)
Jan 2016 , Vol.2 no.1	Centre for Geoinformation Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa, (Africa)
Feb 2016, Vol.2 no.2	Open Source Geospatial Lab, University of Newcastle, UK, (Europe)
Mar 2016, Vol.2 no.3	SMART Open Source Geospatial Lab, University of Wollongong, (Australia)
Apr 2016, Vol.2 no.4	Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, Nairobi, Kenya (Africa)
May 2016, Vol.2 no.5	GeoDa Centre – Arizona State University, (USA)
June 2016, Vol.2 no.6	Direccion Nacional de Topografia – MTOP Montevideo, Uruguay, (South America)
July 2016, Vol.2 no.7	SIGTE – University of Girona, Spain (Europe)
August 2016, Vol.2 no.8	Open Source Geospatial Lab, Department of Geodesy and Surveying, Budapest Univ. of Technology and Economics, Hungary (Europe).
September 2016, Vol.2 no.9	Open Source Geospatial Lab, Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb, Croatia, (Europe)
October 2016, Vol.2 no.10	Hellenic digital earth Centre of Excellence, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, (Europe)
November 2016, Vol.2 no.11	Department of Geoinformatics, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic
December 2016, Vol.2 no.12	Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkog, Thailand
January 2017, Vol.3 no.1	Spatial Lab, Texas A&M, Corpus Christi, USA
February 2017, Vol.3 no.2	Open Source Geospatial Lab, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Belgrade, Serbia
March 2017, Vol.3 no.3	Geomatics and Earth Observation Laboratory (GEOlab) , Politecnico di Milano, Italy
April 2017, Vol.3 no.4	Faculty of Civil Engineering, Department of Geomatics, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic
May 2017, Vol.3 no.5	the Laboratory of socio-geographical research of the University of Siena, ITALY
June 2017, Vol.3 no.6	A World Bridge program
July 2017, Vol.3 no.7	Department of Civil, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering of the University of Trento, Italy
August 2017, Vol.3 no.8	Institute of Geography, Faculty of Science, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia
November 2020, Vol.6 no.11	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), Spain
January 2021, Vol.7 no.01	gvSIG Uruguay Community, Uruguay

5. Webinars

- If you want to start learning how to use QGIS, there are some excellent free resources at https://www.gislounge.com/free-ways-to-learn-qgis/

7. Training programs

- GeoForAll educational materials have been transferred to our new web site. GeoForAll educational inventory system, a place to search and share educational materials

11. Free books, educational materials, etc.

- Visit the YouTube QGIS channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGS162t4hkOA0b35ucf1yng/videos to get videos of QGIS applications, representations and ideas.
- STEM orientation in European higher education institutions: Analysis of Institutional Characteristics 2026

  The European Union faces a competitiveness challenge that places STEM education at the centre of strategic policymaking. As articulated in the recently launched STEM Education Strategic Plan, Europe's capacity to innovate and compete globally depends fundamentally on developing robust STEM talent pipelines while addressing persistent skills shortages that constrain economic growth and technological advancement. This imperative is amplified by the twin green and digital transitions, which McKinsey estimates will require reskilling approximately 12 million European workers (6.5% of the current workforce) to fully harness the productivity benefits of emerging technologies. Against this backdrop, the present study examines institutional characteristics associated with varying levels of STEM orientation across European higher education institutions (HEIs), providing evidence-based insights to inform policy interventions within the Union of Skills framework.

12. Articles

South African Open Science Policy 2026

By the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, Republic of South Africa.

Scientific research seeks to meet human development goals, while sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide both resources and the ecosystem on which our socio-economic conditions depend. Faster, less costly access to scientific results, data, and methods can accelerate the pace of scientific discovery and the uptake of the results.

Global inter-connectedness supports the rapid exchange of these outputs. Open Science is defined as research and development that is collaborative, transparent, and reproducible, and whose outputs are made publicly available.

The benefits of using the Open Science paradigm are broadening the benefits of science across society, recognition that reproducibility and validation are required for science to remain credible, and the enabling of new mechanisms for technological changes. An outstanding example has been seen with

the high-speed development of a global scientific response to COVID-19, where barriers to exchanging the results of scientific discoveries were lowered or removed – supporting the often held view that Open Science is effectively a vehicle for "the democratisation of knowledge".

Open Science can only be successful with the mindful application of the cardinal guiding principle "As Open As Possible, As Closed As Necessary". This principle recognises both the legislative environment, and the critical socio-economic role of intellectual property rights.

South Africa's competitiveness depends on understanding and embracing this new paradigm. There is also an urgent need for change in access to research publications in terms of the present cost.

This Open Science policy sets out guiding principles, objectives, and policy linkages. The seven policy intents concern (1) the policy and regulatory environment, (2) Open Access to the scientific literature, (3) access to valuable Open Data, (4) the required supporting education and skills, (5) the potential incentives, (6) the required Infrastructure, and (7) the relationship to Citizen Science. Among the critical success factors are trusted security and financial sustainability in implementation. The move to Open Science supports the need for district and local internet access. Since Open Science is a global movement generated by researchers themselves, engagement of stakeholders is a critical element. Transition towards an open research culture requires an enabling environment with appropriate support mechanisms in place.

Open practices result in a transformation in the way in which science is done. An Open Science Observatory is proposed, which will continuously monitor the efficiency and relevance of the system, and will provide feedback on implementation.

Through the adoption of an Open Science Policy, South Africa will facilitate equality of opportunity within the National System of Innovation, as well as benefiting from a global and African trend.

Download the full article here.

Acronyms

by **Nikos Lambrinos**, Chief Editor, and **Michael Finn**.

For those who would like to support this effort, please send any acronyms to the Chief Editor (labrinos@eled.auth.gr).

3DEP: 3-D Elevation Program

AAG: Association of American Geographers

AGI: Ambient Geographic Information

AGS: American Geographical Society

AGU: American Geophysical Union

AI: Artificial Intelligence

AM/FM: Automated Mapping/Facilities Management

AOSP: African Open Space Platform

API: Application Programming Interface

ASPRS: American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

AURIN: Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network

BBSRC: Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

BDS: BeiDou Navigation Satellite Demonstration System

BIM: Building Information Modelling

CAADP: Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme

CAD: Computer Aided Design

CaGIS: Cartograhy and Geographic Information Society

CCGI: Collaboratively Contributed Geographic Information

CDSE: Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem

CEGIS: Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information Science

CEOS: Committee on Earth Observation Satellites

CHIRPS - Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station data

CI: CyberInfrastructure

CLGE: The Council of European Geodetic Surveyors

CLMS Data: Copernicus Land Monitoring Service Data

CODATA: Committee on Data for Science and Technology

COGO: Coordinate geometry

CRC: Census Research Centre

CRS: Coordinate Reference System

CSA: Canadian Space Agency

CSSTEAP: Center for Space Science & Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific

CUDA: Compute Unified Device Architecture

DAAC: Distributed Active Archive Center (of NASA)

DEM: Digital Elevation Model

DSM: Digital Surface Models

DWG: Design file format

DXF: Drawing Interchange File

ECMWF: European Center for Medium range Weather Forecasting

EOS: Earth Observation Science

EOSDIS: Earth Observing System and Data Information System

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

EPSG: European Petrol Survey Group (used in projection IDs)

ESA: European Space Agency

ESERO: European Space Education Resource Office

EUROGI: European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information

EuroSDR: European Spatial Data Research

FDO: FAIR (Find, Access, Interoperate, and Reuse) Digital Objects

FOSS: Free and Open Source Software

FOSS4G: Free and Open Source Software For Geospatial

GCP: Ground Control Point

GDAL: Geospatial Data Abstraction Library

GEO: Group on Earth Observations

GEO: Geosynchronous Earth Orbits

GloFAS: Global Flood Awareness System

GNSS: Global Navigational Satellite System

GODAN: Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition

GPS: Global Positioning System

GPX: GPS Exchange Format

GRACE: Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (satellite program)

GRASPgfs: Geospatial Resource for Agricultural Species and Pests and Pathogens with workflow integrated modeling to support Global Food Security

GSoC: Google Summer of Code

HLPF: High Level Political Forum (of UN)

HOT: Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team

HPC: high-performance computing

ICA: International Cartographic Association

ICIMOD – International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

ICSU-WDS: International Council for Science – World Data System

IDE: Spatial Data Infrastructure

IFAD – International Fund for Agricultural Development

INSPIRE: Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe

IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

IPGH: Pan American Institute of Geography and History

ISO: International Organization for Standardization

ISPRS: International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

ISRO: Indian Space Research Organization

JAXA: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

KML: Keyhole Markup Language

LBS: Location-Based Service

LEO: Low Earth Orbits

LiDAR: Light Detection and Ranging

LOC: Local Organizing Committee

LOD: Level Of Detail

MEO: Medium Earth Orbits

MIL: Media and Information Literacy

MoU: Memorandum of Understanding

MSS: Multispectral Scanner

NAD: North American Datum

NARSS: National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences of Egypt

NCSA: National Center for Supercomputing Applications

NDVI - Normalized Difference Vegetation Index

NDWI - Normalized Difference Water Index

NED: National Elevation Dataset

NEPAD: NEw Partnership for African Development

NGA: National Geospatial Intelligence Agency

NHD: National Hydrologic Dataset

NIR - Near-Infrared

NLCD: National Land Cover Dataset

NOOSA: United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

NRSA: Indian National Remote Sensing Agency

NSDI: National Spatial Data Infrastructure

NSF: National Science Foundation

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development

OER: Open Educational Resources

OGC: Open Geospatial Consortium

OHI: International Hydrographic Office

OSGeo: Open Source Geospatial Foundation

OSM: OpenStreetMap

OTB: Orfeo Tool Box

PPGIS: Public Participation in Geographic Information Systems

PPSR: Public Participation in Scientific Research

RBV: Return Beam Vidicon

RCMRD: Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development

RDA: Research Data Alliance

ROSCOSMOS: Russian Federal Space Agency

ROSHYDROMET: Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorologyand Enviromental Monitoring

RUFORUM: Regional Universities Forum for capacity building in agriculture

SaaS: Software as a Service

SAR: Synthetic Aperture Radar

SDG: Sustainable Development Goal

SDI: Spatial Data Infrastructure

SIG: Geographic Information System

SIGTE: The GIS and Remote Sensing Service of the University of Girona, Spain

SPIDER: open SPatial data Infrastructure eDucation nEtwoRk

SQL: Structured Query Language

STISA 2024: Science Technology Innovation Strategy for Africa

STSM: Short Term Scientific Missions

SWIR: Short Wave Infrared

TIN: Triangulated Irregular Network

UAV: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

UML: Unified Modeling Language

UN-GGIM: United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

USGS: U.S. Geological Survey

USGIF: United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation

VGI: Volunteered Geographic Information

VNIR: Visible Near Infrared

XSEDE: Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment

WCS: Web Coverage Service

WFS: Web Feature Service

WGCapD: Working Group on Capacity Building and Data Democracy

WGS: World Geodetic System

WISERD: Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods

WMO: World Meteorological Organization

WMS: Web Map Service

WMTS: Web Map Tiles Services

WOIS: Water Observation Information System

WPS: Web Processing Service

17. Ideas / Information

1. If you are interested in educational material, then go to https://www.osgeo.org/initiatives/geo-for-all/in-your-classroom/ where you can find software resources for your classroom. Also, go to "Resources" https://www.osgeo.org/resources/ to get a guidance on how to use open source projects and tools.

2. From Prof. Suchith Anand

Professor of Practice in Science Policy | Senior Adviser to Governments and International Organisations

In an increasingly complex and fast-changing world, national statistical offices are under growing pressure to deliver timely, diverse, and high-quality data. To meet these demands, they are expanding beyond traditional methods by using alternative data sources, data science, and modern integration techniques. These shifts raise important ethical questions, while public trust, shaped by concerns around privacy, data use, and credibility, has become a vital asset that must be actively protected through clear ethical standards and communication.

The Expert Meeting on Ethics in Official Statistics offers a forum to address these challenges by bringing together experts to share practical experiences and lessons learned. The meeting is designed for senior and middle-level managers responsible for business, institutional and data ethics, as well as communication professionals working on ethical issues within national statistical offices.

The papers and presentation slides from the Expert Meeting on Ethics in Official Statistics, 12 - 13 March 2026 United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland, are at https://unece.org/statistics/events/Ethics2026

This EDI blogpost titled "My Ethical Data Initiative: Intelligent transparency in the use of official statistics" by Ed Humpherson, Director General of the UK's Office for Statistics Regulation might be of interest. Details at https://ethicaldatainitiative.org/2025/05/02/my-ethical-data-initiative-intelligent-transparency-in-the-use-of-official-statistics