Volume 2, No. 2 February 2016

GeoForAll

Monthly Newsletter

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Editorial

Nikos Lambrinos
Chief Editor
Dept. of Primary Education
Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki
Greece

Dear members of the Network/ readers of the Newsletter,

In this issue you can read two very interesting articles: one for the European Center for Medium range Weather Forecasting and the second about the OpenCitySmart – the Open City Platform.

The first one has to do with the Global Flood Awarness System while the second for the improvement of the living standards of the people living, mainly, in the cities of poor countries.

In fact, both articles show how volunteerism can help and upgrade the living standards of the people and how much the efforts or our Network can upgrade the quality of life. It is important to know that our ideas, however bizarre they may seem at first place, can become true when we share with others and work together.

Along with the articles, you can find all the other topics like conferences, courses, free software, etc.

Have a nice reading
Nikos Lambrinos, Chief Editor.

1. Activities of the Network

- Siberian State University of Geosystem and Technologies has announced opening of business incubator for students based on Siberian OpenSource Geospatial Lab.

More information at
http://sgugit.ru/news/the-opening-of-the-workshop-projects-shuga/

SSUGT
SIBERIAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF GEOSYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGIES

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GeoForAll Regional Chairs and Contact Information

North America Region

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Email: na.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

South America Region

Chairs: Sergio Acosta y Lara (Uruguay) and Silvana Camboim (Brazil) Subscribe at mail list http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-southamerica

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Africa Region

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

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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

Europe Region

Chairs: Maria Brovelli (Italy) and Peter Mooney (Ireland) Subscribe at mail list http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-europe

Email: eu.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

GeoForAll Themes

- **OpenCity Smart**
  - Chairs: Chris Pettit (Australia), Patrick Hogan (USA)
  - Mail list: http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-urbanscience
  - Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Opencitysmart
- **Teacher Training & School Education**
  - Chairs: Elżbieta Wołoszyńska-Wiśniewska (Poland), Nikos Lambrinos (Greece), Adrian Manning (UK)
  - Mail list: geoforall-teachertraining@lists.osgeo.org
  - Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoForAll_TeacherTraining_SchoolEducation
- **GeoForAll (GeoParaTodos) Themes in Spanish**
  - Chairs: Sergio Acosta y Lara (Uruguay), Antoni Pérez Navarro (Spain)
  - Mail list: Spanish : geoforall-spanish@lists.osgeo.org
  - Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoForAll_Spanish
- **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

2. Lab of the Month

Open Source Geospatial Lab, University of Newcastle, UK

By Suchith Anand

Suchith Anand, Nottingham Geospatial Institute, University of Nottingham, UK

Dear Geo4All Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to introduce our colleagues at the Open Source Geospatial Lab of University of Newcastle, United Kingdom, as our "Geo4All" lab of the month.

The lab is run by the Geospatial Engineering Research Group which is part of the School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences at Newcastle University. The members of the lab are Philip James, Stuart Barr, David Fairbairn, Rachel Gaulton, David Alderson, Alistair Ford, Pauline Miller, and Neil Harries, but it also draws heavily on interactions with other research groups and partners within the University, nationally, and internationally.

They offer a range of bespoken courses for OSGEO education as part of their CPD programme. In addition they have three Undergraduate degrees that utilise Open Source Geospatial software. Their degree programs make use of OSGEO software and tools for data collection, storage, and analysis. Their graduates receive a solid grounding in Open Source tools and their applications. Further details on their CPD programs and consultancy services can be found on their website at https://research.ncl.ac.uk/osgeolab/trainingandeducation/.

The OSGEO Lab at Newcastle is involved in a number of major national and international research projects. They provide software and spatial expertise to the solution of engineering problems using Open Source tools, software, and standards. There is an impressive range of research projects they have undertaken, from addressing weather related climate change hazards and impacts for the Caribbean region (CARIWIG project) to community mapping of flood events. Details can be found on their research pages at https://research.ncl.ac.uk/osgeolab/research/.

They are also contributing to Urban Living Labs, also known as Urban Collaboratories, which provides an environment for researchers and users to co-create learning, innovation, sustainable behaviours, and resilient agency through real-world urban observation, research, and full scale experimentation. On 25-26th February 2016, University of Newcastle will be organizing a symposium on urban living labs aiming to bring together urban living labs from around the world to share practical and scientific experiences, and to build an international network of urban living labs and their teams.

Symposium themes include:

- Overarching Urban Living Laboratory frameworks and attributes
- Monitoring and observation of cities
- Data management, delivery, and visualisation
- Urban analytics and simulation
- In Vivo Experimentation – towards urban science and engineering
- Communities of interests and practice to inform change

Details and how to register at http://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/livinglabconference/

Phil James has also confirmed that they have an open platform for city data and a large number of observations of travel activity and Air Quality now in place. You can access the data here (http://uoweb1.ncl.ac.uk). They have a further £4m to spend on urban sensing (including traffic monitoring) over the next 5 years following successful UKCRIC funding. All of this is built on open software (and standards where appropriate). There are a number of traffic related projects running off this. Congrats to Phil and colleagues for these excellent developments.

The ICA-OSGeo-ISPRS lab in Newcastle University welcomes collaborations from all interested and for making contributions to the wider society.

On behalf of the Geo4All community, we thank Philip James and all colleagues from Newcastle University for their contributions to the Geo4All initiative and look forward to working and building more collaborations with all interested on this education mission.

Best wishes,
Suchith Anand

3. Events

On February 4th from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in the Arkhangelsk region is scheduled Sentinel-3A satellite launch, designed to detect forest fires. ESA announces that the access to the data will be open.
More details in
http://www.forestforum.ru/viewtopic.php?p=137067#p137067

4. Conferences

Asia

March 2016

1. 2-4 March, 2016. International Conference on Radar and Imaging Technology (ICRIT 2016). Beijing, China. www.engii.org/conf/ICRIT/2016Mar/

The paper submission deadline of ICRIT 2016 has been extended to December 14, 2015.

April 2016

2. 20-22: Interexpo GEO-Siberia-2016

XIIth International exhibition and scientific forum "Interexpo GEO-Siberia-2016" organized by the Siberian State University of Geosystems and Technologies and ExpoGeo LLC.

More details at http://www.expo-geo.com/#!english/ap2t9. Most of the site is in Russian but those who are interested can find persons to contact with (Mrs Argina Novitskaya – email: argina@mail.ru, argina@gmx.de).

July 2016

3. 25-27 July, 2016. International Conference on Surveing, Mapping and GeoInformation (ICSMG 2016). Suzhou, China. More details at http://www.engii.org/ws2016/Home.aspx?id=754

Europe

April 2016

4. 17-22 April, 2016. EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria.

May 2016

5. 24-29 May 2016: 10th Spanish FOSS4G & 2nd edition of the International QGIS User and Developer Conference as well as QGIS Hack Fest in Girona, Spain. Deadline for submitting a presentation and/or workshop is February 15th, 2016. So, a whole week to teach and learn about Free and Open Source Geospatial Technologies. More details at
http://www.sigte.udg.edu/jornadassiglibre/en/

6. 25-27 May 2016: The 14th International Conference of the Geological Society of Greece, in Thessaloniki, northern Greece. The conference addresses all subjects of Earth Sciences: GIS, geoinformatics, Remote Sensing, etc. More details in www.ege2016.gr.

7. May 30 – June 3: Under the auspices of the 2016 Dutch Presidency of the European Council, this major 5-day conference is coming to The Hague, The Netherlands. Taking place at the World Forum Convention Centre from 30 May to 3 June 2016, **European Space Solutions** will bring together business and policy makers with users and developers of space-based solutions. Don't miss the opportunity to learn about innovations that harness information from the European flagship space programmes, Galileo and EGNOS (satellite navigation) and Copernicus (Earth observation), and the EU's Horizon 2020 research programme, for a wide range of applications and services, gather insights about current developments, and discuss what is possible and needed in the future. More details in www.european-space-solutions.eu.

June 2016

8. 21-24 June 2016: International conference and a series of workshops entitled: "GeoMLA: Geostatistics and Machine Learning Applications in Climate and Environmental Sciences", at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Civil Engineering Belgrade, Serbia. More details in http://geomla.org

The Conference will take place on June 23-24, the workshops on June 21-22.

Important dates: a) March 1st 2016 - abstract submission, b) April 15th 2016 - early registration deadline.

July 2016

9. 12-19 July 2016: ISPRS XXIII Congress, in Prague. More details at http://www.isprs2016-prague.com/. There are two sessions of particular interest by our community:

a) Special Session: SpS10 - FOSS4G: FOSS4G Session

(chairs: Maria A. Brovelli, Helena Mitasova, Krishnan Sundara Rajan)

Keywords: Free and Open Source Software for Geoinformatics (FOSS4G), geospatial research platform and systems for developing new applications crossing the new frontiers towards the Internet of Places, Big Geospatial Data processing and analytics, and complex simulations essential for understanding and managing the earth systems, human societies, and their interaction

b) Theme session: THS16: Recent Developments in Open Data

(chairs: Maria A. Brovelli, Hae-Kyong Kang, Hiroichi Kawashima)

Keywords: Open data, Linked open data, e-Government, Geospatial, Web

For those who need more information may contact Maria Brovelli (maria.brovelli@polimi.it)

c) Session THS17: Smart cities

(Chairs: Chris Pettit & Arzu Coltekin)

keywords: Geodesign, urban planning, visualisation and spatial analysis of urban phenomena, energy use, walkability, pollution, health, infrastructure, population, aging.

August 2016

10. 24-26: FOSS4G Conference, Bonn, Germany. Deadline for paper submission is March 21th 2016. See the Call for Papers.

North and Central America and the Caribbean

February 2016

11. 22-25: URISA GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference

Savannah, Georgia, USA.

12. 22-24: International LiDAR Mapping Forum
Denver, Colorado, USA

13. 22-25: NSGIC Midyear Conference

Annapolis, MD, USA

March 2016

14. 19-20: LibrePlanet

Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

May 2016

15. 2-5: FOSS4G North America

Raleigh, North Carolina, USA FOSS4GNA Call for Proposals open. Final submission deadline is February 8th.

16. 10-12: CalGIS 2016: 22nd Annual California GIS Conference

Anaheim, California, USA.

17. 18. 25-26: Upper Midwest Geospatial Conference (UMGEOCON)

La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA.

June 2016

18. 7-9: 37th Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing and the 41st Canadian Cartographic Association Conference

Richardson College for the Environment at the University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Abstract Submission Deadline 26 February 2016.

September 2016

19. 5-8: URISA Caribbean GIS Conference

Barbados

Abstract submissions due IMMEDIATELY. Notices by February 15. Super-early registration deadline 1 April.

October 2016

20. 2-5: 69th Canadian Geotechnical Conference

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

South America

March 2016

21. 14-18: Third Call to participate in the "9th International Congress of Geomatics" GEOMÁTICA 2016 to be held in Havana, Cuba. GEOMÁTICA 2016 will be held as part of the 16th International Convention and Fair Informática 2016, which this year has the theme "Connecting Societies" Important!!! Send the papers. We count on your participation.
http://www.informaticahabana.cu/en/eventos/show/91

Tercera Circular para participar en el IX Congreso Internacional de Geomática, que tendrá lugar en La Habana Cuba, del 14 al 18 de Marzo del 2016. GEOMÁTICA 2016 se desarrollará en el marco de la XVI Convención y Feria Internacional Informática 2016, que en esta Edición tiene como tema central "Conectando Sociedades" Importante!!! Enviar las Ponencias. Contamos con su participación. http://www.informaticahabana.cu/eventos/ show/91

April 2016

22. 5-9: FOSS4G Argentina. Supported by OSGeo and the gvSIG Association FOSS4G Argentina Open/Free Geomatics Conference will be held at the National Institute of Geography (Buenos Aires, Argentina).

Organizada por Geoinquietos Argentina y el Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN) de la República Argentina y con el apoyo de OSGeo y la Asociación gvSIG se realizará la Conferencia FOSS4G Argentina de Geomática Libre. La misma tendrá lugar en el propio IGN (Buenos Aires, Argentina) del 5 al 9 de abril.

June 2016

23. 23-24: XI IDERA Conference. The XI IDERA (Spatial Data Infrastructure of Argentina) Conference will be held in the city of Neuquen, Province of Neuquen. The deadline for submission of entries is March 30, 2016.

Los días 23 y 24 de junio de 2016 se realizarán las XI Jornadas de IDERA en la ciudad de Neuquén, Provincia del Neuquén. El plazo para la presentación de los trabajos será el 30 de marzo de 2016.

6. Courses

- Triangle Area GIS is a "collaboration site for multidisciplinary GIS users in the Triangle" area of North Carolina. They offer free webinars throughout the year in many GIS and mapping areas, as well as paid training and group meeting planning space.
- Certificate Program in QGIS at Langara College in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

  Langara College will be starting a new 5 course certificate program in Geographic Information Systems using QGIS and other FOSS software, starting January 2016.

  The courses are:

GISC 1001 - Intro to Geospatial Technology using QGIS

Explore the world of geographic information systems (GIS) with QGIS, an Open Source software program that offers a free, but powerful, alternative to commercial GIS programs. Topics include symbology, raster and vector data models, and map composition. The course also provides background theory of GIS concepts such as projections and geocoding.

GISC 1002 - Spatial Analysis using QGIS

Gain proficiency at using analysis techniques to solve problems that are commonly found in the GIS field. Practice exercises will include both vector and raster data models. These techniques are applicable to a wide range of disciplines.

GISC 1003 - Data Acquisition and Management using QGIS

Explore the world of geographic information systems (GIS) with QGIS, an Open Source software program that offers a free, but powerful, alternative to commercial GIS programs. Topics include symbology, raster and vector data models, and map composition. The course also provides background theory of GIS concepts such as projections and geocoding. This is a hands-on course, no programming required.

GISC 1004 - Intro to Cartography using QGIS

Explore fundamental concepts in cartography. Successful students will be able to employ design principles to create and edit effective visual representations of data in different formats. Specific topics include the ethical and appropriate application of map scale, map projections, generalization, and symbolization.

GISC 1005 - Intro to Remote Sensing using QGIS

Explore the world of remote sensing. Topics include the physical principles on which remote sensing is based, history and future trends, sensors and their characteristics, image data sources, and image classification, interpretation, and analysis techniques.

For more information please see:
http://langara.ca/news-and-events/langara-news/2015/151120-geographic-information-systems-launch.html.

- gvSIG application to urban planning (workshop Video):
http://blog.gvsig.org/2016/01/15/gvsig-application-to-urban-planning/

Taller de gvSIG aplicado a urbanismo (Vídeos):
http://blog.gvsig.org/2016/01/14/taller-de-gvsig-aplicado-a-urbanismo-videos/

7. Training programs

- MOOC scripting: http://web.gvsig-training.com/index.php/es/quienes-somos-2/noticias-2/140-massive-online-open-course-de-introduccion-a-scripting-en-gvsig-2-1

  Massive Online Open Course (MOOC-free and continuously open enrollment) about "Introducción a Scripting en gvSIG 2.1" 2nd. edition (Spanish only).

  Curso Abierto Masivo en línea (MOOC-modalidad de inscripción gratuita y abierta continuamente) de "Introducción a Scripting en gvSIG 2.1" 2a. edición (en español solamente).

- GeoForAll educational inventory system, a place where to search and share educational materials: http://www.osgeo.org/educational_content.

- Registration for online gvSIG -Training courses is now open. They are part of the courses offered by the Certification Program of the gvSIG Association. Unlike previous editions, the registration mode is open for most of the courses, so students can enroll and start the course at any time they want. The courses currently available are:

  General gvSIG courses (1)

  Applied gvSIG courses (5)

  Geoprocessing and Spatial Analysis courses in Spanish and Portuguese (5 in Spanish, 5 in Portuguese)

  gvSIG extensions/addons (6)

  Geospatial DataBases (1)

  Free i3Geo course (1)

  By participating in any of these courses you get credits for the gvSIG Certification Program that allows you to qualify for "gvSIG User" and "Expert gvSIG User" certification. More information here.

  Ya están abiertas las inscripciones para los cursos a distancia de gvSIG-Training, que forman parte de la oferta del Programa de Certificación de la Asociación gvSIG. A diferencia de las convocatorias anteriores, la modalidad de inscripción pasa a ser de matricula abierta para la mayoría de los cursos, por lo que el alumno podrá matricularse y comenzar el curso cuando lo desee. Los cursos disponibles actualmente son:

  Cursos gvSIG general (1)

  Cursos gvSIG aplicado (5)

  Cursos Geoprocesamiento y Análisis Espacial, en español y portugués (5 en español 5 en portugués)

  Extensiones gvSIG (6)

  Bases de Datos Geoespaciales (1)

  Curso i3Geo gratuito (1)

  Al participar en cualquiera de estos cursos obtienes créditos del programa de certificación gvSIG que te permite optar a la certificación "gvSIG Usuario" y "gvSIG Usuario Experto".

  Más información aquí

- February 26, 2016. Open Source Geospatial Lab at UNMC, Malaysia will be organising a free one day workshop on Open Source, Open Standards, Open Data in Geospatial for Malaysian government organisations, SMEs and startups.

- April 2-3, 2016. CyberGIS Curriculum Workshop for Synthesizing Education Materials, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, will take place in San Francisco, California, USA. Papers are due on February 15, 2016.

- Keep up with information about GRASS GIS Raleigh meet-ups here. Information about locations, topics, and attendees available at the site.

10. New free and open software, open data, etc.

1. Data generated by IGN of Spain is now Open Data: http://blog-idee.blogspot.com.uy/2015/12/los-datos-del-ign-ya-son-datos-abiertos.html

   On Saturday December 26, it was published in the BOE (Official Newsletter of Spain) Ministerial Order FOM/2807/2015 an announcement that the new Policy of Public Dissemination of the information

generated by the National Geographic Institute (IGN) of Spain is approved.

El pasado sábado día 26 de diciembre se públicó en el BOE la Orden Ministerial FOM/2807/2015, de 18 de diciembre, por la que se aprueba la nueva política de difusión pública de la información generada por el Instituto Geográfico Nacional de España.

2. New Stable release of GRASS 7.0.3

The new GRASS GIS 7.0.3 release provides **210 stability fixes and manual page improvements** compared to version 7.0.2. Of particular interest is the **new winGRASS 64 bit support**.

About GRASS GIS 7: Its graphical user interface supports the user to make complex GIS operations as simple as possible. The updated Python interface to the C library permits users to create new GRASS GIS-Python modules in a simple way while yet obtaining powerful and fast modules. Furthermore, the libraries were **significantly improved for speed and efficiency**, along with support for huge files. A lot of effort has been invested to standardize parameter and flag names. Finally, GRASS GIS 7 comes with a series of **new modules** to analyse raster and vector data, along with a full temporal framework. For a detailed overview, see the list of new features. As a stable release series, 7.0.x enjoys **long-term support**.

3. New version of QuickMapServices.

QuickMapServices is a QGIS plugin for painless adding basemaps as layers.

4. GreenPeace of Russia published forest “hot points” map (in Russian).

Looking at this map, the user can understand quicly which areas are at risk and need special care, and which - have become "hot spots". Areas marked in green correspond to the areas where forests are changing relatively slowly. Yellow indicates a mild rate of change. Red - are areas where the wood is used or is lost too rapidly.

http://m.greenpeace.org/russia/ru/high/news/2016/01-18-forest-map/

http://www.forestforum.ru/info/SRRI_map_rus.pdf

5. Geofabrik's free download server.

This server has data extracts from the OpenStreetMap project which are normally updated every day. Select your continent and then your country of interest from the list at http://download.geofabrik.de/.

Choose the continent and then the country.

6. New version of NextGIS Mobile is out! NextGIS Mobile 2.3: layer creation, tracks export, multipart-geometries

New version of NextGIS Mobile is out! NextGIS Mobile is our GIS app that allows you work with geodata on your smart devices. New version features layer creation, tracks export, support for multipart geometries and much more.

7. OSMInfo

Tired of trying to figure out what you’re seeing on the map? Ever wondered what are the actual data for a feature on [OSM Mapnik|MapQuest|your favorite OSM basemap]? OSMInfo is the answer. It shows information about objects from OpenStreetMap using Overpass API. More information at http://nextgis.ru/en/blog/osminfo/

11. Free books, newsletters, etc.

- **Free and/or open source software for research. Call for special issue contributions to the ISPRS Student Consortium newsletter**

The next installment of the Student Consortium Newsletter, Vol. 9 No. 4, will be a special issue on free and/or open source software used for research in photogrammetry, remote sensing, GIS and other related geo-spatial sciences. The ISPRS Student Consortium is now accepting contributions for this issue.

A typical article is one or two pages of text with at least one figure; longer articles are also encouraged! Articles can be on such topics of interest as how to install, customize and/or use free and/or open source software packages or libraries that can do any of the following:

- interfacing with data collection hardware (e.g., Canon SDK),
- processing point clouds (e.g., CloudCompare) or raster data (e.g., OpenCV),

- performing least-squares adjustments or other optimization techniques (e.g., Ceres Solver),
- visualizing and plotting data (e.g., Octave),
- computing statistical properties (e.g., R),
- writing articles and theses/dissertations (e.g., LaTeX or LyX).

The deadline for submissions to be included in the next issue is **Mon, Feb 29, 2016**. Contributions received after this date will be published in future issues. Please send all submissions to the ISPRS Student Consortium main e-mail address - info@isprs-sc.org

- Nº 27 of POLÍGONOS, Journal of Geography: http://revpubli.unileon.es/ojs/index.php/poligonos/issue/view/261/showToc

You can access the 27th issue of Polígonos, Journal of Geography, which is published annually by the Universities of León, Salamanca, and Valladolid. The 2015 volume is dedicated to "Neogeography: beyond accessible cartography" and contains articles by Gustavo Buzai, Gerson Beltran, Joaquin Bosque Sendra, Francisco Javier Ariza, and Miguel Angel Bernabe, among others. The entire publication can be read online or downloaded in PDF format.

- Nº 27 de POLÍGONOS, Revista de Geografía

Finalizado 2015 se publica el número 27 de Polígonos, revista de Geografía, de periodicidad anual, de las Universidades de León, Salamanca y Valladolid. El volumen dedicado a la "Neogeografía: algo más que cartografía accesible" contiene artículos de Gustavo Buzai, Gersón Beltrán, Joaquín Bosque Sendra, Francisco Javier Ariza y Miguel Ángel Bernabé, entre otros. La totalidad de la publicación puede leerse en línea o descargarse en formato PDF.

12. Articles

Abbreviations

by Nikos Lambrinos, Chief Editor
Department of Primary Education, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

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

AAG: Association of American Geographers

AGS: American Geographical Society

AM/FM: Automated Mapping/Facilities Management

ASPRS: American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

AURIN: Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network

CAD: Computer Aided Design

CLGE: The Council of European Geodetic Surveyors

COGO: Coordinate geometry

CRS: Coordinate Reference System

DAAC: Distributed Active Archive Center (of NASA)

DEM: Digital Elevation Model

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

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

ESA: European Space Agency

EUROGI: European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information

FOSS: Free and Open Source Software

FOSS4G: Free and Open Source Software For Geospatial

GCP: Ground Control Point

GloFAS: Global Flood Awareness System

GNSS: Global Navigational Satellite System

GPS: Global Positioning System

GPX: GPS Exchange Format

HOT: Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team

ICA: International Cartographic Association

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

INSPIRE: Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe

ISPRS: International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

KML: Keyhole Markup Language

LiDARL: Light Detection and Ranging

LOC: Local Organizing Committee

LOD: Level Of Detail

MoU: Memorandum of Understanding

NAD: North American Datum

NGA: National Geospatial Intelligence Agency

OER: Open Educational Resources

OGC: Open Geospatial Consortium

OSGeo: Open Source Geospatial Foundation

OSM: OpenStreetMap

RCMRD: Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development

SDI: Spatial Data Infrastructure

SQL: Structured Query Language

STSM: Short Term Scientific Missions

TIN: Triangulated Irregular Network

UAV: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

USGIF: United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation

WCS: Web Coverage Service

WFS: Web Feature Service

WGS: World Geodetic System

WMS: Web Map Service

WMTS: Web Map Tles Servises

WPS: Web Processing Service

European Center for Medium range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF)

by Julia Wagemann, Msc. [Wagemann.Julia@gmx.de]
Data Analyst at ECMWF on the EarthServer-2 project.

Dear all,

First-ever hackathon of ECMWF took place on the weekend 16 and 17 January 2016.

The event brought together participants from ECMWF, universities, environmental consultancies, and software development companies. Their goal was to explore ways of making the Global Flood Awareness System (GloFAS) more user-friendly for its end-users. GloFAS already provides pre-operational global forecasts of extreme flood events.

The hackathon saw about 50 volunteers working day and nig software prototypes using data from the GloFAS system.

Photo by Silke Zollinger

More than 3.5 TB of data have been prepared, which were partly served with the help of a Web Coverage Service (WCS), a standard protocol that facilitates data access and retrieval. This OGC WCS server is currently set up in the framework of the EarthServer-2 project, where ECMWF participates as Climate Science Data provider.

Photo by Florian Rathgeber

Tools that could save lives worldwide

After some introduction to GloFAS and brainstorming around challenges that needed to be addressed, the participants were free to form teams and formulate a problem that could be solved within the time given. Five teams entered the competition and set out to create a prototype that would please the judges in terms of its technical solution, its wow factor, and innovation. The three winning entries were:

- LIVE (Logistic and Infrastructure Visual Evaluation) Using GloFAS forecast information to create a 'Time to respond' map
Sets out to summarise GloFAS forecast information into a 'Time to respond' map that helps decision-making before and during a flood emergency. This is presented in a user-friendly way with key statistics which could help decision-making.

- FloodIT
Provides more intuitive information based on the GloFAS

- output to help local users understand their situation.

- Interception
A Flood Awareness Education Platform

An educational game/online interactive platform to help inform people about what they should be doing when a flood watch/warning alert is issued in their region. Also, the game/platform will educate them on what to do during and after a flood event.

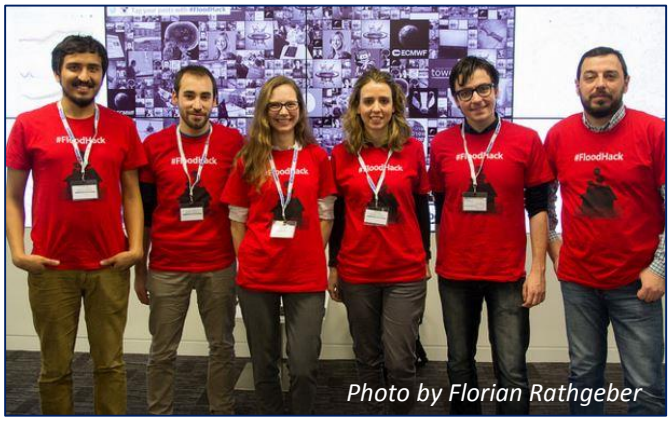
Photo by Florian Rathgeber

People at ECMWF are truly impressed with what solutions all the teams came up with in only one and half days. They got very good inspirations in order to improve GloFAS, which will be essential for a better flood prediction and a faster emergency response.

They also hope that this was only the beginning of a series of similar events in order to improve tools such as GloFAS, but also to push the usage of open data to build applications upon. They could also think of a collaboration with OSGeo to organise a hackathon in order to leverage the full potential of open-source software and open data.

Those who would like to get more information can either visit the website at http://weather.unisys.com/index.php or email Florian Pappenberger (florian.pappenberger@ecmwf.int)


Photo by Florian Rathgeber

OpenCitySmart - The Open platform for Smart Cities

by Suchith Anand, Nottingham GeospatialInstitute, University of Nottingham, UK

Dear colleagues,

Inspite of all the technological advancements, it is a sad fact that majority of the world's poorest living in urban areas do not still have access to basic facilities (clean water, proper sanitation and hygiene facilities , good quality education opportunities etc). In order to **achieve UN Millennium Development Goals** it is essential to develop infrastructure facilities, strengthen the muncipal authorities and local city government organisations (reduce corruption etc) in the developing world for helping improving the living standards of the people.

GIS is fundamental technology in infrastructure development and high cost proprietary GIS is unaffordable to governments, town planners and local authorities in developing and economically poor countries. With the availability of free and open source GIS technologies it now offers a great opportunity for governments and municipal authorities in developing countries also to implement GIS tools for their decision making and implementation needs (without having to pay huge licencing costs to proprietary GIS vendors) and help improving the lives of some of the most poorest people and by giving the geospatial tools to the municipal authorities for their decision making and implementation needs will help in improving the living standards of the people. **We need to empower people and communities** (NOT enslaving them by continuing forcing them to pay high licencing costs) to make sure our future generations are fully empowered.

Thanks to our Geo4All colleagues globally, we have already seen many examples of the potential of Geo technologies in empowering communities and helping improving the lives of some of the most poorest people. By capacity building staff and students and by providing the geospatial tools to the municipal authorities for their infrastructure upgradation programs etc (which in the long term will result in providing clean water, proper sanitation and hygiene facilities, electricity etc.) will help in improving the living standards of the people.

It is with these aims that the Geo4All community decided to work on **OpenCitySmart - The Open platform for Smart Cities**. Thanks to the leadership shown by Patrick Hogan (NASA) and Prof.Chris Pettit (University of South Wales) and our amazing team of volunteers, we are now rapidly expanding this in collaborations with universities, government organisations and industry.

Open City Smart builds and uses open solutions to build richer toolboxes that empower organisations and people all around the globe to handle spatial (and non-spatial) data. This will create innovation opportunities globally and locally. For example, the startup community is especially open to the use of open software and data avoiding huge licensing costs and restrictions which may impact on their business plans, raise early start-up costs and restrict their ability to innovate and it frees them of the need to use proprietary software and data allowing them greater branding freedom and product flexibility. If you look through our Geo4All labs lists, you will see there is already good examples of cross fertilisation of activities from universities/industry happening. For example, the Open Source Geospatial Laboratory at ETH Zurich [http://osgl.ethz.ch/osgl/index.html] is linked with SourcePole [http://www.sourcepole.com] and more university labs are working to expand collaborations with industry and also help their students to create more startups in the future. If you look at OSGeo UK Chapter and there are now many SMEs in the UK (generating hundreds of highly skilled jobs) who are service providers [http://www.osgeo.org/search_profile?SET=1&MUL_COUNTRY%5B%5D=00002] and doing training [http://www.osgeo.org/uk/training_providers] etc in this and we need to think of ways to expand more opportunities and help create more new highly skilled jobs locally and globally.

GeoforAll have at our disposal all the **most advanced and powerful geospatial software from the Open Source Geospatial Foundation, NASA's World Wind, AURIN's What if** and many more open solutions (build on open standards and open data) to build richer toolboxes that empower people all around the globe to handle spatial (and non-spatial) data for Open City Smart. We also have dedicated global infrastructure through **over 100 ICA-OSGeo-ISPRS research labs** now established across the planet in the top research universities (mostly in USA and Europe but we are rapidly expanding in Asia and globally) and more importanly we have the amazing, dedicated and talented people power making this happen.

So we warmly welcome you to join us and expand collaborations through joint research projects and bids that our colleagues are actively working on. If you and your research group have the expertise in urban science, smart cities, and wish to be part of these collaborations, please make you add your details and expertise to our list at https://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Opencitysmart and we

will contact those with needed expertise for our various bids (to H2020, NSF and other national research funding organisations) that we are working on.

We also welcome active participation from universities and SMEs for our **NASA Europa CitySmart Challenge** . Details at http://eurochallenge.como.polimi.it (Thanks to Prof. Maria Brovelli and Patrick Hogan for thier help).

We will have a dedicated session on OpenCitySmart at the **GeoBigData workshop** organised by the Geospatial IG of the Research Data Alliance https://rd-alliance.org/groups/geospatial-ig.html on 8th June 2016 at University of Nottingham (coinciding with RDA Chairs meeting which will be hosted jointly by the University of Nottingham and British Geological Survey in Nottingham).

You can view **overview of OpenCitySmart** at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWuMfMMPfPw (this was presented at European Space Agency's Earth Observation Science 2.0 conference at ESRIN, Frascati, Italy). Thanks to Ant Beck for the video.

We welcome everyone interested to join synergies and work together to expand OpenCitySmart opportunities and enable Geo technologies in empowering communities and helping improving the Quality of Life and standards of living for everyone. **Let us all work together to help create a world that is more accessible, equitable and full of innovation and opportunities for everyone.**

Best wishes,
Suchith Anand

17. Ideas / Information

1. For the Academic/Scientific Track of FOSS4G 2016, being held in in Bonn, Germany (24-26 Aug), the Organizers are looking for colleagues to set up a **Scientific Committee (SC)** coupled with the local Programme Committee. Those interested please send an email to Franz-Josef Behr (academictrack@foss4g2016.org).

2. The Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRCSI), Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), and University of Canterbury are seeking to appoint a Joint Professor Chair in Spatial Information to provide academic leadership, vision, and direction in the development and application of innovative solutions to emerging issues in the spatial information industry in areas such as spatial database development, software engineering, system interoperability, web-based data management, system customisation, and system design and implementation.
   More information at
   http://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/AMU015/joint-professorial-chair-in-spatial-information/

Nestos River, Greece
Photo by Nikos Lambrinos