1. Activities of the Network

- **Ottawa, Ontario, OSGeo Meetup Group** meets on the third Thursday of each month. If you are located in the area, go to the link to sign up to the group and get updates about future events. (http://www.meetup.com/Ottawa OSGeo/).

- Currently, nearly 800 million people struggle with debilitating hunger and malnutrition and can be found in every corner of the globe. That’s one in every nine people, with the majority being women and children. The Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) [https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/genius/documents/godan-uon-intro.pdf] supports the proactive sharing of open data to make information about agriculture and nutrition available, accessible and usable to deal with the urgent challenge of ensuring world food security. A core principle behind GODAN is that a solution to Zero Hunger lies within existing, but often unavailable, agriculture and nutrition data.

The Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs, CABI, GODAN, CTA and Wageningen UR partnered to organise the 3rd Workshop on Creating Impacts with Open Data in Agriculture and Nutrition [https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/genius/documents/godan-uon-intro.pdf]. The workshop was hosted at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Hague in February, 13-15. Suchith Anand kindly shares the ideas that he presented for the GODAN Capacity Development WG [http://www.godan.info/working-groups/capacity-development] at the Hague meeting.

Details at https://www.slideshare.net/SuchithAnand/godan-working-group-on-capacity-development

Anyone interested to join the GODAN WG on Capacity Development and contribute to education and training on Open Data in food and agricultural sciences is welcome. This is open and free to all interested. Join at https://dgroups.org/fao/godan_cd

- New book on QGIS published by Stamatis Kalogirou. It is a short e-book titled "Create a thematic map in 60 minutes: Examples with QGIS". It will help those who have never used QGIS before. Those interested can find it at Amazon in a very low price.
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<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Editor</td>
<td>Nikos Lambrinos, Professor, Dept. of Primary Education, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.</td>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td><a href="mailto:labrinos@eled.auth.gr">labrinos@eled.auth.gr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-editor</td>
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<td>India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Burma, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Islands of S. Pacific.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bulbul@grel.ist.edu.pk">bulbul@grel.ist.edu.pk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-editors</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:kikinpavel@yandex.ru">kikinpavel@yandex.ru</a>, <a href="mailto:kolesnikov@yandex.ru">kolesnikov@yandex.ru</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-editor</td>
<td>Rania Elsayed, Computers &amp; Information Researcher, Division of Scientific Training &amp; Continuous Studies, National Authority for Remote Sensing &amp; Space Sciences, Cairo, Egypt.</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ranyaalsayed@gmail.com">ranyaalsayed@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-editor</td>
<td>Seraphim Alvanides, Reader (Geographical Information Science)</td>
<td>Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, UK, Ireland, Iceland.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:s.alvanides@gmail.com">s.alvanides@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-editor</td>
<td>Antoni Perez Navaro, Associate Professor at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) Computer Sciences and Multimedia Department</td>
<td>Italy, Malta, Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxemburg.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aperezn@uoc.edu">aperezn@uoc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-editor</td>
<td>Emma Strong, GIS Coordinator with Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District</td>
<td>North and Central America</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eestrong118@gmail.com">eestrong118@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-editor</td>
<td>Sergio Acosta Y Lara, Departamento de Geomática</td>
<td>South America</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sergio.acostaylara@mtop.gub.uy">sergio.acostaylara@mtop.gub.uy</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-editor</td>
<td>Codrina Ilie, PhD student at the Technical University of Civil Engineering, Bucharest, Romania</td>
<td>The Balkans, Ukraine, Moldavia, Estonia, Lithuania, Belarus, Latvia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia</td>
<td>iilie <a href="mailto:CODRINA123@tul.ee">CODRINA123@tul.ee</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Designer</td>
<td>Nikos Voudrislis, MSc, PhD in geography education.</td>
<td>Design and final formation of the newsletter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nvoudris@gmail.com">nvoudris@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Email: na.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

South America Region
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Email: eu.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

GeoForAll Themes

- **OpenCity Smart**
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  - 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)
  - Mail list: geoforall-teachertraining@lists.osgeo.org
  - Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoForAll_TeacherTraining_SchoolEducation

- **GeoForAll (GeoParaTodos) Themes in Spanish**
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  - 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-agris
  - Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/AgriGIS
Dear Geo4All Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure, to introduce our colleagues at Faculty of Civil Engineering, Department of Geomatics, Czech Technical University (CTU) in Prague, Czech Republic as our “GeoForAll” lab of the month. CTU is one of the founding labs as part of the worldwide network of OSGeo laboratories following the motto Geo for All.

The GeoForAll Lab [1] (formerly OSGeo Research and Education Laboratory) is located at the Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Department of Geomatics, Czech Republic. Their mission, as one of the laboratories in the OSGeo worldwide university network, is to develop collaboration opportunities for academic, industrial, and government organizations in open source GIS software and data. See the announcement and info at GIM [2].

The laboratory was established by Martin Landa and was the first lab to be established under the ICA-OSGeo MoU in Czech Republic. It has been expanding and providing support for the development and documentation of open-source geospatial software. The laboratory is devoted to education in geoinformatics using FOSS4G, and to research in open source software development for geospatial applications. CTU in Prague has a strong track record in Geoinformatics. Prof. Aleš Čepek has established a study program in geoinformatics since 2005 (originally with Prof. Leoš Mervart). He is the author of project GNU Gama and of a minor project GNU Sqltutor (both hosted at GNU servers) and the editor in chief of Geoinformatics FCE CTU journal [2].

The major focus of CTU GeoForAll lab is software development. They are contributing to various international Open Source Geospatial Software projects, namely GRASS GIS, QGIS, and GDAL. Martin Landa has been an OSGeo charter member since 2011 and a member of the GRASS Development Team since 2006. He is actively involved in the GRASS project as the lead architect of graphical user interface (GUI) development and PostGIS integration in GRASS vector architecture.

I am impressed to see the excellent student projects done at CTU. For example, for the Google Summer of Code 2016, Adam Laža’s project on "Complete basic cartography suite in GRASS GIS wxGUI Map Display” and Ondřej Pešek’s project on "PyQt GUI generated
from XML" are great examples of contributions from the CTU student community to the wider OSGeo community.

Best wishes,
Suchith Anand

[3] https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNy1pEGYxypkpQf4m8qWGA

B) GeoAmbassador of the Month

Michael P. Finn, U.S. Geological Survey

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

It is my great pleasure to introduce Michael P. Finn as our GeoAmbassador.

Michael P. Finn is a Research Cartographer in the U. S. Geological Survey’s Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information Science. He holds a BS in Geography with a Minor in Cartography and Map Technology from Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University) and an MS in Civil Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University. Mike has worked as a Computer and IT Specialist, and a Research Cartographer with the US Geological Survey for the past 17 years. He also has 10 years of experience with the US Air Force and 7 years with the Defense Mapping Agency.

Mike serves or has served on the Boards of Directors of the Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS), the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), and the Cyberinfrastructure Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). He has also served as the Director of the GIS Division for ASPRS. Mike is currently serving as President of CaGIS after serving as President-Elect in 2015 and Vice President in 2014. In addition, Mike is a member of the Editorial Board for the journal Cartography and Geographic Information Science.

For international scientific service, Mike is currently serving as Vice-Chair of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies for the 2015 to 2019 term. In addition, he is and has been an active member of the ICA Commission on Map Projections. Previously, Mike served as a Co-Chair of the International Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing’s (ISPRS) Technical Commission IV (TC – Geodatabases and Location Based Services), Working Group 4 (Geospatial Data Infrastructure) for the XXIIIrd ISPRS Congress (2012 to 2016) and Co-Chair of the TC IV (Geodatabases and Digital Mapping), WG 1 (Geospatial Data Infrastructure) for the XXIInd ISPRS Congress (2008 to 2012).

His research interests are in data-intensive and high-performance computing for scientific applications using digital geospatial data; in geodesy, spatial coordinate systems, and map projections; and in quantitative approaches to imaging in environmental...
modeling and GIS. Mike is the Principal Investigator for CEGIS’ research project for Data-Intensive and High-Performance Computing. The principal objective is to explore data-intensive and high-performance computing, particularly within the CyberGIS domain, to support LiDAR and spatial data processing for the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) of the US. A second objective is to investigate big data approaches and workflows with LiDAR and 3DEP as well as other big data integration with other USGS science data.

Mike’s recent research has been focused on a varied spectrum of activities from CyberGIS data services for enhancing the usability of high-resolution national topographic datasets to MPI and parallel file systems for processing large files in the LAS format. He has also worked on CUDA-based parallel map projection methods as well as problems with spatial binning relative to map projections. He has also contributed actively to the scientific community by serving as a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Cartography and Geographic Information Science* and on the International Scientific Committee for the International Cartographic Conference in 2017.

Mike and Silvana Comboim have been leading the ICA commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies. They have successfully organised the ICC workshop on Spatial data infrastructures, standards, open source and open data for geospatial (SDI-Open 2015) jointly with the ICA Commission on Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards, the Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies, Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo), and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) on 20 and 21 August 2014 at Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) in Rio. The conference itself ([http://www.icc2015.org](http://www.icc2015.org)) was a great opportunity to strengthen the “Geo for All” initiative and to reinforce the key projects and research links for the future. Mike organised the workshop on “Advancing GIScience with Open Source Technologies,” on behalf of the ICA Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies, held in conjunction with AutoCarto 2016, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A report with pictures on the workshop can be found at [http://icaci.org/summary-of-the-workshop-on-advancing-giscience-with-open-source-technologies/](http://icaci.org/summary-of-the-workshop-on-advancing-giscience-with-open-source-technologies/) and [https://github.com/mfinnCEGIS/workshopAdvancingGIScienceOST/](https://github.com/mfinnCEGIS/workshopAdvancingGIScienceOST/).

Mike is the co-organizer of the International Cartographic Conference 2017 Pre-Conference Workshop on Spatial data infrastructures, standards, open source and open data for geospatial (SDI-Open 2017), Washington, DC ([http://icc2017.org/preconference-workshops/](http://icc2017.org/preconference-workshops/)). I believe OpenSDI is a very important initiative.

I want to thank Mike for all his contributions to the GeoForAll community. I understand Mike will be retiring from government service later this year, but I am sure he will be closely involved with GeoForAll activities as before. We are proud to honour Mike as our GeoAmbassador, and we are extremely grateful for his contributions to Geo for All.

Best wishes
Suchith Anand

### 3. Events

- There will be a Free and Open Source GIS one day meeting happening in Knoxville, TN, USA, on 19 May 2017 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. More information available here: [https://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Knoxfoss4g20170519](https://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Knoxfoss4g20170519)

### 4. Conferences

#### Asia

**September 2017**

   Venue: Wuhan, China.
Africa

June 2017

2. 25 June-1 July  FOSS4G 2017 Africa 2017
The OSGeo Africa chapter and the QGIS South Africa User Group Conference invite you to participate and present at the first regional FOSS4G event in Africa and the first national QGIS User Group Conference in South Africa.
Venue: St John’s College, Johannesburg, South Africa

Important dates:
Abstract submission: 31st March 2017
Notification of acceptance: 30th April 2017
Submission of revised abstracts: 15th May 2017
Early Bird Payments for conference: 20th May 2017
Full Conference registration payment for presenters: 6th June 2017
Full Papers for Proceedings or submission to Journals: 31st July 2017

3. 27-30 June:  FOSS4G Southern Africa overlap with GeoForAll + SAGTA conference
Venue: Johannesburg, South Africa

Europe

April 2017

Venue: Vienna – Austria

May 2017

5. 9 May:  VGI-Analytics 2017
9-12 May:  AGILE 2017
Venue: Wageningen University, The Netherlands.

June 2017

6. 1-2 June:  Jornadas SIG Libre. XI days of free GIS in Girona
Venue: Univerisyt of Girona, Spain.
"The GIS Free Conferences are a reference event in the area of free technologies in the field of geographic information. They are a meeting point where to share knowledge, experiences and create synergies between users and programmers. A space to show news and trends and reflect on debates that fit the context of free geospatial technologies."

July 2017

8. 10-14 July: XVI Biennial IASC  global conference
Practicing the Commons
Venue: Utrecht, the Netherlands.

9. 18-22 July:  FOSS4G Europe 2017
Venue: Paris, France.
FOSS4G-Europe 2017 will be held in Marne-la-Vallée , France on July 18th-22nd 2017. The third edition of the conference is organized at École Nationale des Sciences Géographiques (ENSG). Our event aims at bringing Open Source GIS users and developers together and fostering closer interactions amongst the European geospatial communities. Following an established tradition, FOSS4G-Europe organizes an academic track which will run as a single-track over one day. FOSS4G-Europe invites original research contributions scientific papers dealing with Open Data, Open Software, Open Hardware, and Open Science in general are highly welcome. Submissions focusing on INSPIRE, Big Data, and Societal Challenges are particularly encouraged. All types of papers are welcome, such as on results achieved, case studies, work in progress, and demos. We discourage, however, mere presentations of technology or use cases without properly justifying it.
Submission deadline: March 17, 2017
Acceptance notice: April 14, 2017
Camera ready version: May 15, 2017
Conference: July 19, 2017
Details at http://europe.foss4g.org/2017/Academic_Track

September 2017

10. 6-8 September:  INSPIRE Conference 2017

11. 7-8 September: 2nd Geoprocess Global Forum.
International Conference on Sustainability and Energy Issues
Venue: Brussels
Abstract deadline April, 30, send to
info@geoprogress.eu
Registration and fee deadline: April, 30
Full paper: August, 15
More information on the format and norms of the Abstract at www.geoprogress.eu/publications
For more information write to: info@geoprogress.eu

South America

May 2017
12. 16-17 May: 2nd gvSIG Festival
Venue: virtual, through the webinar service of the gvSIG Association
This event is free of charge and completely online.
Go to the web page for the important dates and registration

North and Central America and the Caribbean

May 2017
13. 19 May: Free FOSS4G Meeting
Venue: Knoxville, Tennessee, USA
14. 22-25 May: CalGIS 2017/LocationCon
Venue: Oakland, California, USA

July 2017
15. 1-2 July: pre-Conference workshop with the ICA Commission on SDI and Standards.
Venue: George Washington University in DC
Washington, DC, USA
More details in Section 17 “Ideas/Information” about the event “Different Fields - One Cartography” organized within the activities before the 28th International Cartographic Conference of the International Cartographic Association (ICA).

August 2017
17. 14-19 August: FOSS4G Boston
Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

September 2017
Venue: Havana Libre Tryp Hotel, Havana. Cuba.

October 2017
19. 4-6 October: 2nd International Conference on Smart Data and Smart Cities
Venue: Puebla, Mexico.

7. Training programs

- GeoForAll educational inventory system, a place to search and share educational materials

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

- A new open-source release of the Maxent software for modeling species distributions from occurrence records and environmental data.

11. Free Books, educational materials, etc.


• Another free book in Spanish. The book exposes examples of the vast potential of geoinformatics, to generate data that allow to transform the environmental and social reality from the trenches of classrooms and university work. http://www.tysmagazine.com/libro-gratuito-geoinformatica-aplicada-procesos-geoambientales/

• A new free book in Spanish, from Elia Quirós (University of Extremadura) http://www.tysmagazine.com/introduccion-la-fotogrametria-cartografia-aplicadas-la-ingenieria-civil/

The main part of the text focuses on digital photogrammetry and once again emphasizing its simplicity, it tries to explain, from the professional experience, the whole work process, from the moment a photogrammetric flight is ordered, until the digital cartography arrives at the hands of an engineer to work on it, with its accuracy and precision.

12. Articles

Abbreviations

by Nikos Lambrinos, Chief Editor, and Michael Finn.

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

3DEP: 3-D Elevation Program
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
BIM: Building Information Modelling
CAADP: Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CAD: Computer Aided Design
CaGIS: Cartography and Geographic Information Society
CEGIS: Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information Science
CEOS: Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
CI: CyberInfrastructure
CLGE: The Council of European Geodetic Surveyors
CODATA: Committee on Data for Science and Technology
COGO: Coordinate geometry
CRS: Coordinate Reference System
CSA: Canadian Space Agency
CUDA: Compute Unified Device Architecture
DAAC: Distributed Active Archive Center (of NASA)
DEM: Digital Elevation Model
DSMs: 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
EPSG: European Petrol Survey Group (used in projection IDs)
ESA: European Space Agency
EUROGI: European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information
EuroSDR: European Spatial Data Research
13. Scholarships for students and staff

1. Unas oportunidades para hacer el doctorado en el Reino Unido para estudiantes latinoamericanos. Los proyectos son:
   - Crop modelling for crop performance PhD – Aberystwyth University
• Early warning of crop production problems
  PhD – Aberystwyth University

• Improving agriculture using radar satellite images – Open University

Candidates must be nationals from a Latin American country and will be based primarily in Milton Keynes, UK. The ability to deliver your PhD research within the project timeframe and flexibility to travel between UK and project locations in Peru/Colombia as part of the international project team are essential. The PhD program will start in September 2017 and must be completed by August 2020.

For more information, contact armando.marino@open.ac.uk by email. Armando Marino is a lecturer in Electronics and Signal Processing within the School of Engineering & Innovation at The Open University.

2. The GITA Mid-Atlantic chapter is again awarding scholarships to deserving GIS and Geography students.

Scholarships are available to full or part-time students studying at a university, college, or technical school in the United States, Canada, or Mexico. Students need not be GIS or Geography majors, but their coursework and/or majors must have a large geospatial component. Applications will close April 30, 2017.

Winners must be a citizen or legal resident of the United States, Canada, or Mexico.

The grand prize winners shall receive their scholarship check at EnerGIS 2017 and will receive complimentary admission. All travel and lodging costs shall be paid for by the scholarship winners.

Decisions of the scholarship committee are final.

Please download the scholarship application, and submit it to: energisconference@yahoo.com

Please note on the subject line Scholarship Application

Details here: http://www.energis.us/abstractsscholarship

15. Awards.

• gvSIG receives the award for the best European open source project.

The gvSIG project received the European Commission award for the best European open source project in the highest category (Cross border) at “Sharing and Reuse Awards”.

This prize is an important recognition of the career of the gvSIG project, which was born in the Generalitat Valenciana and has created a new software production model led by the gvSIG Association, based on collaboration, solidarity, and shared knowledge.

It started as a project to develop a desktop GIS and is a complete suite to address any need related to geomatics, with the integration of the geographic component in information systems. Currently, the software under the gvSIG brand is used in more than 160 countries.

Congratulations to all who are involved in this.

16. Web sites

• New website and new documentation for users and developers in gvSIG

A new website for the gvSIG documentation has been announced. This website will contain all types of documentation, such as user manuals, developer guides for Scripting, for Java, workshops, and more. It will also contain other useful links like related pages with the project.

More details at
(English) https://blog.gvsig.org/2017/03/01/new-website-and-new-documentation-for-users-and-developers-in-gvsig/
17. Ideas / Information

1. There is a new YouTube channel where we will be posting the Geo4All webinar recordings and other related videos. Subscribe to it (click on red button on right hand side).
Check it out:
YouTube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL1E2akvCNWP_nC0p5CpB8g

2. For those who would like to do a webinar about FOSS4G for GeoFor All, Rafael Moreno-sanchez (Rafael.Moreno@ucdenver.edu) collects new proposals. Great way to showcase your work or ideas, have it recorded, and made available to a broad audience in the Geo4All YouTube Channel.
It is very simple:
Prepare your slides.
Tell us about your work/ideas for up to 50 min.
We record and post to YouTube Channel.
You can use your webinar recording as a presentation card for introducing your work or ideas.
Anything that creates excitement and interest about FOSS4G is great.
For example:
- Research, service, or education activities.
- Applications.
- Discussion of issues/ideas, challenges, advantages, regarding the use of FOSS4G, etc.
- “Why I use FOSS4G in my organization?”
- “FOSS4G in country or organization X”
- “How to get started with FOSS4G in X or Y conditions or organization”
- “What would help me to get started with FOSS4G”
- Etc.

3. 3rd Catedra gvSIG Contest
The aim of the Cátedra gvSIG is to create a meeting point for users interested in free space technologies. In order to foment an environment of shared knowledge and participating in the dissemination of free geomatics, the chair organizes this international contest to encourage all gvSIG users and free Geographic Information Systems users to share and give visibility to their work.
Students and graduates in high school, professional training, and university, as well as university professors and researchers from all countries can participate in this contest.
More details at
(English) https://blog.gvsig.org/2017/03/09/3rd-catedra-gvsig-contest/


5. Presidents of Universities United to Solve Hunger (PUSH), under the parent organization Universities Fighting World Hunger (UFWH), is an initiative which unites universities in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Nearly 800 million people struggle with debilitating hunger and malnutrition in every corner of the globe. That is one in every nine people, with the majority being women and children. Leadership from the top will expedite progress in addressing this critical local and global issue. University presidents/Chancellors from four continents have signed the PUSH Commitment, establishing a framework for collaboration and a blueprint for action to achieve food and nutrition security. Mapping, education, and outreach are all aspects of the PUSH goals and action guide. Details at http://wp.auburn.edu/push

6. Open Data Hackathon occurred on March 4 and 5 in order to explore uses of open climate and weather data in three categories: Get Out, Get Geeky, and Get Creative. See the link for more details and details about some of the projects.