



GeoForAll

Monthly Newsletter



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Be part of "Geo for All" Editorial



Nikos Lambrinos

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

Dear Members of GeoForAll,

As you will notice, there is no GeoAmbassador article in this issue. This is not because there were no interesting candidates/members to inform you about their activities and support, but we faced a slight problem with the information needed. That was due to summer holidays. The August issue was always a bet to win. Don't forget that we are not professionals and each one of us needs a few days to rest. So, it is not always easy to find the information we need, and also, we have to show respect to the colleagues who want to spend a few days with their family during the summer.

So, please forgive us for this. We will have our GeoAmbassador article in September issue.

Have a nice reading

Nikos Lambrinos
Chief Editor

1. Activities of the Network

- [Ottawa, Ontario, OSGeo Meetup Group](http://www.meetup.com/OttawaOSGeo/) 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/OttawaOSGeo/>).
- There are four (4) days of gvSIG in Mexico. Get more of this at:
<http://geodesia.uas.edu.mx/gvsig/>
<http://geodesia.uas.edu.mx/gvsig/presentacion-de-trabajos/>
<http://geodesia.uas.edu.mx/gvsig/registro/>
- The MapServer team has created a new twitter account for updates from the MapServer project:
<https://twitter.com/mapserverosgeo>



Editorial Board

Please refer to the appropriate person according to the following table:

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GeoForAll Regional Chairs and Contact Information

North America Region

Chairs: Helena Mitsova (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

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

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>

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

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)

➤ 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>



2. A) Lab of the Month

Institute of Geography, Faculty of Science, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia

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 Institute of Geography, Faculty of Science, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia, as the GeoForAll lab of the month. I would like to thank Dr. Michal Gallay for providing me all background information on the lab activities.

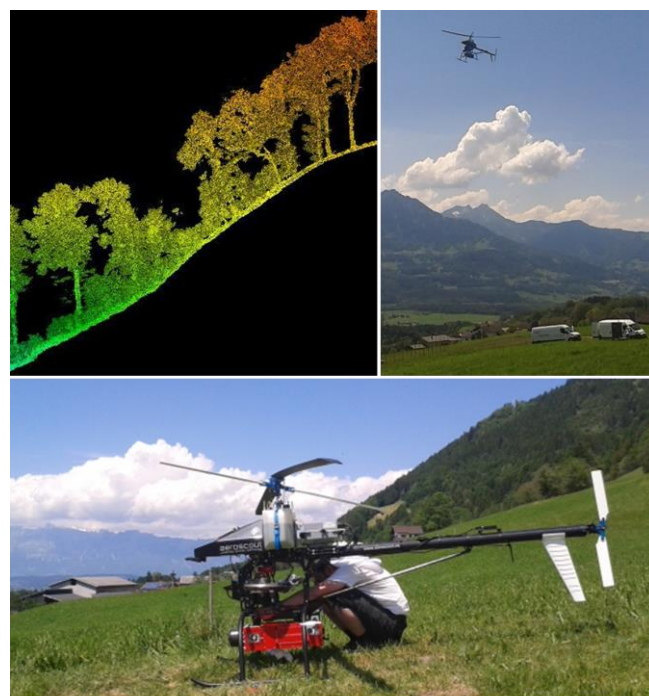
The Institute was established in 1998 and is located in Košice - the second biggest city in Slovakia. Their research and education is organized by three research groups: Physical Geography, Human Geography and Regional Geography, and Geographic Information Science. The list of projects and publications providing an overview of their research is at <http://geografia.science.upjs.sk/index.php/en/research>.

Currently, the Institute is led by Prof. Jaroslav Hofierka, who is the director and a professor in Geoinformatics. He specialises in developing methods for multivariate environmental modelling and spatial analysis of environmental phenomena in the open-source GRASS GIS.

Recently, their GIS group (<http://geo.ics.upjs.sk/index.php/en/institute/structure-of-institute/oddelenie-geoinformatiky>) has focused on 3D applications of combined use of terrestrial and airborne laser scanning in speleology and karst geomorphology (<http://spatial3d.science.upjs.sk/>), which relates to optimization of processing and

analysing big spatial data by the means of distributed computing. The findings improved the understanding of morphogenesis of the Domica cave by the means of 3D geomorphometry, assessing the photovoltaic potential in urban landscape also on buildings facades as 3D vector data. Some new methods of modelling the DEM surface, water flow, and solar irradiation by parallelized modules in the GRASS GIS and the OpenMP library are currently under review.

The most recent research initiatives specialise on spaceborne and UAV-based remote sensing. The feasibility study for the European Space Agency looks at the suitability of the Sentinel 2 multispectral imagery for ascertaining solar transmittance of urban greenery (<http://esa-surge.science.upjs.sk/>). The project SEGMENT, with the partners from Comenius University in Bratislava, searches for new methods for land surface segmentation from microscale level to coarser level. High-resolution mapping with UAV and terrestrial lidar is the core method of data collection in this project.



Laser scanning in the Alps with our Scout B1-100 unmanned helicopter. A common project with TU Vienna and Aeroscout GmbH.

Their research is closely integrated with teaching. Currently, they are running a single Geography programme and Geography combined with another discipline in Bachelor level. The Master level offers two single degrees: (i) Geography and



Geoinformatics, and (ii) Geography with another discipline for teaching at primary and secondary schools. Commencing September 2017, they are starting the first year of a doctoral programme in Geoinformatics and Remote Sensing as the only institution in Slovakia. The PhD. programme is also open for anyone interested from abroad speaking good English

(<http://geo.ics.upjs.sk/index.php/en/study-en/doctoral-study-phd>).

The students gradually develop the GIS skills from the first year as undergraduates. The compulsory courses of Cartography and GIS involve necessary theoretical knowledge needed in the practical courses, which develop standard skills of geospatial data handling and analysis in the two alternatives: proprietary and open source GIS. In the following two years, the students can opt for Open-source GIS or Graphics in Geography. The Master programme strengthens and expands the skills in the classes such as Geospatial analysis and modelling, which elucidates procedures of solar irradiation modelling, soil erosion modelling, geographically weighted regression, water flow analysis, etc. The Unmanned Aerial Systems course teaches practical aspects of mapping with UAVs, related aspects of the national legislation, and processing of aerial imagery by image-matching techniques. In a similar sense, the classes of Terrestrial Laser Scanning and Global Navigation Satellite Systems provide practical experience and data processing skills with the technologies. The Remote Sensing class focuses on theory and practise of processing the satellite and airborne imagery, lidar, or radar data and interpretation techniques. Land Information Systems develop skills in web-based presentation of geographic data for land management. Details of their study programs are available at

<http://geo.ics.upjs.sk/index.php/en/study-en>

The students employ their geospatial competencies in other classes of partial disciplines in Physical Geography and Human Geography. All GIS courses are provided in English for incoming ERASMUS+ students, the list can be found at <http://geografia.science.upjs.sk/index.php/en/study/e>

[rasmus](#).

The stated software, but also the hardware and geodata infrastructure, are concentrated in two laboratories: the Laboratory of GIS and the Laboratory of Remote Sensing (<http://geo.ics.upjs.sk/index.php/en/institute/laboratory>).



Laser scanning bank erosion in the High Tatras with the RIEGL VZ-1000.

From the international point of view, two items have recently expanded the standard geospatial infrastructure that makes the labs unique. One is the Riegl VZ-1000 terrestrial laser scanner capable of online full-waveform processing up to 1400 meters and 550 kHz measurement rate. They are using it now for acquiring time-series of 3-D vegetation for ground truthing the solar transmittance derived from Sentinel 2 imagery in the project for ESA. The second item is a custom integration of the state-of-the-art technologies within a UAV platform capable of high-resolution and high-accuracy laser scanning, hyperspectral imaging, and photographic imaging. The technological solution comprises the latest development of a completely autonomous, unmanned helicopter by Aeroscout, the Scout B1-100 UAV helicopter that provides a payload capacity of up to 30 kg. Production of the UAV system and payload integration was financed within the project of University Science Park TECHNICOM, co-funded by the European Union Structural Funds and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. More details are summarized in this ISPRS Archives paper (<https://www.int-arch-photogramm-remote-sens-spatial-inf-sci.net/XLI-B1/823/2016/>). They invite all interested researchers



to contact them in order to collaborate and use this specific equipment.

I want to thank Jaro Hofierka and all colleagues and students at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University for their contributions to the GeoForAll initiative. We are looking forward to working and building more collaborations with all interested on this education mission.

Best wishes,

Suchith Anand

4. Conferences

Asia

September 2017

1. 18-22 September: [WebMGS 2017](#) (during the ISPRS Geospatial Week).
Venue: Wuhan, China.

Europe

September 2017

2. 6-8 September: [INSPIRE Conference 2017](#)
Venue: Strasbourg, France
3. 7-8 September: 2nd Geoprogress Global Forum. International Conference on Sustainability and Energy Issues
Venue: Brussels
For more information write to: info@geoprogress.eu
4. 25-28 September: [Third Earth Observation Open Science](#) community consultation
Venue: ESRIN (Frascati, Rome, Italy)

November 2017

5. 20-22: 7th National Meeting of Open GIS of Portugal (in Portuguese)
Venue: Porto.
Contact person: Dr. Jorge Gustavo Rocha

(jgr@di.uminho.pt)

Abstracts for the meeting's discussions until July 28.

6. 28-30 November: [BiDS'17](#)

Venue: Centre de Congrès Pierre Baudis, Toulouse, France

October 2018

7. 14: 15-18: ISPRS Com IV Symposium

Venue: Delft, The Netherlands

North and Central America and the Caribbean

August 2017

8. 14-19 August: [FOSS4G Boston](#).

Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

September 2017

9. 14-15 September: HOT Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team Summit 2017
Venue: Ottawa ON, Canada.
More details soon.

10. 26-30 September: VIII Surveying Convention "[AGRIMENSURA 2017](#)"

Venue: Havana Libre Tryp Hotel, Havana. Cuba.

October 2017

11. 4-6 October: [2nd International Conference on Smart Data and Smart Cities](#)

Venue: Puebla, Mexico.

For a pdf in English please write to Sergio Acosta Y Lara (sergio.acostaylara@mtop.gub.uy)

6. Courses

- ECOAQUA 3rd Summer School 2017 in Marine Spatial Planning (Funchal, Madeira Island, Portugal - 4 to 8 September 2017)
<http://ecoaqua.ulpgc.es/Summer2016>
- [Learn GIS for free: The complete course](#)



7. Training programs

- [GeoForAll educational inventory system, a place to search and share educational materials](#)

9. Funding opportunities

- The call for the third competition of free sig projects is open. There are three categories: for doctoral thesis, final degree projects, and even secondary school projects. More details at: <http://gvsig.edu.umh.es/concurso-catedra-gvsig/>

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

- The Open Source Geospatial Foundation is pleased to announce that Orfeo ToolBox (OTB) has graduated from incubation and is now a full fledged OSGeo project. OTB is an open-source project for state-of-the-art remote sensing. It can process high resolution optical, multispectral, and radar images at the terabyte scale. All of OTB's algorithms are accessible as QGIS plugins or the Monteverdi visualization tool - or for developers Python, command line, or C++. More information at the following links:
<http://www.osgeo.org/news/otb-graduation>
https://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/OTB_Project_Incubation_Status
<https://www.loomio.org/d/1Wu7I5Fh/orfeo-toolbox-graduation>

11. Free Books, educational materials, etc.

- [Free book available:](#) "Learning GIS with Game of Thrones"
<https://blog.gvsig.org/2017/07/12/learning-gis-with-game-of-thrones-free-book/>
- Number 22 of Spanish journal of science and technology of geographic information. "Revista Internacional de Ciencia y Tecnología de la Información Geográfica" is published in open:
<http://www.geofocus.org/index.php/geofocus/sue/view/22>

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

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

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

HPC: high-performance computing

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

JAXA: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

KML: Keyhole Markup Language

LiDARL: Light Detection and Ranging

LOC: Local Organizing Committee

LOD: Level Of Detail

MIL: Media and Information Literacy

MoU: Memorandum of Understanding

NAD: North American Datum

NCSA: National Center for Supercomputing Applications

NED: National Elevation Dataset

NEPAD: NEw Partnership for African Development

NGA: National Geospatial Intelligence Agency

NHD: National Hydrologic Dataset

NLCD: National Land Cover Dataset

NSDI: National Spatial Data Infrastructure

NSF: National Science Foundation

OER: Open Educational Resources

OGC: Open Geospatial Consortium

OSGeo: Open Source Geospatial Foundation

OSM: OpenStreetMap

RCMRD: Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development

ROSHYDROMET: Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring

RUFORUM: Regional Universities Forum for capacity building in agriculture

SaaS: Software as a Service

SDI: Spatial Data Infrastructure

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

SQL: Structured Query Language



STISA 2024: Science Technology Innovation Strategy for Africa

STSM: Short Term Scientific Missions

TIN: Triangulated Irregular Network

UAV: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

UN-GGIM: United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

USGS: U.S. Geological Survey

USGIF: United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation

VGI: Volunteered Geographic Information

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

WPS: Web Processing Service

organization of the ISPRS Com IV Symposium, that will take place in Delft, The Netherlands, on October 15-19, 2018. It will be jointly organised with 3D Geoinfo (<http://3dgeoinfo2017.com>), 3D Cadastres (<http://www.gdmc.nl/3dcadastres>), and UDMS-SCSD (<http://www.udms.net>).

All the ISPRS Working Groups under Commission IV will meet on that occasion, including our WG IV/4 "Collaborative Crowdsourced Cloud Mapping (C³M)" chaired by Prof. Maria Antonia Brovelli (see the ToR at <http://www2.isprs.org/commissions/comm4/wg4.html>).

As WG IV/4, we are going to organize a one-day event at the Symposium with academic sessions related to the WG topics, and to collect papers (to be published on ISPRS Annals/Archives) accordingly. Optionally, we are also going to organize a workshop with students or professionals.

Despite the meeting happening in more than one year from today, we would like to let you know about it and invite you all to attend. Participation is open to everyone, you don't need to be a member of an ISPRS Commission. Feel free to contact Marco Minghini (marco.minghini@polimi.it) if you need more information.

4. You might be interested in the second edition of the INSPIRE Hack, i.e. a hackathon that is part of the INSPIRE Conference 2017. This time, the hackathon will start early in July 2017 when hackathon teams will be created and will start working on their projects before the INSPIRE Conference. The INSPIRE Conference will serve as a platform for presenting the hackathon results. All the hackathon teams will present their projects during a dedicated workshop at the INSPIRE Conference. The workshop including the award ceremony will take place either on 4th or 5th September 2017 in Kehl, Germany.

The INSPIRE Hack supports creativity, innovation, technical capabilities and knowledge sharing. The INSPIRE Hack focuses on methods where citizens are able to contribute to different environmental and societal issues through smart phones and other sensors.

More details at

<http://www.godan.info/events/inspire-hack-2017>

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. To post your FOSS4G educational information go to <http://www.osgeo.org/education>. There you can find more educational activities posted by members of our community.

3. ISPRS Commission IV

(<http://www.commission4.isprs.org>) is starting the



5. The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management develops and uses geospatial information to address key global challenges. The priorities and work programs of UN-GGIM are driven by Member States and UN-GGIM is looking for university and research center partners from across the globe to help support its aims and objectives. The primary objective of the UN-GGIM Academic Network is to support the aims and objectives of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), as UN-GGIM sets the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and promotes its use to address key global challenges. The network will facilitate access globally to research and education capabilities for UN-GGIM and its affiliated members in order to identify and respond to challenges and opportunities for UN-GGIM and related UN offices. The UN-GGIM Academic Network will be a coalition of recognized universities and research and education centers involved in research, development and education on geospatial, land information and related matters, run on a volunteer basis.

- General information: <http://ggim.un.org/>
- Information about the academic network: <http://unggim.academicnetwork.org>
- Terms of reference: http://unggim.academicnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/UNGGIM_AcademicNetwork_TOR.pdf
- Expressing of interest online form: <http://unggim.academicnetwork.org/eoi/>

6. We are very pleased to announce the new GeoForAll Regional Group for Iberoamerica http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoForAll_Iberoam%C3%A9rica. This is due to the merger of the Regional Group for South America and the GeoForAll Spanish-Speaking Group.

The chairs of this new group are Silvana Camboim (Brazil), Antoni Pérez Navarro (Spain) and Sergio Acosta and Lara (Uruguay) and are now the contact points for any new labs to be established in Latin America & the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal.

The list becomes the first point of contact for the new members. All regional members in the group can use the list for collaborating on regional funding calls, FOSS4G local conferences etc.

The goals of the Group are:

- a) to make education and geospatial opportunities accessible to all.
- b) to create research and teaching opportunities in open geospatial science
- c) to build global open access teaching and research infrastructure
- d) to establish collaborations between academia, government and industry around open geospatial science and education.

One of the first activities of the group will be to start a series of webinars in both Spanish and Portuguese, the first of them ("Free Geomatics for Municipal Management; the gvSIG suite, use cases ") to be hold by mid-September.

We invite you to join this initiative by contacting any of the chairs or directly through the mailing list. You are all welcome.

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