Editorial

Dear all,

There are two things which appear or reappear in this issue. The first one is the sub-section "Lab of the Month". In fact, this section was never canceled, it was postponed. The reason was not because of the lack of Labs which can be promoted as "Lab of the Month", but due to the lack of time. Needless to say, we are all too busy with our work and it is not easy to ask from a person to cover the needs of a permanent section in the newsletter. So, there is another solution: there are many Labs, members of our community, which are worth of promoting and/or reference. If someone from the Lab would like to write about the Lab in order to let the other members of the community know about the scope, the status and the work that is being done in his/her Lab then he/she is more than welcome to do so by presenting his/her Lab.

Don’t forget to add some photos and a conduct name/email. All you have to do is send me the presentation. For the beginning you can read about The Open University of Catalonia (UOC). Also, for your information and convenience, there is a Lab of the Month content table where you can see all the Labs that were introduced in previous issues, so you can see which Labs had the honor to be introduced to our community.

Also, we are going to follow the same procedure for the “GeoAmbassador” sub-section, hoping that in the following months we will be able to “meet” interesting people from the geospatial community. Please send me your article about colleague(s) or team(s) who have a crucial role in geospatial science and they deserve to be honored with a reference to their work. You can also find a GeoAmbassador content table just to be informed about who has been introduced to our community so far.

The presence of these sub-sections depends on us.

The second one has to do with the section "Conferences". As we all have noticed, during last year, all the conferences were postponed and in some cases were canceled, because of the coronavirus pandemic. In our newsletter, the Conferences are ordered according to where and when they take place. Because all the Conferences are Online and there is no physical venue, we decided to present the Conferences according to the date of the organization and add "Online Conference" instead of "Venue".

Have a pleasant reading

Nikos Lambrinos
Chief Editor
Please refer to the appropriate person according to the following table:

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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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

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

Asia Region (including Australia)
Chairs: Tuong Thuy Vu (Malaysia/Vietnam) and Venkatesh Raghavan (Japan/India) Subscribe at maillist http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-asiaaustralia
Email: asia.gfa.chair@osgeo.org

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
  Theme under revision

- Teacher Training & School Education
  - Chairs: Elżbieta Wołoszyńska-Wiśniewska (Poland), Nikos Lambrinos (Greece)
  - Mail list: geoforall-teachertraining@lists.osgeo.org
  - Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoForAll_TeacherTraining_SchoolEducation

- CitizenScience
  - Chairs: Peter Mooney (Ireland) and Maria Brovelli (Italy)
  - Mail list: https://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-geocrowd
  - Website: http://wiki.os geo.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
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2. A) Lab of the Month

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)

by Antoni Perez-Navarro, PhD
Estudis d’Informàtica,
Multimèdia i Telecomunicació,
Barcelona, Spain

UOC was the first 100% online university that now celebrates its 25 years. It offers courses of most of the disciplines and develops research with many different scopes.

The role that Geographic information systems (GIS) in particular and location based applications in general has three main ambits:

- Education: GIS are part of UOC since 2004, when started to be an option for the final degree project of students of computer science. The offer in GIS at UOC has been changing during these years, and for three years we offered postgraduate studies in GIS. Nowadays we have the following possibilities:
  - Students from the degrees of computer science, master of computer science, master of telecommunication can choose developing their final degree project in GIS.
  - Students from Social sanitary work use GIS in their practicum.
  - Course of introduction to GIS in the telecommunication degree: is a non-mandatory course that students of telecommunication can choose.
  - Course of geodata analysis in the master of Data Science.
  - Course of Transportation and Sustainable Mobility in the master of cities and urbanism: in this course students reconstruct a transportation network and obtain several GIS indicators.
  - Students of the master of cities and urbanism tend to use GIS in their final degree project.
  - PhD: between education and research we find the PhD programs.
    - GIS is one of the lines of research offered in the Networking and Information technologies PhD program (https://www.uoc.edu/portal/en/escola-doctorat/lines-recerca/lines-nit/applications-geographic/index.html)
  - Research: several groups of research at UOC use GIS in their everyday work:
    - ICSO (https://dpcsicso.wordpress.com): The Internet Computing & Systems Optimization (ICSO) group focuses on the use of Intelligent Algorithms & Data Science (including optimization, simulation, analytics, and machine learning methods) to support complex decision making in different application fields that range from smart cities, to sustainable transportation and logistics, production, real-time positioning, bioinformatics and computational finance. GIS is the base map from which to obtain real world distances, for preventing healthy behaviours through geolocation apps, and for indoor positioning.

by Antoni Perez-Navarro, PhD
Estudis d’Informàtica,
Multimèdia i Telecomunicació,
Barcelona, Spain
Figura 1: UBESAFE—Android client: adding users’ favorite hot zones for future monitoring of the alert service.

- **NOUTUR** (http://transfer.rdi.uoc.edu/es/grupo/nuevas-perspectives-en-turismo-y-ocio): The new perspectives in tourism and leisure (NOUTUR) group has used GIS in the project I+D ECCOLTUR. The GIS is intended to serve to map the evolution and spatial distribution of socio-economic indicators of collaborative economy in Spain.


- **SUMA** (http://transfer.rdi.uoc.edu/es/grupo/sustainability-and-management-research-group): in the Sustainability and Management (SUMA) group research about management and sustainability of the companies. Their members have work in several projects where GIS play a key role, like HGIsE (http://europa.udl.cat/) or Industrial Heritage (www.patrimoniindustrial.cat).

- A publication: https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/11/24/6948


- **Sanitary social work** (http://trabajosocialsanitario.blogs.uoc.edu): in the context of the social and sanitary workers, a GIS is being used to map their distribution in the Spanish territory.


- **CoSIN3** (http://transfer.rdi.uoc.edu/es/grupo/complex-systems-in3): tGIS is an invaluable tool for the Complex Systems group at the IN3 (CoSIN3) in their research on the structure and dynamics of cities. On a day to day basis, the group makes use of many of the tools available from GIS well-developed open-source ecosystem, from QGIS for mapping and visualization, to the Shapely and GeoPandas libraries for building tailored geoprocessing scripts in the Python programming language. Their work in the areas of urban traffic safety, social segregation, and sidewalk networks have relied on a wide range of geographic data sources, including geo-tagged traffic collisions, mobile phone records, and land use polygons, among many others.

3. Events

- **Air Quality Management with Satellite Data**

On September 25th at 4:00 P.M. (Amsterdam/UTC+2) / 10:00 A.M. (Santiago/UTC-4), TNO (the Netherlands Organisation for applied scientific research) organized a webinar focusing on Latin America on the use of satellite data for air quality management. TNO is one of the largest independent research and technology organizations in Europe, and has extensive experience in the development of satellite instruments, such as the TROPOMI instrument and with the use of satellite data for the European Union’s Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Service (CAMS), among others.

The webinar focused on reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change threatens food production, causes sea level rise and changes global weather patterns. Air pollution causes millions of premature deaths every year and increases disease among the population. This has also been unfortunately demonstrated in relation to the current pandemic. The webinar discussed how pollution levels and emissions can be effectively reduced using satellite data and presented the TNO’s LOTOS-EUROS prediction model, which can help to identify sources of emissions and understand the sectors responsible for them. This process allows the user to start taking action.

The main topics discussed were:
- Air quality management: monitoring and reduction of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions using satellite data
- The TROPOMI satellite instrument on board the Sentinel 5p mission: how does it work?
- The LOTOS-EUROS air pollution model (open source)
- How can it be applied in your region?

Almost 90 experts from 15 countries participated in the webinar.

For the recordings and presentations see section “5. Webinars”

For more information on the webinar, TROPOMI and the topic of air quality, please contact: M.Sc. Max van Strien at TNO: max.vanstrien@tno.nl.

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**Figura 3:** Network construction process. Building from heterogeneous municipal open data sets, an algorithm was developed to construct sidewalk networks automatically for each of the cities of study using a few simple rules, as described in the figure.

- **TURBA ([https://turbalab.research.uoc.edu](https://turbalab.research.uoc.edu))**: TURBA explores the urban geographies of digital capitalism and grassroots alternatives. We focus on three areas: the political economy of new technologically mediated urban models; the political ecology of urban governance and social-ecological resilience; and, the transformative capacities of grassroots collaborative processes of (urban) knowledge creation in digital as well as in non-digital environments. In doing so, we use open source GIS (QGIS & R) to analyse uneven socio-spatial configurations and visualise hidden actors, processes and relations as well the uneven inter- and intra-geographies of cities.
**5. Webinars**


- Webinar on "Data Rights and Digital Feudalism", organised by the Benchmark Initiative, at [https://vimeo.com/456581072](https://vimeo.com/456581072)

- “Challenges and Opportunities of Instructing a University Level FOSS4G Course”, organized by the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences University of Colorado Denver. Presentation slides are here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qSzN4HpCkAOGx02PJ3LiuFOLtq0byE/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qSzN4HpCkAOGx02PJ3LiuFOLtq0byE/view?usp=sharing) and Webinar recording here: [https://youtu.be/d99W_9p-vL4](https://youtu.be/d99W_9p-vL4)

- "Air Quality Management with Satellite Data", organized by TNO (the Netherlands Organisation for applied scientific research) on September 25th. A video recording of the event can be seen (after registration) on the link: [https://channel.royalcast.com/tnowebcasts/#!/tnowebcasts/20200925_1](https://channel.royalcast.com/tnowebcasts/#!/tnowebcasts/20200925_1) where you can also download the webinar presentations in English and Spanish.

  
  Presentations slides are here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MjeyKHFq0-q5ry6IHi3cNyu1Q7oG](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MjeyKHFq0-q5ry6IHi3cNyu1Q7oG)
  
  Webinar recording here: [https://youtu.be/gqrUQ9apFkc](https://youtu.be/gqrUQ9apFkc)

**4. Conferences (Online)**

1. 4-6 November: [16th International gvSIG Conference](#)
   
   Venue: Virtual Conference
   
   Communication proposals submission at: [conference-contact@gvsig.com](mailto:conference-contact@gvsig.com)
   
   The information indicated at Communications section of the event website
   
   All the information related to the conference, including workshops information, will be published at [gvSIG Blog](#)
6. Courses

- “Implementing Resilient GIScience Education”
  Americas’ Panel 2
  Tuesday November 17, 2020, from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm EST (Eastern Standard Time).
  Click here to register for this panel presentation: https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwucuChrTwtEtG971WQ3Ly15d-BXqOItfND
  Panelists: Sergio ACosta y Lara, Tora Johnson, Anthony Robinson, Renée Sieber

7. Training programs

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

12. Articles

Acronyms

by Nikos Lambrinos, Chief Editor, and Michael Finn.

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

3DEP: 3-D Elevation Program
AGI: Ambient Geographic Information
AAG: Association of American Geographers
AGS: American Geographical Society
AGU: American Geophysical Union
AI: Artificial Intelligence
AM/FM: Automated Mapping/Facilities Management
API: Application Programming Interface
ASPRS: American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
AURIN: Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network
BBSRC: Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
BIM: Building Information Modelling
CAADP: Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CAD: Computer Aided Design
CaGIS: Cartography and Geographic Information Society
CCGI: Collaboratively Contributed Geographic Information
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
CRC: Census Research Centre
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
GEO: Group on Earth Observations
GloFAS: Global Flood Awareness System
GNSS: Global Navigational Satellite System
GODAN: Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition
GPS: Global Positioning System
GPX: GPS Exchange Format
GRASPgfs: Geospatial Resource for Agricultural Species and Pests and Pathogens with workflow integrated modeling to support Global Food Security
GSoC: Google Summer of Code
HLPF: High Level Political Forum (of UN)
HOT: Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team
HPC: high-performance computing
ICA: International Cartographic Association
ICSU-WDS: International Council for Science – World Data System
IDE: Spatial Data Infrastructure
INSPIRE: Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe
IPGH: Pan American Institute of Geography and History
ISO: International Organization for Standardization
ISPRS: International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
ISPRS: International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
JAXA: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
KML: Keyhole Markup Language
LBS: Location-Based Service
LiDAR: 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
OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development
OER: Open Educational Resources
OGC: Open Geospatial Consortium
OHI: International Hydrographic Office
OSGeo: Open Source Geospatial Foundation
OSM: OpenStreetMap
OTB: Orfeo Tool Box
PPGIS: Public Participation in Geographic Information Systems
PPSR: Public Participation in Scientific Research
RCMRD: Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
RDA: Research Data Alliance
RUSHYDROMET: Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring
RUFORUM: Regional Universities Forum for capacity building in agriculture
SaaS: Software as a Service
SAR: Synthetic Aperture Radar
SDG: Sustainable Development Goal
SDI: Spatial Data Infrastructure
SIG: Geographic Information System
SIGTE: The GIS and Remote Sensing Service of the University of Girona, Spain
SPIDER: Open Spatial data Infrastructure eDucation nEtwoRk
SQL: Structured Query Language
STISA 2024: Science Technology Innovation Strategy for Africa
STSM: Short Term Scientific Missions
TIN: Triangulated Irregular Network
UAV: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UML: Unified Modeling Language
UN-GGIM: United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management
USGS: U.S. Geological Survey
USGIF: United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation
VGI: Volunteered Geographic Information
XSEDE: Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment
WCS: Web Coverage Service
WFS: Web Feature Service
WGCapD: Working Group on Capacity Building and Data Democracy
WGS: World Geodetic System
WISERD: Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods
WMO: World Meteorological Organization
WMS: Web Map Service
WMTS: Web Map Tiles Services
WOIS: Water Observation Information System
WPS: Web Processing Service


17. Ideas / Information

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


If this topic is of interest, you are warmly invited to submit a manuscript now or up until the deadline (1 December 2020). Submitted papers should not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. Authors are encouraged to send a short abstract or tentative title in advance.

3. The open access journal Data is pleased to announce a new Special Issue titled "A European Approach to the Establishment of Data Spaces". Marco Minghini (marco.minghini86@gmail.com) is serving as Guest Editor for this Special Issue together with his colleagues at the European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC) Alexander Kotsev, Massimo Craglia, and Stefano Nativi.

Papers should address any of the cross-cutting issues emerging from the recently launched European Data Strategy, e.g. the definition of sustainable governance models for data, appropriate socio-economic
incentives, choice of standards and technologies ensuring interoperability, the establishment of reference architectures and licensing frameworks, and multi-source data quality assessment frameworks. Within this context, multidisciplinary and multi-domain submissions are welcome that would contribute to shaping the research agenda, and providing best practices for data-driven innovation that are in line with European values.

The submission deadline is January 31, 2021. The full Call for Papers is available at https://www.mdpi.com/journal/data/special_issues/EU_DataSpaces.


The idea behind Open Science is to allow scientific information, data and outputs to be more widely accessible (Open Access) and more reliably harnessed (Open Data) with the active engagement of all the stakeholders (Open to Society).

By encouraging science to be more connected to societal needs and by promoting equal opportunities for all (scientists, policy-makers and citizens), Open Science can be a true game changer in bridging the science, technology and innovation gaps between and within countries and fulfilling the human right to science.