

Geospatial Data Conference: Guest Post by Bogdan Manolea

Submitted on 17 May 2013 by ePSIplatform Team

16-20 June 2013. Bucharest, Romania.

The [second edition of the international conference “Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial – Central and Eastern Europe” \(FOSS4G-CEE\)](#) will be held this coming June in Bucharest, Romania. epsiplatform.eu will cover the event, which is organised by the [geo-spatial.org](#) community together with the [OSGeo Romanian Local Chapter](#).



While the geographic component of the event is obvious, the event organizers, together with many supporters from the civil society or private sector, have prepared at least three specialized actions on open data during the conference:

1. An open data track within the main event. Presentations will be complemented by keynote speeches related to open data. Speakers like Radu Puchiu, State Secretary and the Coordinator of the [Government Department of Online Services and Design](#), the Romanian institution that will implement the Open Government Partnership commitments.
2. An [open geodata hackaton](#) will be organized on 20 June 2013 by the by GEOIDEA.ro and Soros Foundation Romania. The hackathon will focus on geo open data for Central and Eastern Europe. The main official purpose of the event will be to develop ideas and think of possible structures for services and solutions for issues had or heard of. The main unofficial purpose is to socialise with great people, talk smart and share ideas.
3. A side-event explaining & discussing open data concepts with public sector and private sector representatives is being finalized these days by the organizers in close collaboration with several Romanian civil society groups already involved in advocating for open data at a policy level. Several practical presentations are envisaged to show the impact of open data in society and why, beyond a clear policy, access to open data is needed for Romania.

[Vasile Craciunescu, the Conference chair](#), shared his views on the event with Epsiplatform.eu, *“We have high expectations from FOSS4G-CEE 2013. We had a few very strict goals we aimed to reach. These referred to the keynote speakers, to the Program Committee, to the side events and equally important, it referred to making this conference as accessible as possible. We are happy to say that we have done our share, we have amazing professionals coming to share their knowledge from all over the world and we have succeeded in [keeping the prices really low, even free entrance for students in the early bird registration](#).”*

[Some of the keynote speakers](#) have been announced, but other surprises will follow soon.

Date: 16-20 June 2013.

Place: National Library of Romania in Bucharest, Romania.