

The FOSS4G-CEE 2013 conference

Submitted on 08 Jul 2013 by Bogdan Manolea

From 16 to 20 June 2013, Bucharest, Romania was the proud host of the Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial - Central and Eastern Europe (FOSS4G-CEE) conference, following on the tradition established by the 2012 conference held in Prague, Czech Republic. FOSS4G-CEE grew apart from a global event (the annual conference Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial / FOSS4G), acknowledged by the entire international geospatial community, with the permission and under the patronage of the organizing institution, the Open Source Geospatial Foundation, driven by the desire to better address the specific needs of the geospatial communities from Central and Eastern Europe, such as on the educational and scientific side.

FOSS4G-CEE 2013 gathered 200 participants for 42 talks and 10 keynotes given by important personalities in the geospatial international world, such as: Jeff McKenna - president of OSGeo, Paul C. Smits - Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, leading the team that is developing the technical Implementing Rules Legal Acts for Directive 2007/2/EC establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE), Jáchym Čepický - Help Service - Remote Sensing in Czech Republic, Maria Antonia Brovelli - vice rector at Politecnico di Milano, Markus Neteler - head of the GIS and Remote Sensing unit at the Research and Innovation Centre of the Fondazione Edmund Mach, Trento, Italy, Radu Puchiu - State Secretary at Government of Romania and many many more.

The conference was based on three main parts: workshops, presentations and hands-on activity (code sprint and open geodata hackathon). The code sprint represented an opportunity for the open source communities to get together, make future plans for their software projects, and write code and documentation. The geodata hackathon, although with a coding part of its own, focused more on developing ideas, socialising and brainstorming.

Given the long standing activity in the realm of open (geo)data in Romania of geo-spatial.org, for the third day of the conference an open data event was organized: Moving forward. Open Data Discussions for an Open Romania. The event was organised together with Soros Foundation Romania, Online Services and Design Department - Prime Minister's Chancellery and GEOIDEA.ro. The event gathered over 60 representatives from public, private and civil society to take part in an open debate and listen to great talks divided into 5 sections: public sector, civil society, expert panel, private sector and projects. As special guests, we had Marcus Dapp from Open Knowledge Foundation and Paul Maassen from Open Government Partnership. A more detailed presentation on how the event went has already been [published on the EPSIplatform.](#)

The organisers of FOSS4G-CEE 2013 were: the geo-spatial.org Association and OSGeo Romania, in collaboration with the Romanian Spatial Agency, Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence "Mihai Drăgănescu" of the Romanian Academy, Romanian National Meteorological Administration, Faculty of Geography – University of Bucharest, Groundwater Engineering Research Center - Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest, Faculty of Geography - Babeş Boylai University, Ministry of Culture, Romania, National Library of Romania, Politecnico di Milano, Italy, Institute of Cartography and Geoinformation - ETH Zurich, Switzerland, Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering - Transilvania University, Romania, Faculty of Geography and Geology - Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Romania, Faculty of History and Geography - Stefan cel Mare University, Romania, Department of Geophysics and Space Science, Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary, Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography - West University of Timisoara, Romania, Military Technical Academy, Bucharest,

Romania, Soros Foundation Romania, Romania.

For more information on FOSS4G-CEE 2013 please visit <http://2013.foss4g-cee.org/>.