

Review of the paper „GIS for All: Exploring the Barriers and Opportunities for Underexploited GIS Applications“ (17-26-1-RV)

Remarks for the editor

The article is meant to give a comprehensive overview of the current state of GIS use as well as of the barriers affecting the more widespread use of GIS. Based on the findings due to this topics the article aims at revealing barriers hindering the more widespread adoption (application) of GIS and summarizes potentials for future GIS use. The article concludes with a short discussion of the potential contributions of Open-Source GIS solutions and data towards more widespread use of GIS focusing especially on Open-Street Map and Cloud Computing as examples.

All in all the article is meant to give an overview of the whole spectrum of GIS uses as well as the most important constraints and problems GIS users are confronted with. At first glance, considering the relatively short Open-Source GIS section, one might ask how the article fits in a conference primarily oriented towards Open-Source GIS. In addition it does according to my opinion not directly fit into the thematic scope of the academic track. But considering its intention of highlighting barriers of more widespread GIS use and summarizing potentials for future developments in GIS, the article has the potential to draw an agenda of high interest for the Open-Source GIS community as it might provide interesting links for future developments in Open-Source GIS and data.

Hence, the paper might, according to my opinion, constitute an article/contribution of high interest for the participants of the conference. But unfortunately not in the form it is presented. In the moment, the additional benefit of the analysis compared to prior analyses remains unclear. Furthermore the methodological approach behind the analysis remains in many aspects quite fuzzy. The Open-Source GIS section is in need of a more elaborate consideration/discussion and must be better intertwined with the other sections of the paper/analysis. That means the author(s) must more clearly describe/analyse why according to his/her/their findings Open-Source products are especially suited to address underexploited GIS potentials and which potentials they thereby explicitly refer to and why (please compare my notes for the author(s) for more details).

This rather all-embracing critique is not entirely destructive, however. I think that the paper would be publishable and considerably gain in explanatory power if the limitations outlined would be discussed/addressed objectively in each stage and the conclusions, rather than being devoted to a

consolidation of the main results of the exercise, could be made more interesting by setting out an agenda for future GIS uses. So, at present state, according to my opinion, the paper is in need of major revisions, which includes the re-writing of entire passages in order to represent a meaningful, beneficial contribution.

All in all, I would recommend to give the author(s) the opportunity to revise/re-write her/his/their contribution and encourage her/him/them to resubmit the paper and decide on final acceptance on basis of the revised version.