

FOSS4G 2013 presented by OSGeo

HELSINKI, FINLAND 16.-20.9.2013

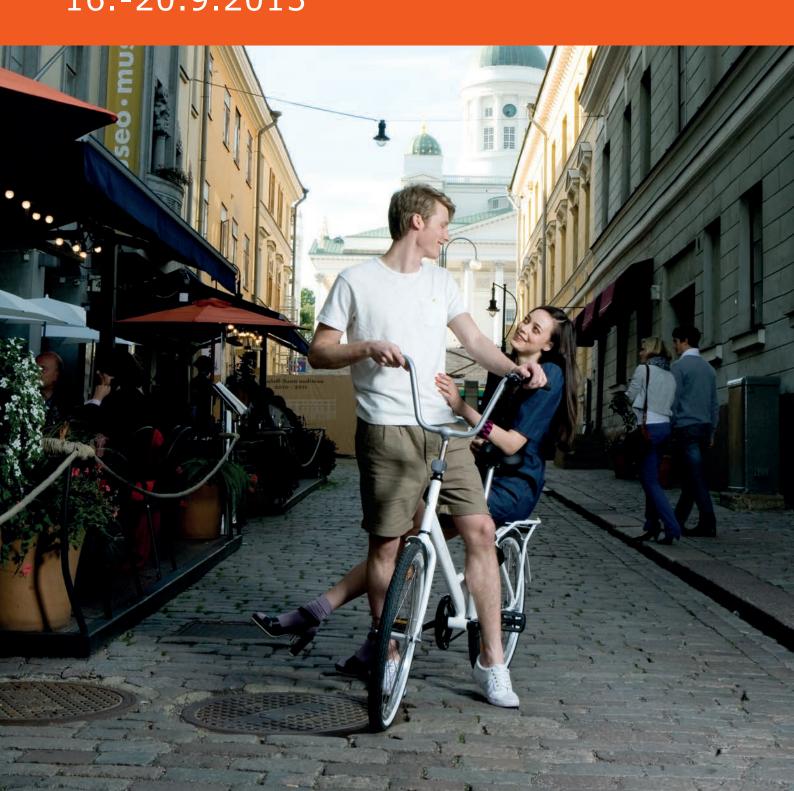




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Dear FOSS4G selection committee,

The Finnish FOSS4G organizing team (with Forum Virium Helsinki as the legal organizing body) wishes to host the FOSS4G congress in Helsinki in September 2013. This invitation is fully supported by local and national authorities and companies, as proved by the attached support letters.

Helsinki makes a perfect venue for FOSS4G. Friendly, modern and functional, Helsinki is the leading conference city in Finland. An average of 100 international conventions with more than 20 000 delegates are arranged in Helsinki each year. The Helsinki City Tourist & Convention Bureau is helping the organisers with 30 years of expertise.

The host organization, Forum Virium Helsinki is an innovation company belonging to the City of Helsinki group. It is one of the leading open data advocates in Finland and very active in location-based service development. The event team of Forum Virium Helsinki consists of experienced conference professionals.

The Finnish GIS developer community is large and active, the other Scandinavian countries are just a hop away, and the European developers are used to travel to events across the continent. As the main gateway to Asia, Helsinki is very well connected to most main cities.

Helsinki offers great opportunities for social events and off-conference -activities. Furthermore, State of the Map conference is being planned to take place before FOSS4G in our "twin city", the medieval capital of Estonia, Tallinn, just a short boat ride from Helsinki on the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland. The twin city experience would be unique.

The congress will take place in an architectural masterpiece, the Alvar Aalto -designed Finlandia hall, at the very heart of Helsinki. The premises of the Finlandia hall are both state-of-the-art and cozy, supporting active dialogue.

We are certain that the organizing committee and Helsinki will meet the high requirements of the event. It would be a great honor for us to host the Congress. We look forward to seeing you in our city and wish you warmly welcome.

Yours Sincerely,

Jarmo Eskelinen

Chairman of local organization committee CEO, Forum Virium Helsinki



Welcome to Helsinki

September 16-20, 2013

Finland is an attractive country for meetings and all suppliet have a comprehensive experience in organizing congresses.

We have the know-how and capacity to cater to your every need, and the city and its environs offer a wealth of opportunities for excursions and leisure activities.





FOSS4G in Helsinki - excellent opportunity!

The main goal of the FOSS4G in Helsinki is expanding the audience of the conference.

FOSS4G and its predecessors have been excellent places for developers to meet and share their innovations and experience (gathering of the tribes and geeks-to-geeks). We will respect this history and the FOSS4G in Helsinki will continue this tradition. We are looking forward to make the FOSS4G 2013 in Helsinki a place to be for geospatial scientists and engineers.

However, we hope to make FOSS4G and OSGeo community even bigger. We believe that is the most important thing to do. Free and Open Source Software is at its best when people use it. Our plan is to get more users of FOSS4G software to the conference. Users are very important. We also want to invite and get decision makers to see the FOSS4G. We will market and promote the FOSS4G in Helsinki outside traditional GIS community. Neogeographers too need to know open source tools and open geodata sources. Users are very important. The local organisers will collaborate with the European Network of Living Labs, which consist of over 300 user driven innovation organisations. New application areas are also critical. For this, the organisers will market the event to the Future Internet community, including the European commission decision makers.

We want to help OSGeo to make the next jump forward. OSGeo, its projects and the whole community must live and grow to become even more meaningful. We are convinced that OSGeo and the community will make it to the next level in Helsinki in 2013.

Finland is small nation. The FOSS4G in Helsinki will be successful event with help of our neighboring countries. Scandinavian and Baltic countries and also Russia will be key partners to us in building truly international, global conference. Helsinki has been several times as neutral place for different parties to meet and discuss. With this tradition, Helsinki is the place to organise FOSS4G in 2013.



Local Organisation Committee

The FOSS4G in Helsinki will be supported by variety agencies from public and private sector. During the application phase several organizations have expressed their support as letter of support.

Aalto University
City of Helsinki
COSS (the Finnish Centre for Open Systems and Solutions)
Estonian Geoinformatics Society
Finnish Geodetic Institute
Finnish Enviroment Institute SYKE
Logica Oyj
Ministry of Agriculture and Foresty
Ministry of Employment and the Economy
National Land Survey of Finland
ProGIS ry
Sitra - The Finnish Innovation Fund
ULI Geoforum. Sweden

The FOSS4G in Helsinki's Local Organisation Committee is established to fulfill our main goal. We have experienced OSGeo and FOSS4G veterans in our team. We have people who have deep understanding of mindset of high level decision makers (political, civil servants and businesses).

Please find all supporting letters enclosed.

General committee

General Committee of the FOSS4G in Helsinki will establish key goals of the conference, contact keynote speakers, accept budget and will guide subcommittees in their work. Our general committee members have very unique domestics and international networks that will help us to promote FOSS4G for larger audience.

Mr Jarmo Ratia, General Manager of National Land Survey, Chairman

Jarmo has work several decades for Finnish Government. Currently he is Director General and CEO of National Land Survey of Finland. During his career, he has had several international duties. He has been representative of the Finnish Government or a member of a delegation in meetings in the field of GIS of the following intergovernmental organisations: UN, UN/ECE, UNEP, OECD, WHO/EURO, IOPCF, CERCO, MEGRIN, EU, UN, EUROGEOGRAPHICS and GSDI. Jarmo has been active member of GSDI from 2004 until 2009, he was GSDI President 2006-2008.



Mr Jarmo Eskelinen, CEO of Forum Virium

Jarmo Eskelinen has a mixed and rich background. Originally trained as an architect, he is an expert in the areas of open data, smart cities and interactive media. Since the beginning of 2006 Jarmo Eskelinen has been the CEO of Forum Virium Helsinki, a non-profit enterprise developing digital services and owned by the City of Helsinki and corporate partners (including Nokia, IBM and Logica, to name a few). Before establishing Forum Virium Jarmo Eskelinen was the director of the Media Centre Lume, the national research and development centre of audiovisual media of the University of Art & Design Helsinki. Jarmo Eskelinen has also been the program director of the Helsinki 2000 European City of Culture, owner of the PopZoo Promotions music production company and designer is several architectural bureaus in to 80's and early 90's.

Mr Eskelinen is the President of the 300-member-strong European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL). ENoLL promotes international innovation cooperation, user-driven methodologies and service interface harmonization. Jarmo Eskelinen is also a member of the International Telecommunications Union's Focus Group for ICT innovations and the vice-chair of the Connected Smart Cities network.

Mr Jyrki J. Kasvi, Manager at Information Society Development Centre, ex-member of parliament

Jyrki has a a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the Helsinki University of Technology. He has been working as a research scientist until 2003. He was member of Finnish Parliament 2003 – 2011. He represents the Green League. Currently Jyrki is working as Research and Development Director in TIEKE Finnish Information Society Development Centre. He is also chairman of City Council in city of Espoo (second largest city of Finland). Jyrki's bio is also available in Klingon language: qaSvl' ngoch cherwl' ylrql' yly yly qaSvl' 'oH pongwlj'e' 'ej vlnlan yejquvDaq jljeS. pa' Dlvl' SuDqu' vl'oS. pe'vll parmaq vlvoq. qo' vlDub vlneH; motlhwl' vlqaD vlneH; ngoch ngachlu'taHvlS qechmey chu' vlchel vlneH. jlHvaD Daj qechmeyvam: De' nugh, vummeH mlw patlh, DuSaQ'a' ngoch, 'oghmeH toDuj je; nlb Hoch ghotpu' DuHmey 'ej plmwl' cherghlu' 'e' vlqel je.



Prof Ari Jolma, Aalto University

Ari has a Master's degree and a doctoral degree Ph.D. in civil engineering from the Helsinki University of Technology (now Aalto University). He has worked the last nine years at Aalto as a professor in the fields of geoinformatics and environmental planning and management. Ari has spent a decent part of his career visiting and working in foreign institutes like the Cornell University, IIASA, IDSIA, Mekong River Commission and UNESCO. His specialization is environmental information systems with a very practical approach of developing new systems, learning new technologies and implementing science-based methods. Ari publishes most of the software he or his research group develops. He is a Perl hacker with 9 modules in CPAN and a GDAL developer. Ari is currently an associate editor of Environmental Modelling & Software, a journal with biggest impact in the field.

Mr. Kari Mikkonen, Paikkatietokonsultit Oy

Kari is a neutral GIS consultant. He has a master degree in civil engineering from Helsinki University of Technology (now Aalto University). He has worked over 30 years in private sector GIS related companies such as Finnmap, Tekla, Soil and Water, Meridian Systems and Pöyry dealing with software development, support, sales, training and consulting. Currently he runs his own consulting company GIS Consultants Ltd that offers software-independent consulting services such as support in system procurement or writing out requirements specification or GIS strategy.

Mr. Arno Aldijk, Logica Oyj

Arno Aaldijk heads the Geospatial Practice within Logica Finland. This unit consists of 45 people and is responsible for GIS technology, as well as related content and services. Specific focus areas include public safety and public sector solutions. Arno is currently also coordinating GIS cooperation across nine Logica country organisations. Arno holds an M.Sc. (eng) in Industrial Management from Helsinki University of Technology, as well as a B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering from Hogeschool Midden-Brabant in the Netherlands. A native of the Netherlands, Arno has been living and working in Finland now for more than a decade.

Mr Pekka Sarkola, Secretary General of FOSS4G 2013 conference

Pekka has been working with geographic information systems 20 years. He has work experience in National Land Survey of Finland, IT integrator, proprietary GIS software vendor and independent GIS consultant. Currently he is running his own company, Gispo Oy. Gispo helps customers to take advantage of the FOSS4G (Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial) software and open data. Gispo supports the development and utilisation of open source software and open data. Pekka has Master's degree from Aalto University and he is teaching as guest lecturer in department of Surveying Sciences in Aalto University.

We are expecting that board of OSGeo will nominate at least one member to be part our General Committee



Workshops

Workshops subcommittee is responsible to organize workshops for FOSS4G. Subcommittee will be chaired by Mr. Pekka Sarkola. Member of subcommittee are: Jani Kylmäaho (National Land Survey of Finland), Panagiotis Skintzos (Logica Oyj), Otto Laurila (Logica Oyj), Mihkel Oviir (Logica Oyj), Timo Pyhälahti (Finnish Enviromental Agency), Lassi Lehto (Finnish Geodetic Institute), Jukka Rahkonen (Latuviitta.org), Anders Söderman (GISassistANS AB, Sweden)

Program

Workshops subcommittee is responsible to organize program for FOSS4G. Subcomittee will also coordinate cooperation with side meetings (the OGC Nordic Forum, SOTM). Subcommittee will be chaired by Mr. Kari Mikkonen

Member of subcommittee are: Janne Kovanen (Finnish Geodetic Institute), Jaakko Kähkönen (Finnish Geodetic Institute), Wolf Bergenheim (Google), Pekka Helesuo (Logica), Jonne Savolainen (Logica), Arto Jantunen (Logica), Matti Saastamoinen (COSS), Jari Reini (National Land Survey of Finland), Seppo Kaitala (Finnish Enviroment Agency), Jaak Laineste (Nutiteq Itd, Estonia)



Academic track

Chairman of the committee will establish an international scientific committee from academics associated with OSGeo.

Marketing

Marketing subcommittee is responsible for promoting and marketing FOSS4G conference in Finland. Subcommittee will cooperate with OSGeo Foundation and other national association about marketing FOSS4G in various countries. Subcommittee will be chaired by Mr. Arno Aldijk (Logica Oyj) Member of subcommittee are: Antti Rainio (National Land Survey of Finland), Ilkka Lehtinen (COSS), Juha Huuskonen (Forum Virium Helsinki), Pekka Koponen (Forum Virium Helsinki), Lisa Samuelsson (ULI, Sweden)

Production

Production is responsible all practical arrangements of FOSS4G in Helsinki. All members of the subcommittee have several years' experience in organizing conferences, exhibitions and other events. Subcommittee will be chaired by Mr. Jarmo Eskelinen. Members of subcommittee are: Pia Mässeli (Forum Virium Helsinki), Heini Taskinen (City of Helsinki), Sanna Tienari (Finlandia Hall): our point of contact in Conference Venue



Program

Draft plan of the program

Pre-conf	Mon 16.9	Tue 17.9	Wed 18.9	Thu 19.9	Fri 20.9	Post-conf
nce in Tallinn	Workshop 1-6	Workshop 1-6	Plenary	Tracks 1-6 0	C O :	le Spirint
OpenStreetMap Conference in Tallinn	Workshop 1-6	Workshop 1-6	Tracks 1-6 4 2	о Х Ш Тracks 1-6	Closing AGM	Side trips Code Spirint
OpenS	lce breaking	City of Helsinki reseption	Open Sauna	Open Gala		

Workshops

The first two days of the conference will be reserved for workshops / tutorials. The plan is to have half-day workshops / tutorials with lunch in between. There is a possibility to run six parallel sessions, which means in total 24 workshops / tutorials. There will be some flexibility, i.e., it is possible that some workshops or tutorials will be quarter or full day. The workshops and tutorials will take place in the main conference venue, Finlandia Hall. There will be a call for workshops and tutorials in the OSGeo discussion email list and after a deadline a community voting will be organized to select which workshops and tutorials will be invited.



Program

Conference will start on Wednesday with plenary session in Finlandia Hall. Total capacity of Finlandia Hall is 1700 seats. Plenary session will include welcome speech by chairman of Local Organisation Committee, Status of OSGeo by OSGeo President and keynote speaker.

We have preliminarily reserved space for six parallel sessions (including Academic track). Presentations of sessions will be made by OSGeo projects and community members. Call for proposal for presentations will be open for everybody and selection of presentations will be done by community voting. Presentations are planned to be in two areas:

- •Technical presentations from various OSGeo and other open source projects
- •Implementation presentations: using FOSS4G software in real world application

Conference program in Finlandia Hall will include also lightning talks and panel discussions. Topics will be decided by program committee and presentations will be by invitation only. Closing session on Friday afternoon will include short presentation from next FOSS4G organization and summary speech by OSGeo President. Sol Katz award ceremonies is part of closing session. Annual General Meeting of OSGeo will be held after the closing session in Finlandia Hall.

Timing

Conference will be held from 16th to 20th of September 2013. We are hoping that OpenStreetMap State Of The Map will in Tallinn from 13th to 15th of September.

We haven't identified any major conflicts with GIS events globally or other events in Helsinki area.



Academic track

The FOSS4G 2013 in Helsinki will have an academic track for participants who wish to submit their presentation to academic evaluation and review. The academic oral presentations and posters will be organized similar to other presentations in the conference, only the way the submitted abstracts and papers are selected and reviewed differ. The academic track will be mentioned in all communications about the conference.

The main organizer of the academic track will be Professor Ari Jolma from Aalto University, who will organize an international scientific committee from academics associated with OSGeo. The committee will review all submitted abstracts, provide feedback, and accept/not accept them as posters / oral presentations. For oral presentations a full paper will be required. The paper will be reviewed and final acceptance will be based on the review (poster can be used as a fallback). The committee will work towards having the best papers published as a special issue of a journal. The existing experience and contacts will be used.

The papers and posters presented at the conference will be published at a stable website after the conference.

Exhibition

There will be a call for companies, projects, and others to book space in the exhibition area. Exhibition will in Finlandia Hall's Piazza area. In the exhibition area space will be reserved for OSGeo Booth and Chat Area. We have also preliminary plans to organize Doctor's Office in the exhibition area. Volunteers from various OSGeo projects will help users and developer in their challenges to use FOSS4G softwares.



Social events

Monday: Ice Breaking

Workshop participants will join together in OstroBotnia student house just few hundred meters from Finlandia Hall. Participants can continue inspiration and discussion after ice-breaking cocktails in either St. Urho's Pub, Manala restaurant or Storyville Jazz Club.

Tuesday: Reception of the City of Helsinki

The City of Helsinki would be honored to host the Welcome Reception at the prestigious City Hall. The City Hall is located by the harbour and the market square. The City Hall is easily reached by foot from many of the hotels, also several tramlines and busses stop close to the City Hall. The reception is a cocktail event with finger food.

Wednesday: Open Sauna

Open Sauna will give unique opportunity to network with Finnish locals and our international guests in Finnish Sauna. Every house in Finland has a sauna. Participants will be split to smaller groups and the Finnish organizers will host traditional sauna evening for participants.

Thursday: OpenGala

The Cable Factory is the largest cultural centre in Finland and it is located few kilometers from city center. It houses 3 museums, 13 galleries, dance theatres, art schools and a host of artists, bands and companies. It is prefect surroundings for the conference gala, where main idea for program is to enjoy new talents from Sibelius Academy. Evening will be built with good food, fresh drinks and excellent music in bohemian environment.





Side meetings

The OGC Nordic Forum

The OGC Nordic Forum will have their meeting just before or after the FOSS4G in Helsinki. The OGC Nordic Forum aims to provide government, academic, research and industry organizations in the Nordic region (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) with opportunities to learn about and discuss issues related to interoperability of geographic information involving OGC standards. Point of contact is Mr. Jari Reini (National Land Survey of Finland)

Code Sprint

The FOSS4G 2013 in Helsinki will have a code sprint. Aalto University has promised to support the conference and one option is to organize the code sprint on the main campus and take advantage of its excellent facilities. Organization of the code sprint will be mostly left for the projects and to the community.

The European Network of Living Labs meetup

Preliminary discussions about meetup of European Living Labs in touch of FOSS4G in Helsinki has already started. The European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL) is a community of Living Labs with a sustainable strategy for enhancing innovation on a systematic basis. The overall objective is to contribute to the creation of a dynamic European innovation system. ENoLL aims to support co-creative, human-centric and user-driven research, development and innovation in order to better cater for people's needs. ENoLL has nearly 300 living labs listed.

State Of The Map in Tallinn

OpenStreetMap activists in Estonia and in Finland are jointly applying OpenStreetMap's annual State of the Map for 2013 for Tallinn. SOTM 2013 will be just before FOSS4G in Helsinki. Tallinn was selected European Capital of Culture for the year 2011 and is a very popular travelling destination.

There are excellent connections between Helsinki and Tallinn. In addition to planes, rapid ferries also connect the two capitals several times daily, the crossing time is less 2 hours.

Point of contacts are Jaak Laineste (Nutiteq, Estonia) and Pekka Sarkola (Gispo Oy, Finland)



Budget

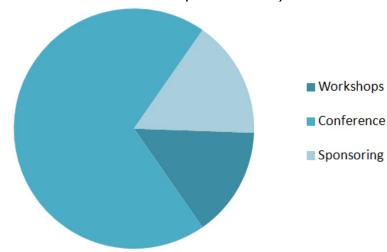
We have prepared detailed budget with estimated participants. Budget document has submitted only to conference committee members.

Estimated conference fees are:

	Early bird registration	Regular registration
Workshops	99 € / workshop	139 € / workshop
Conference	549 €	669 €

All conference fees include local taxes (23%)

Income for FOSS4G 2013 presented by OSGeo:



Expences for FOSS4G 2013 presented by OSGeo:







Venue

To guarantee optimal conditions for FOSS4G 2013 a preliminary reservation at the Finlandia Hall has been made.

Plenary Session will be held in the Finlandia Hall. Workshops and Parallel tracks will be e.g. in rooms Veranda 1-4, Elissa Room and Terassi Room. Exhibition will be in the Piazza foyer.

There are plenty of additional classrooms and meeting rooms that can be used if needed.

Please see the floor plan enclosed.

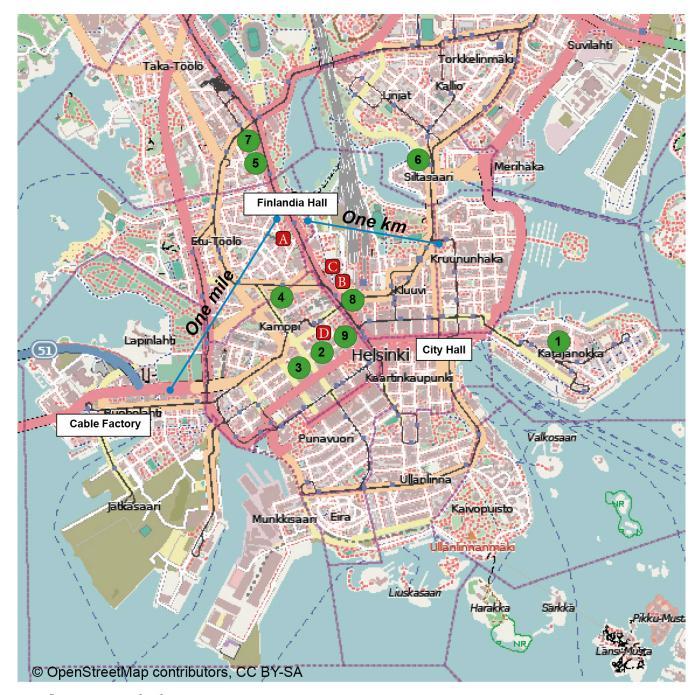
Finlandia Hall

The Finlandia Hall was designed by the famous Finnish architect Alvar Aalto and has hosted many high profile congresses as well as political meetings. Finlandia Hall is beautifully situated in the centre of Helsinki by the Töölö bay surrounded by a park. Some of the major hotels in Helsinki are situated across the street from Finlandia Hall. There are several trams and busses that stop by the Finlandia Hall. The venue is also easyly reached by public transport. There are several busses and trams running from just outside the venue. Helsinki Region Transport has a Journey planner: www.reittiopas.fi/en/





FOSS4G Map in Helsinki



Accommodation

- 1. Eurohostel
- 3. Omena Hotel Eerikinkatu
- 5. Scandic Continental
- 7. Crowne Plaza Helsinki
- 9. Scandic Marski

- 2. Omena Hotel Yrjönkatu
- 4. Sokos Hotel Presidentti
- 6. Cumulus Kaisaniemi
- 8. Sokos Hotel Vaakuna

Official refreshment areas for FOSS4G participants

- A. Restaurant Ostrobotnia
- C. Painobaari

- B. Pivnice Vltava
- D. Corona Bar, Moskva Bar



Accommodation

Helsinki metropolitan area boasts about 12 000 rooms, ranging from first-class hotels to hostels for those on tighter budgets. Most are within 1.5 kilometres of the city centre. Most major international hotel chains, including Best Western, Crowne Plaza, Hilton, Holiday Inn, Luxury Collection, Radisson SAS, Scandic and Sokos, Small Luxury Hotels have a presence in Helsinki.

Please note that there are no official hotel ratings in Finland. The ratings provided are only approximate.

The Swan is the official Nordic eco-label, introduced by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Many hotels have been granted the Swan eco-label.

For the FOSS4G 2013 we suggest the following hotels:

	Number of rooms	Room rate (2012 rate in single room)
Eurohostel	135	27€
2* hotels		
Omena Hotel Yrjönkatu	82	80€
Omena Hotel Eerikinkatu	95	80€
Omena Hotel Lönnrotinkatu	149	80€
3* hotels		
Sokos Hotel Presidentti	200	132€
Scandic Continental		
(Standard room)	50	139€
Cumulus Kaisaniemi	50	163€
4* hotels		
Sokos Hotel Vaakuna	100	142€
Scandic Marski	100	149€
Scandic Continental		
(Superior room)	100	159€
Crowne Plaza Helsinki	200	204€

All suggested hotels are either within walking distance or there are excellent public transportation connections to the Finlandia Hall.



The public transport system in Helsinki got top scores in the international BEST-survey – inhabitants satisfaction for transport system (6/2011).

Visa regulations

Finland is part of the Schengen area where the free movement of persons is guaranteed. EU citizens do not require a visa when travelling to Finland.

For more information, please see: www.formin.fi

e-mail: visas.passports@formin.fi

City hospitality

The municipal authorities have a very positive attitude towards international conferences.

For the FOSS4G 2013 the City of Helsinki will be happy to offer the following:

Helsinki City Reception

The City of Helsinki will be pleased to organize a reception for delegates. For the reception to take place at the prestigious City Hall. (by application)

Tickets for travel within the City of Helsinki

It is possible to apply for free public transport for FOSS4G Congress delegates. Helsinki Region Transport has a Journey planner: www.reittiopas.fi/en/





Convention Bureau Services

Site visit

In order to demonstrate the strength of our bid, the Convention Bureau is pleased to organise a full and thorough site visit in line with the OSGeo requirements.

Info-desk at congress venue

During the congress a Helsinki info-stand will be provided at the venue free of charge.

Preliminary bookings

The Helsinki City Convention Bureau will reserve the required number of hotel rooms.

The Convention Bureau will keep you up to date with information on Helsinki and find you suitable venues and partners for all congress-related events.



Flight connections

Around 40 airlines serve Helsinki, and Helsinki airport boasts more than 180 international landings each day. Only 25 minutes away from the city centre, it has been rated among the best by its users for many years.

Helsinki Airport is located 17 km from the centre of the city and from the FOSS4G conference venue. There is a regular airport bus running every 20 minutes between the airport and the city centre, and several local buses are also available.

EXAMPLES OF OVERSEAS SCHEDULED DESTINATIONS

City	Frequency per week	Flight time
BANGKOK	7	9hrs 45min
BEIJING	7	7hrs 40min
DELHI	7	6hrs 40min
HONG KONG	7	9hrs 50min
NAGOYA	4	9hrs 35min
NEW YORK	10	8hrs 40min
OSAKA	7	9hrs 40min
SEOUL	5	8hrs 30min
SHANGHAI	7	8hrs 55min
TOKYO	5	9hrs 25min



EXAMPLES OF EUROPEAN SCHEDULED DESTINATIONS

City	Frequency per week	Flight time
AMSTERDAM	42	2hrs 35min
ATHENS	4	3hrs 45min
BARCELONA	11	3hrs 45min
BERLIN	19	2hrs
BRUSSELS	37	2hrs 40min
BUDAPEST	19	2hrs 25min
BUKAREST	8	2hrs 30min
COPENHAGEN	75	1 hrs 35min
DUBLIN	2	3hrs 10min
DUSSELDORF	26	2hrs 25min
FRANKFURT	42	2 hrs 40min
GENEVA	13	3hrs
GOTHENBURG	30	1hrs 25min
HAMBURG	19	1hrs 55min
KIEV	6	1hrs 45min
LISBON	7	4hrs 40min
LJUBLJANA	4	2hrs 35min
LONDON	49	3hrs 10min
MADRID	7	4hrs 20min
MANCHESTER	13	3hrs
MILAN	17	3hrs 15min
MOSCOW	16	1hrs 50min
MUNICH	39	2hrs 35min
OSLO	47	1hrs 30min
PARIS	42	3hrs 5min
PRAGUE	14	2hrs 20min
RIGA	52	55min
ROME	16	3hrs 35min
ST PETERSBURG	· •	55min
STOCKHOLM	111	55 min
STUTTGART	11	2hrs 45min
TALLINN	39	35min
VIENNA	27	2hrs 30min
VILNIUS	13	1hrs 15min
WARSAW	23	1hrs 45min
ZURICH	20	2hrs 55min



Bus, ferry and train connections

Helsinki is easy to reach from Russia by train. There are daily connections from St. Petersburg and Moscow. The trip by train between Helsinki to St. Petersburg is now only three hours.

Frequent bus services in the Baltic countries connect Latvia and Lithuania with the Estonian capital, Tallinn. From Tallinn the fastest ferry to Helsinki takes less than two hours and there is a large selection of crossings every hour.

There are also daily ferries from Stockholm to Helsinki and Turku. Daily evening departures take you overnight to your destination through the beautiful archipelago. You can also reach Finland by ferry from both Germany and Poland.

Ground transport

Ground transport for the congress delegates can be based on the public transport network. There are frequent busses between the airport and the city centre.

The Finlandia Hall is easyly reached from all hotels by foot or by local bus or tram in 5-30 minutes. The main railway station is only 5 minutes walk from the Finlandia Hall.

FOSS4G may apply for free public transport for the delegates of the congress.

Bus transport can also be arranged for the participants, for example to social functions. Taxis are easily available both at the airport and in the city. Limousine services can also be arranged if needed.



Helsinki ranked 2nd in personal safety.

The Mercer-survey identifies those cities with the highest personal safety ranking based on e.g. international stability and crime levels (11/2011).

Helsinki – a conference city

Helsinki hosts an average of 100 international conventions each year attended by more than 20 000 delegates and 1600 international meetings with nearly 100 000 delegates. In addition, there are innumerable national conferences, events and theme days.

Some examples of recent congresses in Helsinki:

2011	ITA-AITES World Tunnel Congress and 37th General Assembly 1100 delegates
2011	15th International Congress of the European Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (ESCAP) 1500 delegates
2011	23rd Congress of Pathology 1500 delegates
2010	Joint FELASA/Scand-LAS Symposium 1000 delegates
2010	Euroanaesthesia 6000 delegates M E \$ \$ U K E \$ K II &
2010	8th International Aerosol Congress 1000 delegates
2010	European Conference of Educational Research 1000 delegates
2009	The 89th Annual Meeting of the European Orthodontic Society 1500 delegates
2009	EWMA, European Wound Management Association 2000 delegates
2009	European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 6700 delegates

"Organising the 23rd European Congress of Pathology in Helsinki was a very good experience. The cooperation with the project team was entirely focused on us and made the on-site management extremely easy."

Juliane Heinicke, Project Manager /CPO Hanser Service

Examples of upcoming congresses in Helsinki:

2012	World Library and Information Congress
	3000 delegates

- 2012 Design!? 28th EGOS Colloquium 1500 delegatesz
- 2012 40th Nordic Congress of Ophthalmology 800 delegates
- 2013 International Surgical Week 2000 delegates
- 2014 Congress of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology 6000 delegates
- 2014 World Congress of the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists

 1200 delegates
- 2014 8th Annual Meeting of the Association for European Paediatric Cardiology (AEPC 2014) 800 delegates



Contacts:

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Gispo

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e-mail: pekka.sarkola@gispo.fi

Ms Heini Taskinen, Marketing manager Helsinki City Tourist & Convention Bureau

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Appendix:

- Letters of Supports
- Finlandia Hall, conference venue floor plan



Helsinki

Helsinki, the capital of the Republic of Finland, is a modern city with over half a million residents and is situated on the Baltic Sea. Helsinki was founded in 1550 and was made the new capital in 1812.

Helsinki together with the neighbouring cities of Espoo, Kauniainen and Vantaa forms the Helsinki metropolitan area with more than a million inhabitants.

Weather in Helsinki

Helsinki's climate is typical of its northerly situation. Its intermediate climate combines characteristics of both a maritime and a continental climate. The proximity of the Arctic Ocean and the North Atlantic creates cold weather, while the Gulf Stream brings in warmer air. The summer in Helsinki is bright. The days are at their longest in the second half of June, when the sun stays above the horizon for 19 hours.





Capital where Eastern and Western cultures meet

Over 450 years of history, several architectural layers and the impact of different periods can clearly be seen in Helsinki. Helsinki's identity has been formed by cultural influences from both the East and West.

The beauty of the surrounding nature blends seamlessly together with high-tech achievements, while old traditions mix with the latest contemporary trends. The city centre has many beautiful parks, and the nearby forests offer an ideal setting for peaceful and quiet walks. The archipela-go that surrounds Helsinki with hundreds of tiny islands creates an idyllic environment for cruises.

Finnish design has also made the country's capital city world famous. The International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID) designated Helsinki as the World Design Capital for the year 2012.

Everything is nearby – Helsinki is a pocket-sized metropolis that is ideal for visitors.





Social Programme

Restaurants

Helsinki has over a thousand restaurants serving foods for all tastes. Cultural influences from both the East and the West add their own flavours to the mix. Whether you are looking for Finnish cuisine, seafood, cross kitchen or just a burger, Helsinki has it. Helsinki's nightlife is active, laid-back and unpresuming at the same time. Restaurants, bars and nightclubs are packed with fun-loving people, especially on weekends but also on weekdays.





Day excursions

You can make a day excursion to see the countryside and to enjoy the peace and quiet of Finnish nature. There are many attractive destinations within a few hours' drive from the capital; small, picturesque towns and villages, museums and workshops, for example the small town of Porvoo, with its section of old wooden houses and its medieval Cathedral, or Fiskars, an idyllic ironworks village with its shops and exhibitions.

Programmes for accompanying persons

Special excursions can be arranged for the accompanying persons. A cultural and architectural tour to Hvitträsk and Ainola in the countryside combines two wooden Art Nouveau villas. Hvitträsk was originally the studio home of the architects Saarinen, Lindgren and Gesellius. Ainola was the home of the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.



Finland

From 1323 to 1809 Finland was ruled under the Swedish crown. Russia conquered Finland in the 1808–1809 war with Sweden. Finland thus became an autonomous Grand Duchy of Russia until 1917 when it gained independence.

The Olympic Games were held in Helsinki in 1952, and in 1955 Finland joined both the United Nations and the Nordic Council.

Finland is a member of the European Union since 1995 and in 2002 the Euro was introduced as currency. Finland is thus the only Euro country in Northern Europe. Today Finland is known as one of the most competitive economies in the world and is also listed among the least corrupt countries.

The people are known to be friendly, flexible and innovative. Most Finns also master several foreign languages.

Pre- and Post- Congress tours

Once in Finland, many delegates may wish to explore the country, or the neighbouring countries, more extensively. There are excellent opportunities for pre-congress and post-congress tours. Visits to Finnish Lapland, the Finnish Lake District and to the neighbouring cities of St. Petersburg, Tallinn and Stockholm are very popular.

St Petersburg

Built on more than 100 islands and linked by 600 bridges, St Petersburg is often called "the Venice of the North". The many big palaces and imposing architectural ensembles bear testimony to the magnificent royal past of the city. The former Winter Palace with the Hermitage Art Museum and the Petrodrovets (Peterhof) Summer Palace are among the most impressive. In addition to the fast train between Helsinki and St Petersburg there are also visa free cruises.









Tallinn

Tallinn is one of the best retained medieval European towns with compact maze of cobble stone streets, historical buildings and breathtaking vistas. Since 1997 the Old Town has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Tallinn is only 60 km from Helsinki and is quick and easy to reach by one of the several boats that are operating daily. Tallinn is also popular for a day tour, taking the ferry in the morning and returning in the afternoon/evening.





Stockholm

A cruise on board of one of the luxury liners operating between Helsinki and Stockholm is an excellent way to combine a visit to the Swedish capital with a pleasant sea voyage at reasonable cost. The archipelago between Finland and Sweden is one of the most beautiful in the world. The ships depart from Helsinki every afternoon, arriving in Stockholm the following morning. Spending the day in Stockholm, you can take the boat back in the evening.

Useful links:

www.meethelsinki.fi www.visithelsinki.fi www.visitfinland.fi www.finnfacts.fi www.formin.fi

Helsinki – Perfect Place for Networking





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May 14, 2012

To the OSGeo Conference Committee

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Subject: Finnish tender for FOSS4G in 2013

I am pleased to confirm that Aalto University supports the Finnish tender to host FOSS4G conference in Helsinki for 2013.

Established in 2010, Aalto University is a new university with centuries of experience. Aalto University was created from the merger of three Finnish universities: The Helsinki School of Economics, Helsinki University of Technology and The University of Art and Design Helsinki. The six schools of Aalto University are all leading and renowned institutions in their respective fields and in their own right.

Aalto University fosters a student-centered culture that encourages people to passionately learn new things. Aalto University provides high-quality research and education and creates an internationally attractive environment for learning and research.

Free and open source software is used extensively in research and education in Aalto University. Openness, access to research results and replication of research are important to Aalto University and we acknowledge the merits of free and open source software in that.

Aalto University is proud of its long history in geospatial (geomatics, geoinformatics, geographic information systems) research. Geospatial has been studied and taught in Aalto University and in its predecessor Helsinki University of Technology since the early 1900s and it was one of the first disciplines to start using computers in the university.

Aalto University wishes to be a supporting partner of FOSS4G in Helsinki 2013. The final commitment will be decided during the contract phase.

Yours sincerely,

Hannu Seristö Vice President



CITY OF HELSINKI

Jussi Pajunen Mayor

9 May 2012

FOSS4G - Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial Selection Committee

Dear FOSS4G Selection Committee,

The City of Helsinki is honoured and pleased to express its interest to act as host city for the FOSS4G - Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial conference in September 2013.

Functional, modern and safe, Helsinki is a globally recognized conference city and a reliable co-operation partner. An average of 100 international conventions with more than 20,000 delegates are arranged in our city each year. Among our most important advantages, I wish to highlight the first-rate accessibility thanks to a wide-ranging intercontinental flight network.

I am pleased to note that the conference focus is very much in line with the priorities of Helsinki. Our aim is to become a global role model in making public data available for citizens, NGO's, researchers and companies. We consider open data as an opportunity to rediscover local democracy, to strengthen civic activity and to create new services and businesses.

The main bidding organization, Forum Virium Helsinki, is a development company of digital services and part of the City of Helsinki group. It is one of the leading open data advocates in Finland and deeply involved in location-based service development.

Besides excellent conference facilities and services, Helsinki offers great opportunities for social and cultural programme. The urban landscape combined with a unique archipelago provides endless possibilities for off-conference activities.

It would be a great honor for us to welcome the FOSS4G conference. We will do our utmost to ensure a successful event and an enjoyable stay for the delegates.

Yours sincerely,

Jussi Pajunen Mayor of Helsinki



Letter of support

Subject: Finnish tender for FOSS4G in 2013

I am pleased to confirm that COSS supports the Finnish tender to host FOSS4G conference in Helsinki for 2013.

COSS (the Finnish Centre for Open Systems and Solutions) is a national development agency for open source business ecosystem in Finland. COSS promotes the development and adoption of managed and sustainable open source solutions in various industries. The customers and members of COSS include more than 100 open source vendors, solution providers, developers and public and private organizations deploying and using open source solutions and innovation models.

COSS was founded in 2003 and from beginning of 2012 we started to act as an independent non-profit association. COSS is one of the oldest open source centres in Europe. For more information, please visit www.coss.fi.

COSS is an experienced conference organizer. During our nine year history we have organized many conferences, the biggest being Akademy 2010, an international open source developer conference, in Tampere. We are also helping our Estonian partners to organize Akademy 2012 in Tallinn. In 2011 we were organizing MeeGo Summit FI, a 300 people conference, in Tampere.

In 2012 COSS will be part of the local team for OKFestival and responsible for open source content for this international coference in Helsinki. We usually organize 5-10 different size and type of events yearly. One of the community services of COSS is the annual Openmind conference which is a national beacon of open source related events.

COSS wishes to be a supporting partner of FOSS4G in Helsinki 2013. The final commitment will be decided during the contract phase.

Tampere, May 23, 2012

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Yours sincerely,

Ilkka Lehtinen

CEO COSS



May 24, 2012

To OSGeo Conference Committee

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Subject: Finnish tender for FOSS4G in 2013

I am pleased to confirm that the Finnish Geodetic Institute supports the Finnish tender to host FOSS4G conference in Helsinki for 2013.

The Finnish Geodetic Institute (FGI) is a non-profit governmental research institute in spatial data infrastructures and related areas. FGI was established in 1918. It has four research departments: Geodesy and Geodynamics, Geoinformatics and Cartography, Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry, and Navigation and Positioning. The FGI has personnel of 80 people.

FGI uses free and open source software continuously for geoinformatics research and development projects, nationally and internationally and especially in joint projects funded by the European Union. We recognize their value in openness and as the early adopters of emerging technological solutions and specifications.

FGI wishes to be a supporting partner for FOSS4G in Helsinki 2013. The final commitment will be decided during the contract phase.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Jarkko Koskinen

Director General



Finnish Environment Institute SYKE P.O. Box 140
FI-00261 Helsinki
Finland

SYKE FOSS4G Letter of support 25.5.2012

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OSGeo Conference Committee

Subject: Finnish tender for FOSS4G in 2013; Letter of support SYKE

I am pleased to confirm that Finnish Environment Institute SYKE will support the Finnish tender to host FOSS4G conference in Helsinki for 2013.

The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) is both a research institute, and a centre for environmental expertise. SYKE's research focuses on changes in the environment, and seeks ways to control these changes. Our expertise is based on long-term environmental monitoring, wide-ranging research results, and the Institute's highly-qualified staff. SYKE's research programs assess environmental problems from a multi-disciplinary perspective, by integrating socio-economic considerations into scientific research. Research may focus on global environmental issues such as climate change and declining biodiversity, or on regional or local issues.

SYKE's expert services can provide vital expert assistance on a wide-range of environmental issues for administrators, local authorities, industries, firms and other organizations. We can produce detailed environmental assessments drawing on expertise from many fields. SYKE also closely monitors environmental trends and the state of the environment in Finland in co-operation with regional environmental administration.

SYKE serves as the national centre for environmental data in Finland. The data stored in our information systems is widely used for environmental monitoring, environmental modeling, forecasting and impact analysis. SYKE co-operates closely with other research institutes, universities, environmental experts and businesses, both in Finland and internationally.

SYKE is using several different Geospatial Open Source solutions in its daily processes, as integrated to be operated with different closed source systems. We are willing to share our experience as a system developer and end-user of using GIS software. Our open source utilities include GPL licensed software, for example BEAM for satellite data processing, Python for processing control, R and Octave for statistical analysis, GIT for software development assistance and ESRI Geoportal for open interfaces. They are used in co-operation with other types of closed source solutions, such as ESRI ArcGIS, Erdas IMAGINE, Microsoft Team Foundation Server and Matlab, and closed-source software for certain satellite data processing tasks.

We like to be supporting partner for FOSS4G in Helsinki: Support will be provided as expert and assistance work and associate services. The final commitment of partnership will occur at a later time during the final contract phase.

Yours sincerely,

Lea Kauppi Director General

Finnish Environment Institute

Logica Geospatial Practice



LETTER OF SUPPORT

To: OSGeo Conference Committee

Subject: Finnish tender for FOSS4G in 2013

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am pleased to confirm that Logica Suomi Oy will support the Finnish tender to host FOSS4G conference in Helsinki for 2013.

Logica is a business and technology service company, employing 41,000 people across 41 countries. Approximately 3,200 of us work in Finland. We deliver business consulting, systems integration and outsourcing across all industries and business functions. The revenue of Logica Finland was 428 million euro in 2011.

We create value by successfully integrating people, business and technology to create effective, sustainable business ecosystems. Our people apply insight to create innovative answers to your business needs.

Logica employs around 250 GIS experts worldwide, of which around 45 in Finland. We deliver GIS projects, content and services for the public and private sector. Open Source GIS is for us a growing and important area, and several of our GIS team members in Finland have contributed to Open Source Software projects. These include Geoserver, Memcachedb, Mapserver, uDig, libproj, Debian and others.

For reasons listed above we like to be supporting partner for FOSS4G in Helsinki. The Final commit-ment of partnership will occur at a later time during the final contract phase.

Yours sincerely,

Arno Aaldijk

Director, Business Consulting

30.5.2012

FOSS4G selection committee

LETTER OF SUPPORT

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is pleased to announce its support to the Finnish tender to host FOSS4G conference in Helsinki for 2013.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is in charge of the national policies related to the national spatial data infrastructure, land surveying, cadastral system, national mapping and the promotion of applied research in these fields. The Ministry is also the national contact point in the implementation of the INSPIRE directive.

Open Source and other Geographic Information Solutions are key tools to implement widely accessible and open spatial data infrastructures. Open APIs and Open Standards are the key areas to promote innovation and expansive use of spatial information. In this way the FOSS4G in Finland would significantly support the implementation of National Geographic Information Strategy.

The City of Helsinki with its forward-looking information management policy and the many active national agencies would provide an excellent environment for the Conference in Helsinki.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is also ready to promote the conference participation within the Finnish INSPIRE Community and the National Council of Geographic Information.

Yours sincerely,

Jaana Husu-Kallio

Permanent Secretary

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Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry



TYÖ- JA GLINKEINOMINISTERIÖ ARBETS- OCH NÄRINGSMINISTERIET MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMY

23 May 2012

FOSS4G selection committee

LETTER OF SUPPORT

The Ministry of Employment and the Economy of Finland is pleased to confirm its support to the Finnish tender to host FOSS4G conference in Helsinki in 2013.

In its innovation policy programme, the Ministry actively promotes the use of public sector data by creative individuals, development communities and enterprises for innovative products, applications and services. Geodata is one of the most important resources for such activity, and the Ministry would see as a welcome development, if the FOSS4G conference were held in 2013 in Helsinki.

The City of Helsinki has excellent conference facilities, and the advanced Finnish ecosystem for development of geodata based services would provide an inspiring environment for the Conference.

As a practical measure, the Ministry is prepared to recommend participation in FOSS4G by individuals, public agencies and private companies.

Yours sincerely,

Faula Lla Nybergl
Paula Nybergh

Acting Director General

Enterprise and Innovation Department Ministry of Employment and the Economy



FOSS4G - Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial Selection Committee

Dear FOSS4G Selection Committee

The National Land Survey of Finland is pleased to welcome the FOSS4G Conference to Helsinki in September 2013.

The National Land Survey of Finland (NLS-F) has two main roles in the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). On one hand NLS-F provides the reference data for the users and on the other hand NLS-F acts as a clearing house offering support services like the national geoportal and metadata services.

To promote and boost the benefits of spatial data the NLS-F opened all topographic data on the 1st of May 2012. More information is available on our web-pages, www.maanmittauslaitos.fi/en/opendata.

Today NLS-F takes benefit of open source code including several OSGeo software libraries - and puts a lot of effort in developing open source code further.

The National Metadata Catalog, www.paikkatietohakemisto.fi, is built up with the Geo-Network software. Together with the Nordic Mapping Agencies the NLS-F has launched cooperation to finance the development of the GeoNetwork and thus to fulfil the requirements of INSPIRE. Based on the good experiences, the cooperation focuses on the other open source development as well.

The National Geoportal, www.geoportal.fi, is based on the Liferay portal with map user interface, which applies especially to the OpenLayers. The browsing of raster maps is supported with Web Map Tiling Service based on the GeoWebCache. The database of the portal is the PostgreSQL with PostGIS. The GeoServer allows users to save and browse their own spatial data in the portal. The portal is running in Linux open source environment.

However, the NLS-F has decided to publish all the results of the portal development as open source code. All code and documentation is available at the site www.oskari.org. NLS-F encourages other bodies both in the public and the private sector to join the work.



Thus it is extremely important to NLS-F to see the FOSS4G in Helsinki. Obviously the conference will raise the awareness about the OSGeo products in Finland and activate the experts to join the global work. I would emphasize that expertise in programming is on a very high level in Finland, and this conference would certainly encourage many specialists to join OSGeo projects to further develop OSGeo products. The international contacts and the raising knowledge of the benefits of open source code will help the NLS-F to meet the future challenges.

The National Land Survey of Finland is committed to be a dedicated partner for FOSS4G in Helsinki. The final commitment will take place later during the final contract phase.

Yours sincerely

Jarmo Ratia Director General



Letter of Support Helsinki, May 29th, 2012

To OSGeo Conference Committee

Dear OSGeo Conference Committee,

We are pleased to confirm that ProGIS will support the Finnish tender to host FOSS4G conference in Helsinki for 2013.

ProGIS is a national association for geographical information, non-profit and independent supporter of GIS. ProGIS promotes GIS for the benefit of the Finnish society and wishes to operate as a link between producers and users of GI. We have about 300 members out of which like 40 are governmental and private organizations (each having multiple individuals). This network of people consists of the key actors on the field of GIS in Finland.

The public sector in Finland is expected to consider open software as comparable with commercial software (Public Administration Recommendations 169, 2009). As a result of that developers and vendors of GI services and software are using more and more open software in Finland. Geographic data is also opening increasingly all the time in Finland. The best example is opening the national base map archives for free use in May 2012 by The National Land Survey.

ProGIS has ignited the discussion in the community by organizing open seminars for all the actors on the field. Our seminars dealing with the open software and open data have been very popular recent years. This makes it very exciting to have FOSS4G to Helsinki, Finland.

We are willing to recommend our members to participate and support FOSS4G in Helsinki.

Yours sincerely,

Outi Hermans

Chairwoman of the Board,

Out Heeman

ProGIS



To OSGeo Conference Committee

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Subject: Finnish tender for FOSS4G in 2013

I am pleased to confirm that ULI Geoforum will support the Finnish tender to host FOSS4G conference in Helsinki for 2013.

ULI Geoforum is an independent, national association for geographic information and GIS in Sweden, representing some 200 government agencies, municipalities, private companies, universities and other educational institutions as well as other organisations at all levels. The organization was formed in 1986 and recently changed its name to ULI Geoforum.

ULI Geoforum has organized Open Source for GIS seminars during the last three years and participants have numbered in total about 300 from Sweden and Scandinavia. We would very much welcome if the world's largest Open Source for GIS conference took place in Finland. It would be an excellent opportunity for Scandinavian Open Source enthusiasts to meet and network with local, regional, national as well as international communities.

ULI Geoforum is willing to share our experiences on Open Source with the Finnish organizers of FOSS4G. We would strongly encourage our members to support and participate in the FOSS4G event in Helsinki in 2013. We also welcome all FOSS4G participants to visit also Stockholm during their visits in connection with the FOSS4G in 2013.

ULI Geoforum therefore strongly supports the Finnish tender to host FOSS4G conference in Helsinki for 2013.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph Monö

Director ULI Geoforum

Vasagatan 36, Floor 4 S-111 20 Stockholm

Sweden

