

# FOSS4G 2019 Letter of Intent for Sevilla, Spain

The **OSGeo Spanish Chapter** is enthusiastic about organizing **FOSS4G Sevilla 2019**, sharing the city with other OSGeo community members and integrating the conference on the occasion of the **500 anniversary** of departure of the **Magellan-Elcano Expedition** in 1519 from the harbor of Sevilla. The first mappers circumnavigating the globe!

## 1. Who is your conference chair?

**Chair: María Arias de Reyna.** Member of the OSGeo-ES board and GeoInquietos, She has been involved in the organization of tech events for more than a decade. She has chaired conferences up to 1000 attendees.

**Co-Chair: Cristina Domínguez.** She is part of GeoInquietos and has participated and organized many local and regional geo events like mapping parties, workshops or the GeoCampEs.

## 2. Who else is on your local organizing committee (LOC)?

The up-to-date list of the Sevilla Local Organizing Committee (SLOC) is (in alphabetical order):

Eduardo Amador	María Arias de Reyna
Alberto Asuero	Cayetano Benavent
Jorge Chacón	Carmen Díez
Cristina Domínguez	Pedro Juan Ferrer
Héctor García	Micho García
Jorge Mendes de Jesus	Elvira Nieto
Jorge Gustavo Rocha	David Rodríguez Vicente
Jorge Sanz	María Victoria Segura
Jessica Sena	Mayte Toscano

Half of the Spanish Chapter board and members of the Portuguese Chapter board are involved in the SLOC.

SLOC already has the support of companies, public administrations, universities and public and private associations such as AESIG (Spanish Association of Geographic Information Systems), CNIG (National Geographic Information Center), IGN (National Geographic Institute), Junta de Andalucía (Andalusia Regional Government), Universities of Huelva and Jaén, Carto, Geographica, Emergya, Prodevelop, gvSIG Association, Vizzuality, Andalusia Geographers College, etc...The Mayor of Sevilla and other institutions have by now expressed support.

## 3. What is the experience of your committee members with similar events?

Several members of SLOC were involved in the FOSS4G Barcelona 2010 organization committee, and their experience and feedback are essential for the success of **FOSS4G Sevilla 2019**. Recently some of us have organized the Drupal Developer Days in Sevilla in the same proposed venue location. All of us are very active members of local tech communities who frequently organize workshops and talks. LOC has been also involved in the organization of the yearly GeoCampEs unconference, a yearly event that lasts one day and has around 100 attendees.

We also plan to engage a professional conference organizer (Triana Congressos) that has experience organizing several editions of the Open Source World Conference since 2004, with more than 8000 participants in 2008. Furthermore, they have been involved in the organization of high-level EU conferences like the E-health 2006 Ministerial Conference or many innovative events. Amongst several options we have chosen them because they are very knowledgeable of the local venues and trustable local providers.

## 4. What is your proposed venue?

The **FOSS4G Sevilla 2019** Conference will be hosted in "Isla Mágica", a theme park next to the Guadalquivir River, built on the occasion of the world Expo'92. This venue is a space dedicated to the explorers and intrepid navigators who discovered what they called the "New World" and began to draw the map of the world as we know it today.

It is a unique, alternative and different place where Congresses and Conferences are commonly organized. It has spacious facilities and green areas, including a large Conference room named "El Fuerte" able to hold up to 1500 people and nine smaller rooms to hold side events and parallel sessions, with capacities ranging from 200 to 80 people. All workspaces will have high speed high bandwidth Internet. The site has catering facilities for a large number of people as well as nursery and children facilities which we intend to use.

Some of the recent events hosted in the venue include: XBOX presentation or EVERIS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Other big companies also use the same venue like CARREFOUR, TELEFÓNICA, ONCE, JAGUAR, etc...

The workshops will be held in the Computer Engineering School of the University of Sevilla.

#### **5. What are your provisional dates for the conference?**

The proposed dates are September 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>th</sup>. We plan to devote Monday and Tuesday for **workshops**. The **Conference** will be run from Wednesday to Friday. The **codesprint** is on Saturday as the closing event of **FOSS4G 2019**.

#### **6. Early thoughts on prices of conference attendance?**

We are expecting a number of 1200 attendees as a realistic estimation, but the venue will be ready to host more than that. Of those, we estimate that 80% should pay the registration fee. The registration fee includes the Gala Dinner; lunch during the conference days and all coffee breaks, in practical terms an all-inclusive fee.

Regular registration fee: 630€. We expect 45% of the paying attendees to be paying this fee. (All figures include taxes)

Early bird registration fee: 550€. We expect the other 55% of the paying attendees to be paying this fee.

Regular workshops fee: 150€. We expect that only 20% of the attendees will go for this option.

Early birds workshops: 120€. We expect 80% of the people attending workshops to be paying this fee.

#### **7. What is the price range and general location of your proposed accommodations and how is the price-level in your area in general?**

Hotels within 50 meters of the event venue have prices around 157€ (190US\$) or at 18 minutes in public transport between 139€ to 90 € (167-110US\$). Regarding accommodations for students and young people prices can range from 50€ to 18 € (60-22US\$) per person. Anyway Sevilla is not an expensive city with a wide range of options for food and lodging. You may have a full meal menu from 12€ (15US\$), a beer from 1€-1.5€ (2US\$), tapas from 1.5€-3€ (2US\$ to 4US\$) or even a paella for 12€ (14US\$).

#### **8. Are you partnering with other local organizations?**

The Regional Government of Andalucia (a region of 8.5 million inhabitants) supports the use of OSS in all schools with a devoted GNU/Linux distribution called "Guadalinux" since 2004. All the "Guadalinfo" public telecenters designed to overcome the digital divide in the region are also built on OSS. Moreover they have been partnering with local and global companies for ad-hoc developments including some in the field of OSGIS. Open source software is on the political agenda in many regions of Spain as it is used in public administrations.

We have already contacted several companies, institutions and media for a possible sponsorship with a very positive response. There is a healthy and growing business network focused on geospatial technologies, and is their interest to expand OSGeo and use **FOSS4G Sevilla 2019** for networking and business contacts through our B2B sessions planned.

We count also with the support of the OSGeo Portuguese Chapter willing to join forces for a successful conference.

In order to further engage our local and regional communities, we readily start outreach activities to attract delegates from our countries, European Region and Latin America. Final objective for **FOSS4G Sevilla 2019** is to be as global as possible. All the LOC members are very active at social networks, which we can use intensely to spread the word.

#### **9. What makes FOSS4G in your proposed location and with your team compelling?**

An excellent co-created programme based on three axis outlines a fruitful conference for all participants:

- enhancement of the user experience
- supporting diversity and accessibility
- promoting building-up sustainable businesses

In addition, the workshops will be planned to deal with practical subjects with a focus on innovation as well as hot breakthroughs, with a hands-on based methodology. Icebreaking and networking will be easy-going activities in the appropriate "alternative" scenarios.

Our desire is to be very respectful with sustainability, aiming at an almost paperless conference, using the power of smartphones (or other devices) to communicate and transmit information or check-in for most of the attendees. We will demand our providers to keep aligned with our aim, whether in catering or merchandising.

In Sevilla, unlike other cities, September marks the beginning of a singular autumn, flooded by natural light and color. It's like a second spring. Temperature is pleasant, neither cold nor hot. Sevilla in autumn reopens the doors of its natural cityscape. It is one of the most visited monumental cities in the world - many different cultures have passed through along the centuries. As a result of this legacy, Sevilla was classified as an UNESCO World Heritage city, and now preserves a great cultural, monumental and artistic heritage that can be admired in its streets, squares, historic buildings, museums. Some major infrastructures were revamped on the occasion of the 1992 Universal Exposition: the expansion of its international airport as well as Spain's first high speed train network. A globally-recognized gastronomy (with the help of locally-sourced quality ingredients) and our typical and exclusive cuisine makes the city of Sevilla a world-class destination.

Last, but not least, we will offer all the tribes of the OSGeo community a thematic **Gala Dinner** the day that marks the 500 anniversary of Magellan-Elcano Expedition departure from Sevilla towards the East Indies. As they enjoyed traveling to the unknown you will experience the "Armada Molucca" and...who knows if pirates may appear...You'll never forget it!