



**FOSS4G**  
**BUCHAREST**  **2019**

44.43555, 26.102347

<b>Reasons for hosting the conference, and goals for FOSS4G.</b>	<b>4</b>
Our reasons	4
Our goals	4
How will the conference succeed financially and make profit?	5
How will the conference succeed socially?	6
Socializing	6
Welcome party	6
Gala dinner	7
Pub race	8
How will the conference provide open source education?	8
How will your conference promote open source geospatial software?	9
How will the conference promote inclusivity?	9
<b>The hosting location</b>	<b>10</b>
What city will the conference be in, what is interesting about it?	10
Bucharest	10
Culture	11
Tourism	11
Night life	11
Accessibility	12
Safety	13
What venue will the conference be in, what are the number of rooms available, seating, and associated pricing?	13
National Theatre Bucharest	15
InterContinental Hotel	16
University of Bucharest	16
Available workshop facilities, number of rooms and if available, how many computers per room, pricing, strategy for providing workshop facilities.	16
Available rooms for additional small business meetings.	17
What is the maximum size your venue could entertain? The minimum?	17
What accommodations are available? Where are they relative to the venue? Pricing? Quantity?	18
Supporting organizations	18
Local organizing committee	20
Local open source development and implementation activity, interest and enthusiasm for open source geospatial in your region	26
How do you plan to manage/organize work and relations with OSGeo (especially with the board and conference committees)?	27
<b>The budget</b>	<b>27</b>
What is your budget? Expenses for venue, food, marketing, audio-visual, network access, video streaming and/or recording etc	27
What is your expected attendance? Why? Where do you think delegates will come from?	28

What is your expected sponsorship? Why? Do you have local potential sponsors already identified? At what levels?	30
Delegate fees for the conference, workshop and any social activities. You should include detail of any grants or subsidized rates that you will offer which will be funded from within your budget.	31
Estimate of any seed funding and/or guarantee required	32
The level of surplus forecast at different levels of attendance and the proportion that will be donated to OSGeo	32
<b>The program</b>	<b>32</b>
Provide a high-level view of the program, indicating number of tracks, size of tracks, workshops, size of workshops, and other features of your program. Indicate the number of presentations, posters, and workshops you expect to accept.	32
Plenary sessions	33
General track	33
Academic track	34
Poster sessions	34
Workshops	34
Code sprint	34
Open Source EO Data Challenge	35
What social events will be part of the schedule?	36
What dates do you expect to run the conference? Are they adjustable?	36
Provide a list of local/regional/international conferences around the selected date that are viewed as competition or collaboration.	36
<b>Other</b>	<b>36</b>
Explain your ideas on how to prevent unnecessary garbage and how to create a at most sustainable event	37
Other relevant details (ie. do you plan to use professional conference organizing service, and approximate cost).	37
Conference logo	38
Professional conference organizing service provider: Vision Event	39
Local media partner: Agora Media	39

# 1. Reasons for hosting the conference, and goals for FOSS4G.

## 1.1. Our reasons

The Bucharest Local Organizing Committee (BLOC) is formed of the core members of the geo-spatial.org, the Romanian OSGeo Local Chapter. geo-spatial.org is 10 years old and it has been proudly wearing the Local Chapter hat for 8 years now. We all have a deep understanding of what OSGeo is, what it stands for and the importance of its existence in this context of free and open source for geospatial. Its flagship event, the FOSS4G conference, has always been that place where you go for the vibe of the Open Source geoCommunity, where you see the latest developments, find out the latest new super library, or hear of that new innovative product or service. It is the place where you meet the people who wrote the books you read at the University.

Our main reason for proposing to host FOSS4G 2019 in Bucharest has two coordinates: (1) we strongly believe that it is high time that the OSGeo community turns its eyes on this side of the world and (2) we, the BLOC, have the power, the knowledge, the passion and the energy to build a FOSS4G at the highest imposed standards, as detailed in the following.

The wonderful thing is that others have also believed in our reasons, goals and plans for a FOSS4G2019 Bucharest and offered their support, such as the Romanian Space Agency, the European Space Agency, the Copernicus Support Office or the European Commission DG Grow.

## 1.2. Our goals

As any FOSS4G LOC, the overall goal is to built a successful event. An event that people remember and hold dear among all the others they have participated at and will participate to. The very essence of our community allows and supports an openness that outlines the general framework of an event that falls outside patterns of similar ones. Even though, FOSS4G evolved in time from approx. 450 participants in 2006 to over 1200 in 2017, it somehow stores its initial energy, binding together the business side with the more community-engaged one. We strongly believe that a successful FOSS4G event fosters both of them, in a balanced way. The BLOC will invests efforts into supporting and promoting both of these directions, through their specific channels, that range from inspiring talks and well



carved tracks, to Birds of a Feather (BoF), to Business2Business (b2b) meetings, to lively and pleasant socializing activities, all of which we describe in the appropriate sections.

Furthermore, the Bucharest LOC has a high interest in making this FOSS4G the most affordable in its history. Bucharest is a very well internationally connected airport due to multiple traditional and low cost airlines connections (Blue Air, Ryanair, WizzAir, Eurowings etc.). In addition, starting from 2018, Air Canada will operate direct long-haul flights to Montreal and Toronto. This position, combined with a careful trip planning (e.g. a ticket purchased in advance), can significantly lower the total cost of the conference. The cost of accommodation also stays within affordable limits, but the most important aspect lies in the possibility of keeping the ticket price low, as it will be detailed in the relevant section.

Affordability delivers a valuable and most wanted advantage, opening up FOSS4G to as many participants as possible. Allowing a global FOSS4G to take place in the Central Eastern Part of Europe will open the gate to a community that otherwise, would not be as reachable. OSGeo is a global foundation with a strong virtual presence, however, a personal interaction with its international leaders, putting a face on a well known name, would, without a doubt, motivate and foster local communities.

Moreover, as it will unfolded in our proposal, Bucharest FOSS4G will focus on data in all its colours and shapes: open, big, Earth Observation. We have already received endorsement from a significant data producer: the largest supplier of satellite open data in the world, Copernicus Program - DG-GROW for FOSS4G2019 Bucharest. Hence, another goal of our conference is to provide a comfortable environment for the communities of developers, data producers and power users to interact.

### 1.3. How will the conference succeed financially and make profit?

It is no longer a novelty that Romania has a very dynamic IT sector, with significant developments in the last years<sup>1</sup>. Coupled with being the fastest growing economy in the EU, according to the World Bank<sup>2</sup>, it represents, without a doubt, a momentum for IT companies to take the opportunity of this event to promote their business in the region. In the last years, the GI (Geospatial Information) business has seen a prosperity wave proved by the development of existing businesses, but also by the opening of new offices coming from the big players in the industry, such as DEIMOS SPACE Romania, CS or GMV.

The success of a Bucharest FOSS4G would be a alliance of the two economic elements: cost-effective event expenses will allow bigger participation coupled with the private and public sponsorships, as we have already registered signals of. The budget section details the subject further.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://techcrunch.com/2016/04/06/the-silicon-valley-of-transylvania/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/speech/2015/10/28/ismail-radwan-speech>

## 1.4. How will the conference succeed socially?

### 1.4.1. Socializing

It will be said that Bucharest FOSS4G2019 was a FOSS4G for the strong ones. The Romanian OSGeo Local Chapter - [geo-spatial.org](http://geo-spatial.org) - has, we believe, a pretty well-known reputation for what would commonly be known as “work hard, party hard”. FOSS4G CEE 2013 stands as robust proof of our potential, and thanks to the written word, we can enumerate a few appreciations: Jeff McKenna “ *My brain is finally starting to come back online now, and I want to add to the praise for FOSS4G-CEE-Bucharest.* ”, “*Again, thanks to the CEE local organizers (the fun geo-spatial.org team).* ”, Anne Ghisla: “*Let me thank Vasile and the LOC for their excellent work [...].* ”, Markus Neteler “*with this email I would like to express a big "thank you" for the outstanding FOSS4G-CEE in Bucharest last week.* ”, Jachym Cepicky: “*I wanted to express something similar, so I just add my big +1 to this* ”, Fenoy Gerald “*Let me say that it make rebirth the OSGeo light in the heart of people like me.*”.

### 1.4.2. Welcome party

The welcome party will take place on Wednesday, at **Bragadiru Palace**, after the completion of the 2 days of workshops and right after the main conference will have started. Its primary purpose is to offer the participants the opportunity to get together in a comfortable environment, to pick up conversations left off at the last encounter and to discuss of the events organized within the conference.

Bragadiru Palace, our choice for this evening, is one of the most interesting places for events in Bucharest. It was built in an eclectic style in 1905 by a big business man of the time, the beer brewer Dumitru Marinescu Bragadiru, and has been ever since a very important part in the population's education, becoming a true cultural center. With an event room with over 500 m<sup>2</sup> on the ground floor, a central balcony, a second floor, a foyer, lobby and a grand terrace, the palace can host with ease between 300 and 800 guests.



Experience has shown that, usually, this is a moment when old friends and acquaintances get together for the latest news before the craziness of the 1000 people conference takes over. So, we invite the audience from all around the world to merge in an ice-breaking, one of a kind event, which combines unique *antebellica* architecture with the beer that has established Bragadiru Palace and the wine that makes up the tradition in Romanian households.

### 1.4.3. Gala dinner

The gala dinner is the main formal social event of FOSS4G. Here, participants network at the highest standards, initiating connections and cultivating professional relationships. The event is programmed in the second day of the conference, a day when most participants are present and already in FOSS4G spirits, have listened to a series of talks and identified subjects of interest and the people to discuss the subjects with. And what



location can be better for this, if not one of the most intriguing and unique places in the world: **Parliament House**.

**Parliament House** known as the second most impressive building in the world by its size after the Pentagon, it will become the FOSS4G 2019 place of Gala Dinner event.

With an unique story that ties this building with the black communist period, the building presents elements of different architectures, yet most of them crafted and made in Romania. All the decorative elements in the building were a special order to perfectly fit their specific rooms.

Today, the building has hundreds of thousands of visitors a year and hosts countless diplomatic, business and gala events. The FOSS4G event reception salon can accommodate up to 1000 guests and it is decorated with marble, solid wood and small and large chandeliers. Of course, being an important administrative building, the security is up to the task, **so don't forget your ID at the hotel.**



#### 1.4.4. Pub race

Beside our welcome party and gala dinner we strongly believe that the pub race will be a key feature in terms of socialization and relationship establishment. At the end of summer, Bucharest is a very cosy place to be and drink a beer or a glass of cold white wine. We intend to create a network of Official FOSS4G Pubs where every participant at the conference will have a consistent discount at beer or wine. This network will include 5 Official Pubs that will be located in the city center, in a walking distance of maximum 15 minute from the venue, the National Theatre. Because Bucharest has a vibrant nightlife, with many pubs and clubs, our network will be focused on three main directions: beer pub, craft beer pub and wine bar. This recipe was applied at FOSS4G-CEE in 2013 and it was a big success with long and beautiful summer nights. We will have 6 nights, starting from a warm up beer sunday evening, 5 Official Pubs and a lot of memories.

### 1.5. How will the conference provide open source education?

We believe in the importance of education and that the open source principles should be part of the learning process. Thus, throughout the conference we provide a number of open source education opportunities. We will keep the traditional two full days workshop sessions



before the main conference. Additionally, we will also consider the competition “Open Source EO Data Challenge” detailed in chapter 5. The educational role of the workshops is obvious. The educational role of our challenge, on the other hand, might not be. However, through the very nature of the competition, we believe that we encourage an active and dynamic learning process, that involves students and teachers, entrepreneurs and researchers. Furthermore, based on the successful formula of past conferences, we will organize the Academic Track session meant to highlight the latest research results in FOSS4G.

We also mention the emphasis on the GeoForAll initiative, Bucharest being a GeoForAll lab since 2013. Guided by its mission “Making geospatial education and opportunities accessible to all”, we intend to offer discounts for students and Low or Lower-Middle countries, as detailed in chapter 4.

## 1.6. How will your conference promote open source geospatial software?

At the heart of FOSS4G lies open source geospatial software, whether we speak of software development, Geospatial Information products or services, support model business, case studies, success stories, academic and research work. The coherent, integrating thread of the conference will be given by the outcomes of the combination of data - the theme of our conference - and open source solutions used to store, process and visualize it in order to answer issues and to maximise the resources of our communities.

As we present in chapter 5 - The program - we kept the traditional pathways that promote open source software - the code sprint and the usage of OSGeo Live in the workshops. Furthermore, we propose an initiative, a challenge, that highly emphasis on the benefits of developing and using open source solutions. The Open Source EO Data Challenge brings into the spotlight the power of sustained collaborative work, which stands at the core of the open source ecosystem.

## 1.7. How will the conference promote inclusivity?

The deep essence of the open source initiative is based on the idea of openness, of sharing, of inclusiveness. And we, the BLOC, share and value these principles. Through our reach-out activities we will also target less encouraged categories. We believe that the low total cost of a FOSS4G2019 Bucharest as we detail in chapter 4 - The Budget - , coupled with the continuation of the Travel Grant Program for students and possibility to volunteer in exchange of certain facilities at the conference, will increase substantially the pool of participants. Thus, we will put an emphasis on the financial aspect because we consider it important.

FOSS4G2019 will also have a **Code of Conduct** following the well-established guidelines.

## 2. The hosting location

### 2.1. What city will the conference be in, what is interesting about it?

#### 2.1.1. Bucharest

Bucharest was first mentioned in historic documents in the 14th Century. Also known in the interwar age as “Little Paris”, Bucharest is the 11th largest city in the EU, judging by the number of inhabitants inside city limits. A large number of valuable components mark its importance in the world - starting with the imposing building of the Palace of Parliament (second largest administrative building in the world, right after the Pentagon), going through important historical buildings with simply impressive architecture and more than 10 types of communities and confessions living all together in this impressive urban space.



### 2.1.2. Culture

Sitting at a crossroads of historic empires, one can see a multitude of cultural layers in Bucharest. According to the census, there is an impressive number of historic communities of different sizes in these parts: hungarian, jewish, gypsy, german, armenian, greek, bulgarian, polish, albanian and muslim. Each of them have testimonies of their presence here, such as the Jewish National Theater or the Armenian Church. Even more, others has enjoyed the rich cultural life of this region. The music of the national hymn of Albania is an adaptation from an original composition by the Romanian composer Ciprian Porumbescu and its lyrics were written on Bucharest soil, with an inspiration from the original Romanian lyrics wrote for Porumbescu's piece.

Today, as an European capital, Bucharest unfolds a rich and dynamic cultural life. Events that span from specialized exhibitions, to film and music festivals, concerts and all kinds of performances. One of the biggest classical music festival and classical international competition held in Romania and one of the biggest in Eastern Europe is the George Enescu International Festival and Competition, held in honor of the celebrated Romanian composer George Enescu. It dates back from 1958 and for one week, Bucharest becomes the magical center of classical music. If you are a fan, we highly recommend you check the dates for 2019 Festival. Usually this event takes place in the first week of September and it is something worth your while.

### 2.1.3. Tourism

Due to its multiple attractions (Palace of the Parliament, The Arch of Triumph, The Romanian Athenaeum, Historical City Centre, museums like Museum of the Romanian Peasant, Village Museum, Museum of Natural History, Museum of National Art or Museum of Old Maps and Books - a must for every map lover- and many parks), Bucharest attracts tourists for the whole year. But more fascinating it becomes in the summer months, when the city comes alive with numerous open air restaurants, outdoor concerts, street theater and other events.

Bucharest is the most visited city in Romania. Out of the 2.5 millions foreign tourists which visited Romania in 2016, the capital city attracted around over one million foreign visitors (according to the National Institute of Statistics). Also, it is important to mention that Bucharest has a wide range of accommodation facilities (from 5\* to 1\* hotels, hostels, Airbnb) for all kinds of budgets.

### 2.1.4. Night life

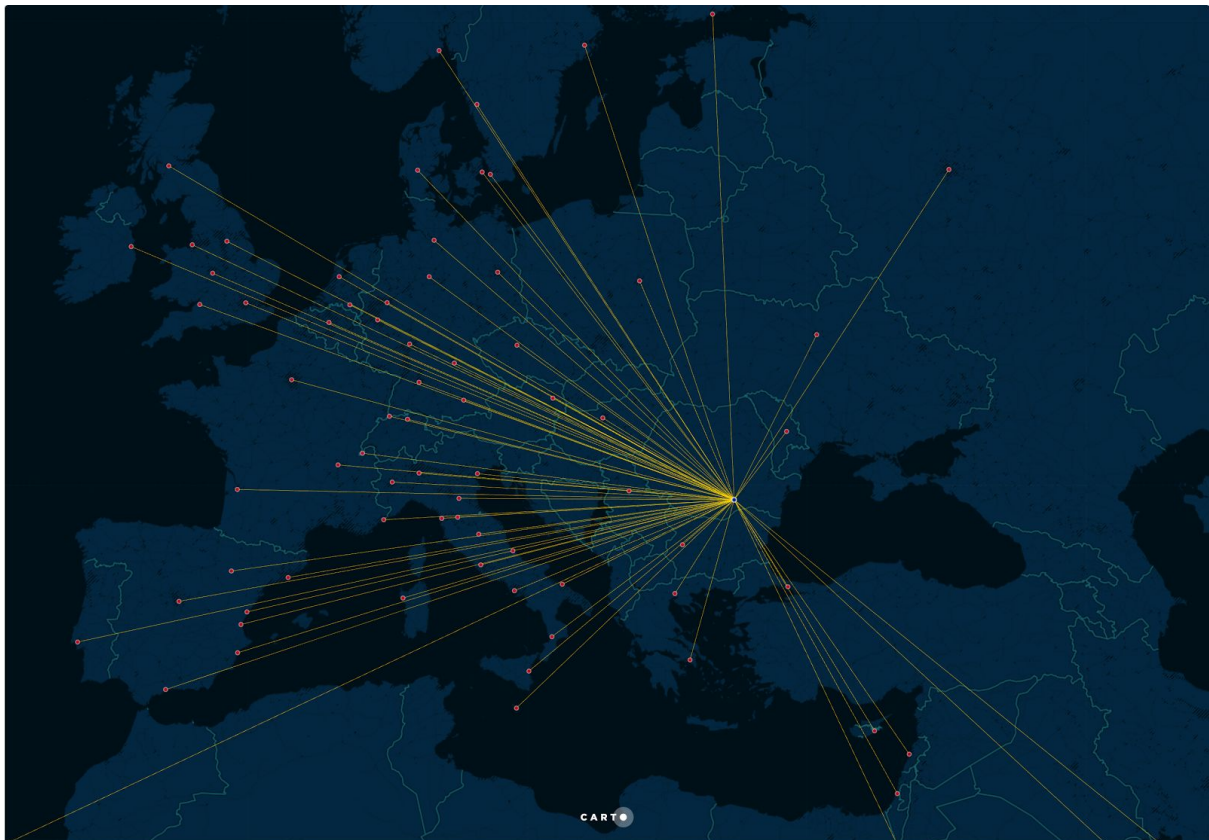
Bucharest has a vibrant nightlife with a consistent scene of pubs and clubs that satisfies all styles. Within walking distance from the venue, the old town emerges, the heart of Bucharest. A very popular tourist attraction, if you are looking for a good night out this is the place to be. It can be a late hour destination, after our gala dinner or pub races, or it can be a very pleasant place to take your morning coffee.

### 2.1.5. Accessibility

Bucharest is one of Europe's low-cost favorite destination points, more than 70 airports have direct connections with Bucharest Henri Coandă International Airport<sup>3</sup>. An average travel time of 3 hours and a reasonable 40-60 Euro ticket (return ticket booked in advance) will take you straight to Bucharest from most of the EU countries. And, if you are from Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, Germany or France, for sure, you can get a flight to Bucharest from a location very near to your base city. Please check our interactive map<sup>4</sup> of direct flights to Bucharest. You will find there information about price and travel time (information collected to date from flight operators websites). Thanks to CARTO's excellent platform, you can also filter the map content based on the above mentioned parameters.

Bucharest Henri Coandă International Airport is located within a decent distance from the city centre (approx. 16 km) and provides all the facilities one would expect from a modern communication hub: rent-a-car offices (AVIS, Europcar, Hertz, Sixt etc.), direct city centre bus shuttle (1.5 euro/2 rides), taxi (8-10 euro a ride downtown) or car sharing services - Uber, Taxify - (8-10 euro a ride downtown at the regular rates).

For the old fashioned ones there is always a possibility of a picturesque train ride through Transylvania, across the Carpathian Mountains and right in the middle of Bucharest. Such train travel can originate in Vienna, Budapest, Berlin or even Moscow.



*Click for interactive version and to see price statistics*

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.bucharestairports.ro/en/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://bit.ly/2nouDUX>



Travelling around Bucharest is fairly simple and cheap. Since the location of the conference is as central as it can be, most of the downtown hotels are within a 15-20' walk by foot. In order to cover larger distances or to explore the city, the best options are by taxi and car-sharing services. The average cost per kilometer is 0.40 euro and Uber fare estimator does always a great job in estimating a fare cost <sup>5</sup>. In order to avoid any unpleasant surprise from the taxi drivers, there are several well trusted taxi applications that can assist you in ordering a taxi<sup>6 7</sup>.

There is always the possibility to stay on the well known (and cheaper) path and use the public transportation to cruise the city (see the link for an interactive map<sup>8</sup>). A network of busses, trolleybuses and trams serve virtually any part of the city. The cost per ride is approx. 0.30 euro. The Metro is also a cheap (1.2 euro/2 rides), reliable and fast alternative.

### 2.1.6. Safety

Bucharest is a wonderful big city with approximately 2 million inhabitants. According to one of the biggest travel sites, Trip Advisor, "In general, Bucharest is safe for traveling. In comparison with many other major cities in Europe, violent crime and serious risks are low." <sup>9</sup> Nevertheless, as most capitals in the world, in Bucharest one has to deal with the usual petty type of crimes, such as pickpocketing and unfair taxi drivers. Still, the "basic" travel rules listed in section 2.1.5 should be more than enough to keep everybody off-trouble.

Of course, across the city there are different levels of risks. However, all the venues of FOSS4G (for the conference, workshops, parties) are in very well rated locations over the city. Tourist attractions are, likewise, in good locations.

## 2.2. What venue will the conference be in, what are the number of rooms available, seating, and associated pricing?

In the heart of the city, of course! Our main events, Conference session and Workshops will be held in University Square, an iconic and historic place for Bucharest. Our venue will be hosted by three important buildings that are at 50-100 m one of each other:

- National Theatre Bucharest,
- Intercontinental Hotel,
- University of Bucharest.

All the rooms from the venue are seated and a full description of them can be found in the sections below and in the financial description of the event.

---

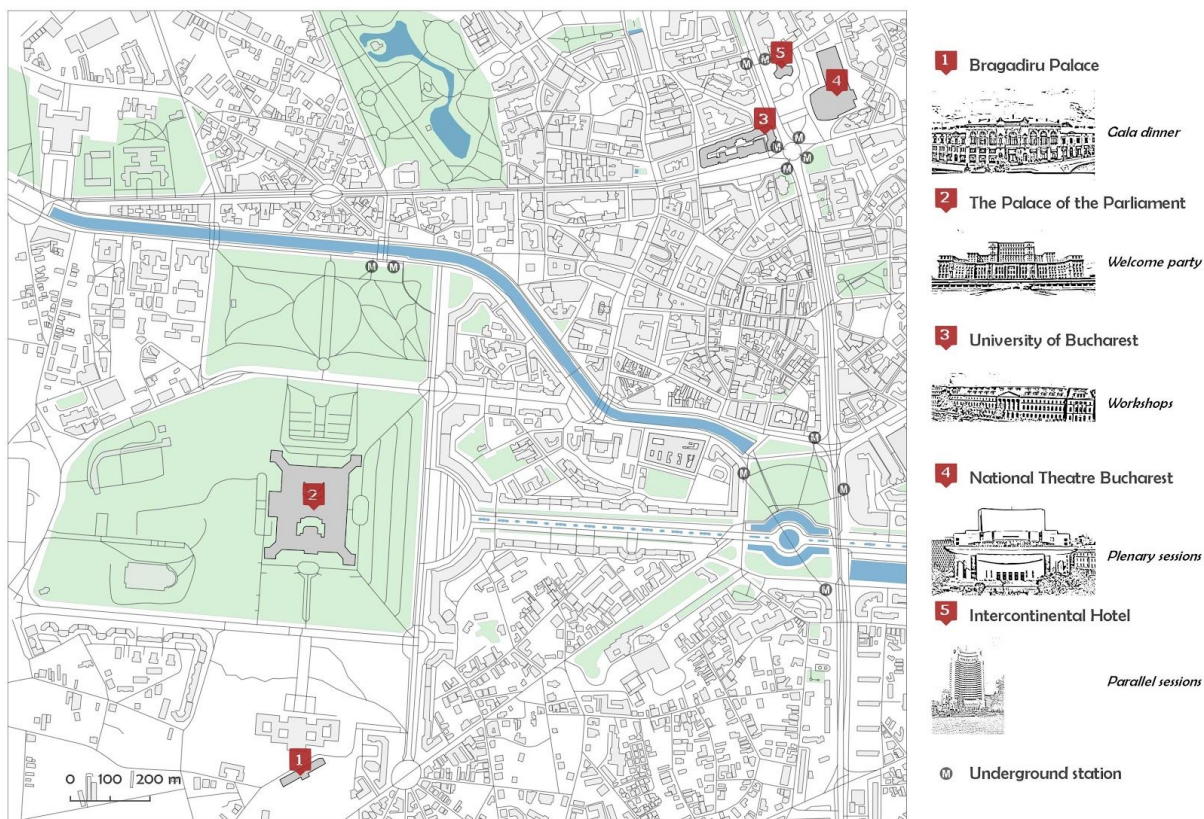
<sup>5</sup> <https://www.uber.com/en-RO/fare-estimate/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.clevertaxi.com>

<sup>7</sup> <http://startaxiapp.com/site/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.transporturban.ro/en/bucuresti/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g294458-s206/Bucharest:Romania:Health.And.Safety.html>



Overview map of event locations. [Click for the high resolution version](#)



Overview map of the workshop and conference venues. [Click for the high resolution version](#)



### 2.2.1. National Theatre Bucharest

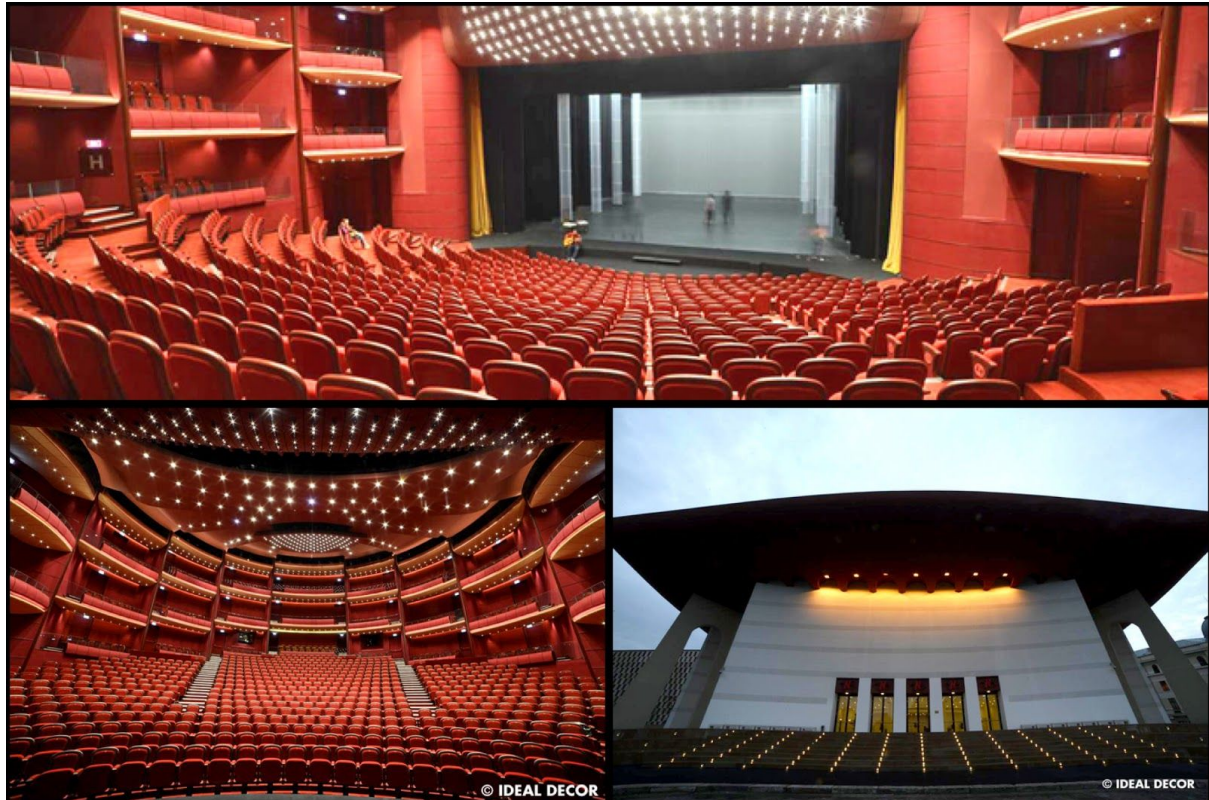
A conference as special as FOSS4G requires a special place for its plenary session. And what location can be more exquisite than a theater, perhaps the most beautiful theater in Bucharest.

National Theater Bucharest or simply NTB (TNB in Romanian) is one of the main buildings of the conference, located at "kilometer 0" of Bucharest, the Romanian way of saying "downtown". It is located in a place with deep historical meaning, the University Square, in the immediate vicinity of the University of Bucharest, well connected to public transport routes and close to numerous hotels and accommodation spaces.

Renovated recently at the highest European standards, the National Theater building hosts major events in its 6 halls.

The Great Hall of the National Theater, chosen for the plenary sessions of the Conference, has a capacity of about 1000 seats and is equipped with professional audio-video equipment.

The generous foyers are embellished with sculptures and unique decoration elements. On the first floor is the "World Theater" an impressive tapestry both in design and size, known as the second-best such work in the world. These areas are perfect for discussions with sponsors, product presentations and many other activities.



*Main entrance and the plenary conference room*

### 2.2.2. InterContinental Hotel



The perfect complement for NTB is also one of the city's landmarks, an 87m tall high rise hotel - **the InterContinental**. The hotel mixes both history and luxury: the hotel opened in 1971 and was for a long time the tallest building in the city. During the Romanian Revolution of December 1989, the hotel was the preferred base of the foreign press. Its spectacular view over the city offered the opportunity to film from the balconies. The pictures they recorded of fighting on the boulevard below were sent all over the world and heralded the end of the Ceausescu regime.

Recently, in 2015, InterContinental Bucharest won the prestigious *Romania's Leading Business Hotel* at the World Travel Awards.

Located in the very close vicinity of National Theatre Bucharest, InterContinental Hotel will be the host of the parallel track conference session with 9 rooms. The rooms vary in terms of capacity, 2 of them can host 150+ participants while the others can host an average of 40 participants/room. All the rooms, plus one smaller meeting room, are well designed for conferences and are fully equipped.

### 2.2.3. University of Bucharest

University of Bucharest is one of the oldest education institution in Romania, founded in 1864. It's home of 20 faculties and over 30k students. Through the Faculty of Geography, the University has supported geo-spatial.org and it's activities since its beginning, in 2007. University of Bucharest will be a very important partner in organizing FOSS4G 2019 Conference, all workshops being held at the Faculty of Geography.

### 2.2.4. Available workshop facilities, number of rooms and if available, how many computers per room, pricing, strategy for providing workshop facilities.

The host of all workshops will be the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography and, as stated in the support letter, it can provide us with up to 12 rooms. All the rooms are ready to be used and fully equipped with state of the art facilities.

Regarding the numbers, they are different in size. This aspect is a key feature for a well designed programme.

- 3 rooms x 40+ participants;
- 3 rooms x 30 participants;
- 6 rooms x 20-30 participants.

All workshops will follow Boston model “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) and will have a price of 40 euros (regular fee) per half-day (4 hour workshop), including lunch.



*Foto: University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography. Source: Wikipedia, author: claudiu nh, distributed under a CC-BY 2.0 license*

#### 2.2.5. Available rooms for additional small business meetings.

During the entire week we can provide rooms for business meetings, in fact one room from our parallel track venue, Intercontinental Hotel, will be available especially for this type of small meetings. If this kind of interaction should take place before the start of the main Conference, we can provide a meeting place in the Faculty of Geography.

#### 2.2.6. What is the maximum size your venue could entertain? The minimum?

Regarding the size of our venue, this event can be limited only by the physical capabilities of the chosen building. The plenary that will be held at the National Theatre has a maximum capacity of 1000 people - for the parallel tracks, at Intercontinental Hotel, we can accommodate more the 1k participants.

The Faculty of Geography, with the facilities provided, can host a maximum of 450 participant at workshops.



Regarding the social events (Gala Dinner and Welcome Party), the limit is 1000 participants due to the size of halls that will host these events.

### 2.3. What accommodations are available? Where are they relative to the venue? Pricing? Quantity?

Bucharest, as the capital of Romania, holds a large accommodation network covering all types of hosting: from 5 stars hotel to hostels and Airbnb. During the last years, Bucharest was the host of many international events (Europe League football finals in 2012, Depeche Mode concerts in 2006 and 2013) and some are planned for the near future (e.g. 4 games - UEFA 2020). All this lead to significant investments in terms of infrastructure and accommodation.

According to booking.com more than 500 properties are within a walking distance radius (1-2 km) from the conference venue. Around 30% of the total is represented by 3 star hotels with prices in the range of 40-70 euro/night. The superior class, 4 and 5 stars hotels cover 10%, with prices between 80-120 euro for 4 stars and 120-150 euro 5 stars.

Other accommodation options are represented by 1-2 star hotels and hospitality services such as Airbnb with prices as low as 15 euro/night. While these type of accommodations can be always a source of fun and pleasant surprises, we recommend to approach them carefully and to check any available review.

The conference website will list a series of official hotels where various discounts will be available for conference attendees. Among them, the Intercontinental Hotel (4 stars), the hotel that will host the conference and K+K Hotel (3 stars, across the road from the venue). Additionally, we will also include a section with *accommodation tips* covering all kind of budget ranges and locations based on our own personal experience.

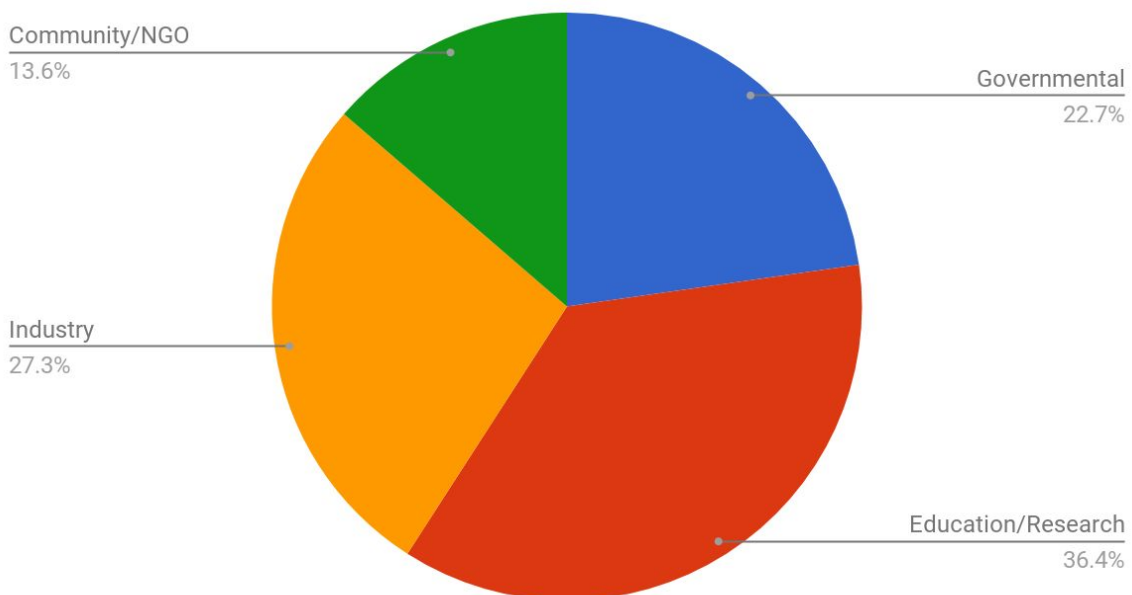
### 2.4. Supporting organizations

FOSS4G2019 is endorsed by a number of governmental, education and research, industry and community organizations. Please find below the names of the organization and the corresponding type/sector. In Annex 1 you will find the signed support letters.

Organization	Type	Location
Romanian Space Agency	Governmental	Bucharest
Romanian National Meteorological Administration	Governmental	Bucharest
European Space Agency	Governmental	Paris
The European Commission Directorate General for Industry, Internal Market, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, unit on Space Data for Societal Challenges	Governmental	Brussels
Copernicus Support Office	Governmental	Brussels

Faculty of Geography - University of Bucharest	Education/Research	Bucharest
Faculty of Geography - University "Babeş-Bolyai" Cluj Napoca	Education/Research	Cluj Napoca
Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering - Transilvania University of Braşov	Education/Research	Braşov
Faculty of Geography and Geology - University "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Iaşi	Education/Research	Iaşi
State University of Tiraspol	Education/Research	Chişinău
Institute of Ecology and Geography of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova	Education/Research	Chişinău
Faculty of Chemistry, Biology, and Geography at West University of Timisoara	Education/Research	Timisoara
Budapest University of Technology and Economics	Education/Research	Budapest
Teamnet International	Industry	Bucharest
Terrasigna	Industry	Bucharest
Soft Business Union	Industry	Bucharest
QTIBIA Engineering	Industry	Râmnicu Vâlcea
Eau de Web	Industry	Bucharest
Forest Design	Industry	Braşov
<a href="http://geo-spatial.org">geo-spatial.org</a>	Community/NGO	Bucharest
IT Center for Community Solutions	Community/NGO	Bucharest

## Supporting organizations type



Individual descriptions are provided for some of the main supporting organizations:

- **Romanian Space Agency (ROSA)** is a public organisation since 1995 with a public mandate to coordinate national space research and development, to promote space activities in Romania and to represent the Romanian Government in international space cooperation programmes. Besides its national strategy implementation and management, ROSA is organising each year a number of national and international events ranging from industry days and national conferences on space dedicated to national priorities and space European programmes to very specialised training sessions and summer schools, attended by hundreds of participants. Under the ROSA coordination, in 2008, Bucharest and the Romanian Parliament was the host of the GEO-V Plenary Session and the side events attended by more than 600 participants. In 2012, ROSA organised the second edition of the Planetary Defense Conference a major UN COPUOS event attended by participants from the entire world. The national conference dedicated to EU space programmes is an yearly event organized by ROSA with the support of the European Space Agency, The European Commission and Eurisy. As part of its educational and outreach activities ROSA organised many summer schools dedicated to the exploitation of satellite Earth Observation data and is actively participating in major pan-europeans and international projects like the European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO).
- **European Space Agency (ESA)** is an intergovernmental organisation of 22 member states dedicated to the exploration of space. Established in 1975 and headquartered in Paris, France, ESA has a worldwide staff of about 2,000 and an annual budget of about €5.25 billion / US\$5.77 billion.
- **Copernicus Support Office.** The European Commission has launched the Copernicus Support Office to animate the Copernicus Academy and Copernicus Relays networks, two key instruments in the Copernicus User Uptake toolbox that is being developed. The Copernicus Support Office also caters to queries from potential users of Copernicus data and information, be they from citizens, entrepreneurs or from public administration. Questions are answered by a team of Copernicus experts or referred to the Copernicus Entrusted Entities or external experts on Copernicus. The Support Office is also the key point of contact for the Copernicus Relays and Academy networks. Both networks are supplied with regular information and advice or assistance for the development of their own user uptake initiatives. It also helps Relays and Academy members to provide training opportunities for relevant stakeholders and decision-makers at all levels in order to increase user uptake of Copernicus in end user communities that are yet to be reached. A detailed description of the Copernicus program is provided in Annex 2.
- **The European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC).** EARSC is the European organization which –on a non-profit basis– promotes the use of Earth Observation (EO) technology and especially the companies in Europe which offer EO-related products and services.

## 2.5. Local organizing committee

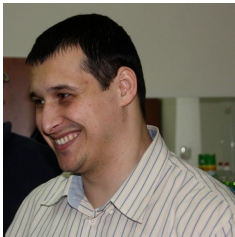
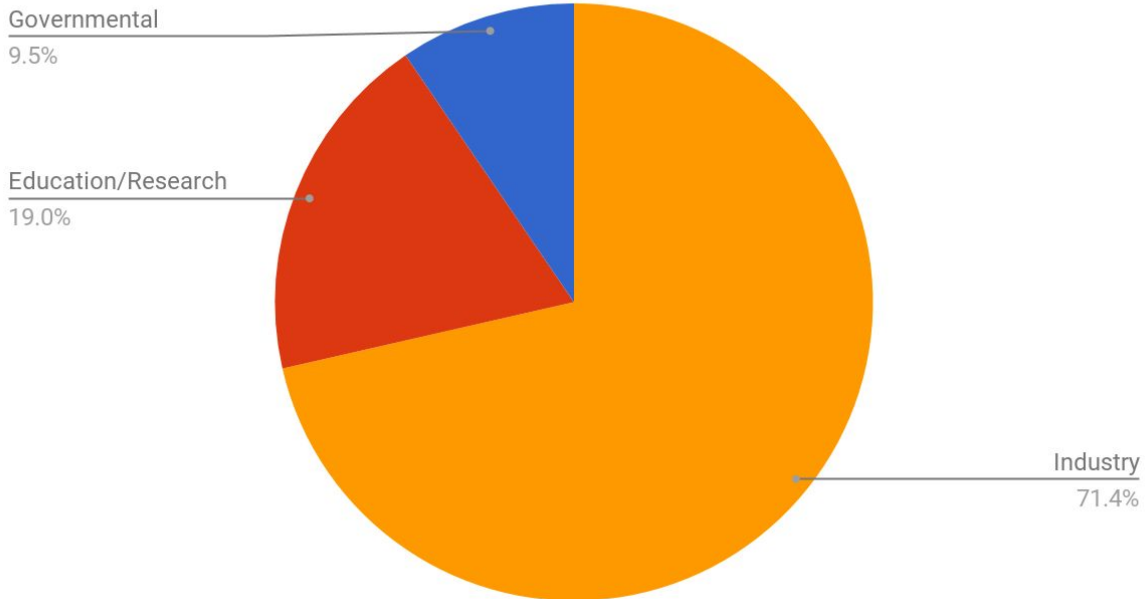
The Bucharest LOC is a well shaped, informal and robust of not-so-young-anymore GI professionals, mostly based in Bucharest. Our chair, Vasile, is one of the pillars of OSGeo, quite well known in the community, if not for his calm and balanced views as Director for 2



terms, or for charring the FOSS4G CEE 2013, then for all those emails sent as CRO (Chief Returning Officer) for the last three years. His experience as Program Committee Chair for several successful events (FOSS4G Europe 2014, FOSS4G 2015 Europe, FOSS4G 2017 Europe) stands as a promise for an awe-inspiring conference. The complete list LOC members follows.

Name	Organization	Type
Tudor Bărăscu	QTIBIA Engineering	Industry
Octavian Borcan	HERE Technologies	Industry
Marius Budileanu	Faculty of Geography - University of Bucharest	Education/Research
Roxana Burlacu	Terrasigna	Industry
Bogdan Candrea	Forest Design	Industry
Sorin Constantin	Terrasigna	Industry
Ștefan Constantinescu	Faculty of Geography - University of Bucharest	Education/Research
Olimpia Copăcenaru	Terrasigna	Industry
Vasile Crăciunescu	Romanian National Meteorological Administration	Governmental
Cristian Flueraru	Terrasigna	Industry
Bogdan Grama	Soft Business Union	Industry
Codrina Ilie	Terrasigna	Industry
Robert Ilie	Digital Mapping	Industry
Florin Iosub	Teamnet Solutions International	Industry
Iulian Iuga	Soft Business Union	Industry
Andreea Marin	Faculty of Geography - University of Bucharest	Education/Research
Narcisa Mușat	Terrasigna	Industry
Ion Nedelcu	Romanian Space Agency	Governmental
Dan Mihai Niță	Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering - Transilvania University, Brasov	Education/Research
Ionuț Șerban	Terrasigna	Industry
Daniel Urdă	Teamnet Solutions International	Industry

## LOC members



**Vasile Craciunescu** is a researcher with more than 16 years experience. He received his diploma in cartography and physical geography in 2001. In 2006 he started [geo-spatial.org](http://geo-spatial.org) (<http://geo-spatial.org>), a collaborative effort by and for the Romanian community to facilitate the sharing of geospatial knowledge and the discovery and publishing of free geographic datasets and maps. He is also affiliated with the Romanian National Meteorological Administration

where is in charge of the scientific and operational activities related to rapid mapping, air quality data integration, spatial data infrastructure and web-mapping. He has a good experience in working and leading national, EU and ESA research projects. Since 2011 he is the Romanian representative in the Copernicus User Forum (the European Earth observation program formerly known as GMES) at the European Commission and the representative of Meteo Romania at Open Geospatial Consortium. In august 2014 was elected in the Open Source Geospatial Foundation board of directors. For the last three years he is teaching FOSS4G-based techniques at the Faculty of Geography - University of Bucharest in the first Romanian ICA-OSGeo Lab.



**Tudor Bărașcu** is Head of GIS Office for Vâlcea county water/wastewater operator. He has been working in the GIS field for 10 years: promoting FOSS; building a geospatial software company; contributing to QGIS, QWAT/QGEP and other open source software. Tudor speaks and teaches regularly at the OSGEO Local Chapter conferences and is a charter member.



**Octavian Borcan** – Octavian is Sr. Data Acquisition & Community Lead at HERE Technologies Bucharest office, a digital mapping company setting a new course for location technology. He has a strong background in the GIS&IT field, working on multiple projects at regional and international level. Interested in promoting GIS, open data sources/software and technologies.



**Marius Budileanu** PhD, is Assistant Professor at Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest – his main research topics include coastal geomorphology, historical cartography, GIS Analysis and Remote Sensing. In fact, it is a very special mix of those three topics: integrates historical cartography and remote sensing data in GIS for a better understanding of coastal processes in time and space. It is also affiliated to Terrasigna involved in multiple research projects focused on applied Remote Sensing and GIS. Since 2007 he is a member of geo-spatial.org, Romanian OSGeo Local Chapter, and a board member from 2011.



**Roxana Burlacu** works as a GIS Analyst at Terrasigna, a Romanian company on Earth Observation. Her main field is focused on Cartography, Historical Cartography and Cartography Design. She promotes opensource technologies and data by also using them in her works. She owns a Master degree on GIS.



**Bogdan Candrea** is a forest engineer at Forest Design SRL since 2004. He developed several GIS applications on forestry, biodiversity, environment based on open source platforms. Among his area of interests you will find out constantly open source solutions based on: web-mapping, 3D modeling, remote sensing, GPS.



**Sorin Constantin** is an Earth Observation scientist at Terrasigna and a member of the geo-spatial.org community. He received his PhD at University of Bucharest, with a thesis on “Seawater turbidity analysis in the Romanian coastal area based on remote sensing data”. He completed post-doctoral studies at Laboratoire d’Océanographie de Villefranche-sur-Mer (France). His main interest are satellite data processing and the determination of water quality parameters from EO information. He has been involved in multiple research projects, most of them relying on open source software and open data.



**Stefan Constantinescu** is Associate Professor at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography. He is specialized in coastal geomorphology, with research interest in GIS and Remote Sensing techniques applied in the coastal zone. Another area of interest is historical cartography.



**Olimpia Copacenaru** works as a GIS Analyst for Terrasigna, a Romanian company in the field of Earth Observation. Her main research topics are the applications of remote sensing in agriculture and forestry, but she is also interested in historical cartography.

Since 2013, she attended 10 geo-spatial.org seminars and is very focused in promoting open source data and technologies.

Olimpia is also a PhD student at the University of Bucharest. Her thesis is related to the use of free satellite imagery in assessing the land fragmentation processes in Romania in the post-communist period.



**Cristian Fluerau** is a GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist. He received his MSc degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, with a thesis on `Determination of the Snowcover Extent Using Remote Sensing`. He has participated in the update of the Corine Land Cover in Italy, on the Arno river basin. Among others, he has been involved in multiple research projects focused on applied remote sensing such as: urban monitoring service for the World Bank, drought monitoring service in Romania, and forest

loss monitoring in Romania.



**Bogdan Grama** is currently working as a GIS analyst and developer at Soft Business Union and has more than 10 years experience in the geospatial software industry, developing solutions based on open source technologies. He is involved in OSGeo Romanian local chapter community (geo-spatial.org) since 2013 and OSGeo Charter member since 2016. He is promoting free geospatial knowledge and the discovery and publishing of free geographic datasets and maps.



**Codrina Ilie** is a technical geographer, an open source GIS power user, actively working in improving open data services development at Terrasigna. In the last 4 years, her work has been divided between open data initiative development and geodata standardization and interoperability. In her 8 years of activity, Codrina has essentially focused on using open source GIS solutions for data management, processing and visualization. As an advocate for foss4g, since 2010 she has been a volunteer trainer in the Romanian geospatial community, geo-spatial.org. Since 2013, Codrina has been a Charter

Member of the OSGeo.



**Robert Ilie** is an entrepreneur; co-founder of Digital Mapping in Arad - Romania, a company specialized in land surveying, cadaster and GIS. His interests are related to land measurements, GIS, remote sensing,



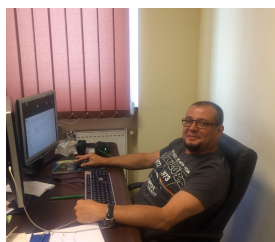
location-based services, aerial imagery, geo-visualization, cartography and maps design. He is passionate of free open source solutions fighting for their promotion in Romanian institutions.



**Florin Iosub** is GIS Expert at Teamnet Solutions International and a member of geo-spatial.org board, the Romanian Local Chapter of OSGeo.

With over 10 years of professional experience in the GIS field gained as a result of participating in the implementation of numerous projects, he is very well acquainted with the best practice and state-of-the-art GIS technologies in all related fields.

At the same time, he is very determined in spreading the FOSS4G values and principles and involved in various volunteering initiatives.



**Iulian Iuga** is working as GIS Architect at Soft Business Union and has more than 20 years of GIS experience, from data acquiring to cartography and software development. He is interested in software development and gis data processing, including sea and inland navigation systems. Iulian is member of geo-spatial.org since 2013.



**Andreea Marin** is currently PhD Candidate at Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest. Her main research topics include fluvial geomorphology, historical cartography and GIS analysis. Also, she is a teaching assistant at the same university and the passion for the academic environment led her to strongly pushed forward the first Romanian ICA-OSGeo Lab. She is OSGeo Charter member since 2014 and member of geo-spatial.org board –

the Romanian Local Chapter of OSGeo since 2017. Andreea is actively involved in the Romanian Local Chapter's workshops and seminars, most visible with contributions as a GRASS GIS and R - RStudio trainer.



**Narcisa Musat** is chief accountant and financial manager at Terrasigna. She has a significant experience in organizing financial-accounting systems and financial records. Narcisa was the financial officer in projects with national and international founding (European Space Agency, European Commission).



**Ion Nedelcu** is Director for Environment and Security projects in the Romanian Space Agency and a member of geo-spatial.org board, the Romanian Chapter of OSGeo. As a member of many international committees and workgroups on geospatial information in general and satellite Earth observation in particular he's got a very good knowledge of the current evolution of the geospatial world and, as an engineer, he

acquired a significant experience in approaching real-world problems and providing geospatial solutions for various technology environments.



**Dan Nita** is Assistant Professor at Transilvania University of Brasov, Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering - University of Transilvania since 2012 and a forest engineer at Forest Design SRL since 2007. He is specialized in forest hydrology, with projects and research in GIS and remote sensing applied in forest engineering.



**Ionut Serban** – is a PhD student at University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography and researcher in GIS and Remote Sensing department at Terrasigna, a Romanian rooted company. He is an active participant at OSGeo Romania events since 2013 and a board member of geo-spatial.org (OSGeo Romania local chapter) since 2017. He attended global FOSS4G conference in 2017. The experience gained in Boston helped him to better understand the relevance of such an event.



**Daniel Urda** is currently working as a GIS developer at TeamNet Solutions International, a major player on the GIS market in Romania. With a M.Sc. in Parallel and Distributed Computed System from the Politehnica University of Bucharest / VU University of Amsterdam, he has an interest in developing software used for geographical analysis, using both open source and proprietary building blocks, presenting his results at various FOSS4G events beginning with 2012. A OSGeo Charter member since 2016, in 2017 he has also joined the local Romanian chapter, geo-spatial.org

## 2.6. Local open source development and implementation activity, interest and enthusiasm for open source geospatial in your region

Bucharest is home of a vibrant IT ecosystem that embraces open source and open source education. There are more indicators showing growth in this direction. Maybe one of the most obvious is the growth in our own community, geo-spatial.org. For a relatively small country and for such a niche topic, our community has reached over 1000 members. Our geo-spatial.org traditional workshops have seen, in the last years raised standards of quality, receiving today open source success studies coming from the private sector to academia thesis on open source related aspect.

## 2.7. How do you plan to manage/organize work and relations with OSGeo (especially with the board and conference committees)?

All of the Bucharest LOC members attended FOSS4G events at international, European or local level. Almost half of the BLOC members are already OSGeo Charter Members, some are contributing to OSGeo projects and our chair is part of OSGeo Board of Directors and OSGeo Conference Committee for several years now. For sure we know how OSGeo operates and we don't expect any problems in working smoothly for a successful FOSS4G event. However, to make sure we are always on the same wavelength, we will invite OSGeo to designate a representative that will be part of our LOC. Any changes to the current proposals will be communicated and agreed with OSGeo Board of Directors. Before each monthly meeting of the OSGeo Board of Directors, the LOC will send status/progress reports. One LOC member will also participate in the meetings. Regular updates will be sent on the OSGeo Conference mailing list.

## 3. The budget

The detailed budget planning is included in Annex 4.

### 3.1. What is your budget? Expenses for venue, food, marketing, audio-visual, network access, video streaming and/or recording etc

We did budget simulations using 3 attendee size scenarios (amounts in Euro, taxes included):

- **600 participants** (minimum viable);
- **850 participants** (mid-point)
- **1000 participants** (goal)

	GOAL	MID-POINT	MINIMUM VIABLE
Revenue	1000 Attendees	850 Attendees	600 Attendees
Registration (incl. discounts & complimentary)	385000	327250	231000
Sponsorships	50000	50000	50000
Other revenue (workshops & hotel incentive)	16200	16200	16200

TOTAL	451200	393450	297200
Expenses			
Marketing	12500	12500	12500
Conference production (incl. PCO)	58673	53364	46562
Conference space and food & beverage (incl. gala)	234745	211045	171545
Workshops	5400	5400	5400
Contingency	14222	12897	10688
TOTAL	325540	295206	246695
<b>NET PROCEEDS:</b>	<b>125660</b>	<b>98244</b>	<b>50505</b>

Based on this model, the potential surplus amounts are as following:

- Minimum viable: **50 505€**;
- Mid point: **98 244€**;
- Goal: **125 660€**.

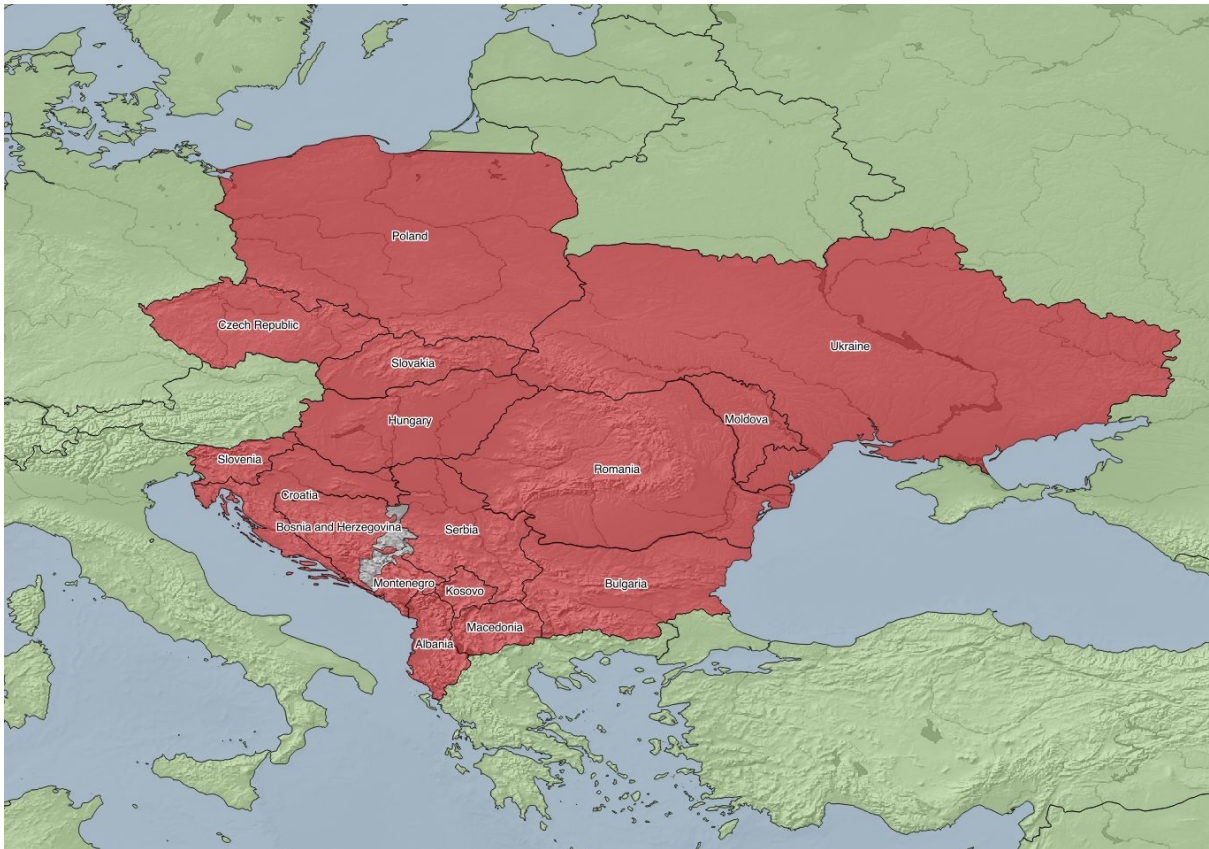
The full budget planning is available in Annex 3.

**Note:** all the prices (venue, catering, equipments, etc) are based on real offers negotiated with various providers. Full documentation and confirmed offers can be provided on request.

### 3.2. What is your expected attendance? Why? Where do you think delegates will come from?

Our main venue can host up to 1000 participants. Our realistic expectations are within the range of 800 - 1000 attendees. Of course, we expect participants from all over the world. As you can see above (Section 2.1.6) Bucharest is very well connected with affordable air, train and car routes. BLOC will pay a special attention to the Central and Eastern Europe countries.





*CEE countries. Click for the high resolution version*

BLOC chair, along with Jachym Cepicky, started FOSS4G CEE (Central and Eastern Europe) conference series back in 2012. The aim was to provide an affordable FOSS4G experience to the countries in the region. Later, keeping the same accessibility principles, the event evolved in FOSS4G Europe and even into a new, European wide, OSGeo Local Chapter<sup>10</sup>. Today we are confident that we can bring the fully fledged FOSS4G conference in the region at a very reasonable costs. We have excellent connections with FOSS4G communities in the region and we started to build partnerships with universities (see support letters from the universities in Romania, Republic of Moldova and Hungary) in order to give FOSS4G2019 the proper exposure. 50% discounts will be provided for students and Low or Lower-Middle countries (up to 100 participants). geo-spatial.org is organizing each year 3 FOSS4G Romania events (in three different university centers: Bucharest, Timișoara, Cluj-Napoca) with a participation ranging between 110 - 160. In 2019, to encourage the participation at FOSS4G international, the local events will be suspended. We acknowledge that the maximum number of Romanians at a FOSS4G was 10, in 2016 (well, we had 200+ at FOS4G-CEE in 2013). We have a plan to increase that number by 30 times by the means of:

- Professional promotion in 2019. We team up with Agora Media, one of the best IT&C publishing house in Romania, to offer the event a wide visibility. The actions will include:
  - 300x250 px online banner on multiple websites (e.g. [agora.ro](http://agora.ro), [ittrends.ro](http://ittrends.ro) and [digitaltrends.ro](http://digitaltrends.ro));

<sup>10</sup> <https://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Europe>

- 468x60 px banner in AgoraNews newsletter (weekly);
- 1 email to the Agora Media contact database (filters will be applied to match FOSS4G target organizations/companies/persons);
- Periodic publication of FOSS4G related news on [agora.ro](http://agora.ro) and AgoraNews;
- Articles on IT Trends magazine - 1 page each month (approx. 700-800 words + illustration).
- Direct discussions with the local industry to assure them that FOSS4G2019 will be a place for geo-business too.
- Dissemination through geo-spatial.org channels: 900+ members mailing list, 2500+ followers of the Facebook page, Twitter, website etc (actually a thread on FOSS4G accessibility already started few days ago<sup>11</sup> - Romanian language).
- Offer free daily passes to the persons that volunteer 12 hours during the conference days.

Of course, promotion of the event will not stop at Romanian or CEE borders. All the classical channels will be used to reach our traditional FOSS4G participants. Like in the previous editions, a travel grant will be set up. Due to the relative low cost of the FOSS4G event, more people than in previous years will fit in the same travel grant amount.

Our chair attended all FOSS4G events since Lausanne 2006. And FOSS4G was kind with him and changed his professional career (in a good way). Being at so many FOSS4G conferences, we also know a number of similar stories. We plan to publish these stories, at a rate of one per month, in 2019, in an effort to show how important such an event can be for some of the participants. The stories will be translated with the help of our community partners in the languages of CEE countries and published through the local mailing lists/social media accounts.

### 3.3. What is your expected sponsorship? Why? Do you have local potential sponsors already identified? At what levels?

FOSS4G2019 will use similar levels and of sponsorship fees and benefits like the FOSS4G2017 conference in Boston:

- **Diamond Sponsorship** (25 000€) [Limited to 1] 6 free registrations; Named meal; Logo on tee shirt; Largest booth
- **Platinum Sponsorship** (18 000€) 4 free registrations; Named meal; Large booth
- **Gold Sponsorship** (11,000€) 3 free registrations; Large booth
- **Silver Sponsorship** (6 000€) 2 free registrations; Standard booth
- **Bronze Sponsorship** (2,000€) 1 free registration; Table top display
- **Supporting Sponsorship** (1000€) 1 free registration; No booth

Again, similar with Boston, Bucharest LOC also intends to provide additional sponsorship and/or tier benefits by having “named meal” events including:

<sup>11</sup> <http://geo-spatial-org.2126404.n4.nabble.com/FOSS4G2019-invita-ie-la-dialog-td4658518.html>

- Breaks (6)
- Lunches (6)
- Welcome party (Wednesday) (1)
- Gala (Thursday) (1)

BLOC did a quick experiment, writing emails to **44** companies and institutions (30 of them past FOSS4G sponsors and 7 local companies) asking about sponsoring availability (of course, under the reserve of the early phase in the selection process and the lack of defined sponsoring packages). What we got back was:

- **23 clear positive answers** - but only a few of them indicating the sponsoring level
- **3** positive answers, without any commitment;
- **1** totally neutral answer, not excluding the possibility, but also not giving any kind of commitment.

We will not publicly disclose the name of the prospected entities. However, the Conference Committee will receive a private copy of the list. Copies of the confirmation emails can be provided on request.

As no company/institution provided indication of superior sponsoring levels, we estimate a safe sponsoring amount around **50 000€**. **Note:** Open Source EO Data Challenge may receive some important funding but will not be necessarily money that BLOC can spend on different conference related issues but money for prizes, infrastructure, speakers and participants travel and accommodation.

### 3.4. Delegate fees for the conference, workshop and any social activities. You should include detail of any grants or subsidized rates that you will offer which will be funded from within your budget.

We are in a quest for making FOSS4G2019 **the most accessible FOSS4G ever!** This are our numbers (**VAT included**):

- Regular fee **440€**;
- Early bird fee **330€**;
- Regular workshop fee **40€ (20€ for students)**;
- Early bird workshop fee **30€ (15€ for students)**;
- Gala dinner and the welcome party are included in the conference fee. Both events will offer:
  - Welcome drinks;
  - International & Traditional Romanian Dinner - Open Buffet (hot, cold, dessert);
  - **8h Open Bar** - alcoholic & non-alcoholic standard drinks (Soft Drinks, Coffee, Whiskey, Vodka, Gin, Red & White Wine, Beer)
  - Cocktail tables;
  - P.A. & DJ.

- **50%** discounts for students and Low or Lower-Middle countries (first 100 registered participants);
- **6 lunches & 6 coffee breaks** included;

### 3.5. Estimate of any seed funding and/or guarantee required

BLOC is requesting OSGeo up to **45 000\$** as seed money and an additional guarantee against losses of **30 000\$** making a total exposure of up to **75 000\$** for OSGeo.

### 3.6. The level of surplus forecast at different levels of attendance and the proportion that will be donated to OSGeo

The goal is to return 100% of any profits back to OSGeo. Immediately after the conference, the BLOC will use a very small amount of money for a well deserved, one day, power recovery retreat.

## 4. The program

### 4.1. Provide a high-level view of the program, indicating number of tracks, size of tracks, workshops, size of workshops, and other features of your program. Indicate the number of presentations, posters, and workshops you expect to accept.

Bucharest FOSS4G2019 program is following the traditional FOSS4G structure: two days with practical workshops, three days of conference and one final day for code sprint. The event outline is presented below. A daily breakdown version of the draft programme is presented in Annex 4. We are also continuing the tradition of the last years by including a B2B session in the second day. A newcomer on the FOSS4G scene is the Open Source EO data Challenge. Schuyler Erle said some years ago “You are awesome, your software is awesome, (but) your software is useless, ...without data”<sup>12</sup>. This is still true today but in a different way than back in 2010. Today we are flooded with all kinds of geospatial data and the challenge is to harness it and extract meaningful information. We think that open source is the viable and resource effective solution. Open Source EO data Challenge will be a competition unfolding on a 8 months period before the conference. The challenge is to develop innovative open source solutions to handle big amounts of Earth Observation (EO)

---

<sup>12</sup> <http://bit.ly/2icNfSj>

data. We see in this a good opportunity to connect FOSS4G and OSGeo with stakeholders like space agencies and commercial satellite data providers. The European EO landscape is changing with the success of the Copernicus Program. In one year from now, the European Space Agency will become the biggest EO data producer in the world. In this context, and given the fact that all the software developed under ESA umbrella is released under open source licenses, it makes sense to have ESA involved in this challenge from the start.

Mon 26		Tue 27		Wed 28	Thu 29	Fri 30	Sat 31
Workshops	Open Source EO Data Challenge	Workshops	Open Source EO Data Challenge	Main Conference			Code Sprint
		B2B Meeting		Welcome Party	Gala Dinner		
Pub race							

#### 4.1.1. Plenary sessions

The conference will start and end in the imposing Grand Hall of the National Theatre. Other two 1.5 hours plenary sessions are foreseen on Thursday and Friday morning. The plenary sessions will host a mix of keynotes (given by important FOSS4G community members and guests from industry, academia, government), lighting talks and moderated sessions. One important thing for BLOC is to make OSGeo AGM part of a plenary session.

#### 4.1.2. General track

The program setup has room for 208 presentations, divided in 8 sessions and 8 rooms. Each session will be 1.5-2 hours long. Each slot will have 30 minutes (20 minutes for the presentation; 5 minutes for questions and answers; 5 minutes for the participants to change rooms).

The program committee will establish topics and tracks as we get closer to the conference. We anticipate that topics like those listed below are likely, based on the previous editions of the conference:

- Application development;
- Case studies of FOSS4G implementations;
- Transition to FOSS4G;
- Benchmarks: comparisons between packages;
- Interoperability, open standards, implementations for INSPIRE;
- Data collection, data sharing, open data, big data;
- FOSS4G in education;

- Analysis, manipulation and visualization of geospatial data;
- Sensors, remote sensing, laser-scanning, structure for motion;
- Strategic application domains: land management, crisis/disaster response, smart cities, climate change;
- New trends: IoT, Indoor mapping, UAV's.

The selection of the presentations, as in previous years, will be a mix of community voting and program committee evaluation. However, BLOC will make sure that every OSGeo project will have a “State of <project name>” kind of presentation.

#### 4.1.3. Academic track

The Academic track will run in parallel with the General track, following the same pattern with the General track. 26 slots are allocated for the Academic Track. Depending on the interest, the number of the slots for the Academic Track can be increased. The track will have a separate program committee formed by well known researchers and academia people.

#### 4.1.4. Poster sessions

Poster session will be considered in case we have an important number of rejected papers in both general and academic tracks and authors willing to present the paper as poster. The venue has space for at least 30 posters. The authors are expected to stand by the posters during the coffee and lunch breaks.

#### 4.1.5. Workshops

Workshops are one of the most attractive events of a FOSS4G conference. It's the place where our new members are getting a taste of the power and flexibility of our awesome software. Bucharest 2019 workshops will be organized in partnership with the University of Bucharest. This will give us not only a central location, 200 meters away from the main venue, but also a location for which we don't have to pay. The workshops will take place on Monday and Tuesday, just before the conference. Each workshop will have 4 hours. Following the model from Boston, workshops will be “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD). Workshop presenter will get a free pass for the conference (Note: the free pass is not applicable for workshop co-presenters). There is also a condition for the free pass. The authors should publish in advance (at least one week) the workshop support materiales (notes, data, etc) on Github or a similar platform. Workshop attendees will be provided a customized OSGEO-Live USB memory stick. Workshop cost for half-day session is 30 Euro per participant (early bird). Students will get a 50% discount. Each workshop will be designed for 20–30 attendees, with larger rooms available for the very popular workshops.

#### 4.1.6. Code sprint

As usual, the code sprint will take place on Saturday, after the end of the main conference. Our plans are to organize the code sprint in collaboration with the University of Bucharest and/or University Politehnica Bucharest and two local open source community groups. BLOC is also open to have another code sprint session on Sunday. The community will be



consulted for the opportunity via a survey. Food and beverages will be provided for free for all participants.

#### 4.1.7. Open Source EO Data Challenge

For more than 40 years, “Earth Observation” (EO) satellites developed or operated by space agencies like ESA and NASA have provided a wealth of data. While the availability of the growing volume of environmental data from space represents a unique opportunity for science, general R&D, and applications, it also poses a major challenge to achieve its full potential in terms of data exploitation. Firstly, because the emergence of large volumes of data (Petabytes era) raises new issues in terms of discovery, access, exploitation, and visualization of “Big Data”, with profound implications on how users do “data-intensive” Earth Science. Secondly, because the inherent growing diversity and complexity of data and users, whereby different communities - having different needs, methods, languages and protocols – need to cooperate to make sense of a wealth of data of different nature (e.g. EO, in- situ, model), structure, format and error budgets. Responding to these technological and community challenges requires the development of new ways of working, capitalizing on software and hardware developments to facilitate the exploitation, analysis, sharing, mining and visualization of massive EO data sets and high-level products within Europe and beyond. We are convinced that open source for geospatial can play a crucial role in addressing these challenges.

Through Open Source EO Data Challenge, we are challenging startups, open source developers, students and researchers to come up with something useful, valuable or interesting using large volumes of EO data. Linking of EO data with other sources of open data (e.g. OpenStreetMap) is highly encouraged. The competition will be open for approximately 8 months, from 1st of January until the conference date, and will have a few phases:

- Call for ideas (open for one month). The best ideas, selected by a group of open source/EO data gurus, will go into second phase.
- The feasibility of each selected idea will be tested by the teams with the help of a mentor coming from one of our veteran company partners.
- The best of the best will go to the final phase where the teams will receive accounts on a geocloud with access to multi-petabyte of data and high computing resources.
- The results will be presented during the conference and the winners will be selected by a jury with representatives from industry, open source communities, space agencies and the European Commission.

Our confirmed partner list include:

- Romanian Space Agency<sup>13</sup>
- European Space Agency<sup>14</sup>
- Copernicus Support Office<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> <http://rosa.ro/index.php/en>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.esa.int/ESA>

<sup>15</sup> <https://support.copernicus.eu>

- The European Commission Directorate General for Industry, Internal Market, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, unit on Space Data for Societal Challenges<sup>16</sup>
- Creotech Instruments/CloudFerro<sup>17</sup>
- Terrasigna<sup>18</sup>
- mundialis GmbH & Co. KG<sup>19</sup>
- Sinergise<sup>20</sup>
- EOX IT Services GmbH<sup>21</sup>
- West University of Timișoara - Computer Science Department<sup>22</sup>

## 4.2. What social events will be part of the schedule?

All the social events are detailed in section 1.4.

## 4.3. What dates do you expect to run the conference? Are they adjustable?

We are pretty set for the week 26-31 August 2017. In September there are a number of limitations with one of the selected venue locations, the National Theatre. Of course, we have two backup solutions that allows us to move the event in September or even early October.

## 4.4. Provide a list of local/regional/international conferences around the selected date that are viewed as competition or collaboration.

- Today's European Space Programmes: Applications and Synergies with a view on Eastern Europe conference - organized in each October in Bucharest by the Romanian Space Agency (ROSA), together with the European Space Agency (ESA) the Romanian Parliament- Chamber of Deputies and and with the support of the European Commission.
- FOSS4G Romania, take 2/3: Bucharest. Organised in early October. Will not take place in 2019.
- INSPIRE conference is organized usually at the end of September. No date/location decided for 2019.
- The 29th International Cartographic Conference and 17th General Assembly will take place in Tokyo, Japan, 15–20 July 2019.
- FOSS4G Europe, usually take place in spring/summer. In 2019 will not be organised.

<sup>16</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/index\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/index_en)

<sup>17</sup> <http://cloudferro.com/en>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.terrasigna.com>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.mundialis.de/en>

<sup>20</sup> <http://sinergise.com>

<sup>21</sup> <https://eox.at>

<sup>22</sup> <http://info.uvt.ro/v2/index.php/en>



## 5. Other

### 5.1. Explain your ideas on how to prevent unnecessary garbage and how to create a at most sustainable event

FOSS4G2019 follows the zero waste philosophy. In this direction the welcome bag that will be delivered to each participant will include no schedule printouts or maps. Instead, this information will be made available via web apps. The inherent waste (plastic, paper, glass) that will be collected post conference will be separated and delivered to certified waste collection companies. In order to facilitate this outcome, at the conference premises there will be available selective waste collection bins and all the participants will be encourage to use them properly.

In addition, the organising committee of FOSS4G2019 **will support the reforestation efforts in Romania while donating for each confirmed participant 1 euro to a local NGO** activating in this domain. The donation act and the future usage of the budget will be documented transparently.

### 5.2. Other relevant details (ie. do you plan to use professional conference organizing service, and approximate cost).

We strive for FOSS4G2019 Bucharest to rise at the highest standards and to do that, we will work with a professional conference organizing service, Event Vision. The company is an SME based in Bucharest that has assisted us in drafting a well informed budget for our requirements. We are confident in a successful collaboration, as part of their team has joined one of our traditional 2 days workshop and proved to well understand the spirit of this community, its values and principles.

Moreover, we will take upon Boston LOC offer and, in case of a successful proposal, we will kindly ask for their equipment to register all the sessions. We are confident that all talks should reach as many attendees as possible, even if, not all in flesh and bone. We will consider a live streaming using free of charge services, such as Youtube.

### 5.3. Conference logo



The Logo in discussion is not the final version, but rather a first version the team has agreed on, following the criteria below:

- **Theme**

We based the design of the logotype on the shape of the map localization symbol, a representative element for the scientific character of the event. Following this idea, the logotype corresponds, by the applied coordinates, to the very location of the 2019 event - Bucharest, “km 0” - University Square area.

For FOSS4G 2019 we also borrowed and used elements that were already used in the event’s logotype over its recent history.

- **Shape**

The accuracy of the shape gives equilibrium to the logotype, but you can also observe the positive dynamics one can feel thanks to the suggestion of the clockwise motion.

- **Fonts**

The font we have used for text areas is a robust one, with straight lines, who adds to the visual feeling of perfection when used next to the round shapes of the logotype.

We chose the colors of the logotype following the principle of the simultaneous contrast (of the same intensity), but also the one of the cold-warm contrast (blue-ish green - yellow-ish orange), hence the same exposure value on either dark or bright background.

## 5.4. Professional conference organizing service provider: Vision Event

This event and coordinator company is expert in large and small scale event production & coordination services and general equipment supply and offers a wide range of services including site and venue sourcing and design.

With an average of 30 events per year hosting more than 10,000 guests, Vision Event has expertise in the following: Site Selection & Negotiation, Facility Coordination & Management, Trade Show Management & Sponsor, Registration Processing & Customer Service, Financial Oversight & Budget Management, Onsite Management, Project Management & Planning.

The team has over 10 years of experience in hospitality and event organization. It has 10 members: Events Managers, Events coordinators, Graphic Designer, Financial Account, PR Officer and auxiliars.

Our vision: to create and deliver experiences that engage, entertain, educate and delight like nothing else.

## 5.5. Local media partner: Agora Media

Agora Group is a publishing house specialized in IT&C and business. Agora Group was established in 1992, and until today was editing magazines such as PC Report, Open – Information Technology, BYTE România, NET Report, Gazeta de Informatica, PC Magazine Romania, eWeek Romania, Channel Partner Romania, Zoom IT&C brochure, SinteTIC year book, IT Trends, Cybersecurity Trends and Digital Trends.

Presently, Agora Group's portfolio includes the printed magazine IT Trends, Cybersecurity Trends (romanian, french (CH), italian (IT), english (UK) and german (D) editions),

Romanian Cloud Computing Catalogue, Romanian Data Center Catalogue, the events: Agora Regional Conferences, Agora Technology Conferences, Agora Solutions Conferences, roadshows for SMB's, the online portal [www.agora.ro](http://www.agora.ro) and [bpmeasterneurope.org](http://bpmeasterneurope.org) sites, and the daily news service AgoraNews. More details: [www.agora.ro](http://www.agora.ro).

Beside the local partner we will work with regional (like [hunagi.hu](http://hunagi.hu), [gisportal.cz](http://gisportal.cz)) and international media partners (like [directionsmag.com](http://directionsmag.com)). BLOC has good connections with these kind of media partners after working with them for FOSS4G-CEE 2013 and various FOSS4G-Europe conferences.

## Annex 1: Letters of Support





## Romanian Space Agency – Agenția Spațială Română

*Bucharest, 1 December 2017*

To: Till Adams, OSGeo Conference Committee Chair  
geo-spatial.org, Romania  
Subject: FOSS4G 2019 conference bid

Dear mr. Adams,

Knowing about the strong commitment of the Romanian geospatial community to host the FOSS4G 2019 Conference, we are pleased to confirm that the Romanian Space Agency – ROSA will be ready to join the efforts of geo-spatial.org and the local organizing team and to be a strategic partner towards making the 2019 edition a successful event.

Being acknowledged that the conference will focus on the management and processing of the big Earth Observation (EO) and geospatial data and given our strategic role in this field, we will strongly encourage our partners to contribute and to support this event.

Our staff is very active in the EO field and has a comprehensive view of the activities being performed in the global context strongly influenced by the European Space Agency and European Union space programmes and especially by Copernicus, the European flagship programme for monitoring the environment and security. This is why I am confident that we can significantly contribute to ensure a high quality content and to give the geospatial community strong reasons to participate to this conference.

For any additional information you may need at this stage regarding our involvement in this event, please contact us by sending an e-mail to mr. Ion Nedelcu ([ion.nedelcu@rosa.ro](mailto:ion.nedelcu@rosa.ro)), Director for Environment and Security projects in ROSA and a member of the geo-spatial.org board.

With kind regards,

Marius-Ioan Piso  
President and CEO



Ministry of Environment  
**NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL ADMINISTRATION**



Date: 30.11.2017

To: Till Adams

Organization: OSGeo Conference Committee

Subject: Letter of support for Bucharest FOSS4G2019 LOC

Dear Mr. Adams,

On behalf of the Romanian National Meteorological Administration (Meteo Romania), I'm pleased to support the Bucharest Local Organizing Committee bid to host Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial conference in 2019.

Meteo Romania is a legal entity of national, public interest whose main aim is to ensure the meteorological protection of life and property. The Remote Sensing & GIS Laboratory, inside Meteo Romania, is one of the leading Romanian providers in geospatial products and services for environment applications and a heavy user and promoter of open source geospatial technologies.

Bucharest is a vibrant city with an excellent reputation in hosting international conferences. Meteo Romania look forward to welcoming the FOSS4G Conference and it's well renowned community to Bucharest in 2019.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gheorghe Stăncăle

Executive Director



Mr Ion Nedelcu  
Romanian Space Agency  
ROSA Headquarters  
21-25 Mendeleev Str.  
010362 Bucharest  
Romania

Our ref.: EOP-C/dk/2017-066

Paris, 30 November 2017

**Subject: geo-spatial.org candidate for FOSS4G 2019**

Dear Mr Nedelcu,

Following your email dated 29 November 2017, I confirm you that the European Space Agency (ESA) is available to support the FOSS4G 2019 Conference.

The ESA contribution could be the following:

- chairing sessions dedicated to i.e. EO and Educational software;
- organising workshops addressing the exploitation of open satellite data using the ESA software toolboxes;
- organising special sessions of EO App Camp and/or Copernicus Masters.

Yours sincerely,



Simonetta Cheli  
Head of Strategy, Programme and Coordination Office  
Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Space Policy, Copernicus and Defence

**Space data for societal challenges and growth**

Brussels,  
GROW/I3/TD  
December 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

### **Topic: Letter of Support to geo-spatial.org**

The European Commission Directorate General for Industry, Internal Market, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, unit on Space Data for Societal Challenges (henceforth DG GROW-unit I3) hereby acknowledges that we have been informed about the geo-spatial.org application to organise the FOSS4G 2019 Conference in Bucharest, and would like to express our support to their project.

The European Commission having been a gold sponsor of the 2017 FOSS4G Europe Conference, and Copernicus having participated through the Copernicus Support Office, we very much value the importance of these conferences for the development of new uses of space data to boost growth and tackle societal challenges. Copernicus being the largest supplier of satellite open data in the world, we also appreciate the opportunity FOSS4G conferences represents for raising awareness of the benefits of the Copernicus programme.

In case Bucharest's application would be successful, DG GROW-unit I3 declares that it will follow its implementation and will, to the extent possible:

- Support the project by raising awareness and disseminating information via our communication channels.
- Provide advice, background material and information about opportunities offered by different programmes run by the Commission and that have great complementarities with the FOSS4G conference Project (notably the Copernicus Relays, Copernicus Academy and Copernicus Accelerator).
- Provide support to events (with speakers, materials...), notably via the Copernicus user support office.

Yours Sincerely,

Andreas Veispak  
Head of Unit

**To: Till Adams, OSGeo Conference Committee Chair**

Dear Sir,

This is to confirm that the Copernicus Support Office strongly backs the bid of geo-spatial.org to organise the FOSS4G 2019 Conference in Bucharest.


Having worked in the past with the organisers and having attended various events related to space data in Bucharest we have been impressed by the vigour of the local stakeholder scene as much as by the motivation and professionalism in organisation of key events.

If the application of geo-spatial.org were successful, we would be, within the mandate we have received from the European Commission, happy to provide the following support to the FOSS4G Conference and to geo-spatial.org:

- Securing sponsorship of the Conference by the European Commission
- Supporting in the selection of speakers from the European space data ecosystem
- Providing speakers from EC, the Copernicus Support Office, and key Copernicus stakeholder communities
- Supporting speakers travel and accommodation costs
- Mobilising the providers of Copernicus Services for Marine, Atmosphere, Climate Change, Land and Emergency Management applications to promote, support and attend the conference
- Promoting the Conference, before and during the actual event, through Copernicus communication channels (Twitter, FB, Copernicus website) and partner's dedicated channels (European Space Agency, ECMWF, EUMETSAT, etc.)

We remain at your disposal for any other information you would require at this stage and hope that we will have the pleasure of collaborating with OSGeo on this important endeavour.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stéphane Ourevitch'.

Stéphane Ourevitch  
Supervisor  
Copernicus Support Office  
support@copernicus.eu  
<http://copernicus.eu/main/contact-and-support>



FACULTATEA DE GEOGRAFIE

Bd. Nicolae Bălcescu, nr. 1, sector 1 | 010041, București, ROMÂNIA

Tel.: (+4) 021 305 38 10; (+4) 021 305 38 09; (+4) 021 305 38 13 | Fax: (+4) 021 315 30 74

E-mail: secretariat@geo.unibuc.ro | Website: www.geo.unibuc.ro

Date: November 29, 2017  
To: Till Adams  
OSGeo conference committee

Dear Mr. Adams,



We are happy to have the opportunity to express our support for the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Chapter Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

We have supported and promoted the activities of the Romanian OSGeo Local Chapter - geo-spatial.org - over many years now and we share their principles. We strongly believe in the valuable results of their volunteered efforts, results that are not only obvious in the professional advancement of our students, but also in their personal growth, their understanding of the benefits of sharing and living in a strong, healthy community.

We are happy to support FOO4G Conference in terms of providing infrastructure for the workshops, which will be held in our institution. For this event our Faculty has up to 12 ready to use, with state of the art facilities, halls that can be use for workshops.

We are also very proud that a significant number of the core members of the geo-spatial.org are students of ours, different generations sharing the principles of free and open source solutions.

Sincerely,  
Prof. Dr. Laura Comanescu  
Dean, Faculty of Geography



ROMANIA \* ROMANIA  
FACULTATEA DE GEOGRAFIE  
UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCUREȘTI  
MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI NAȚIONALE



**ROMÂNIA**  
**UNIVERSITATEA "BABEȘ-BOLYAI"**

Str. Mihail Kogălniceanu, nr. 1  
400084, Cluj-Napoca  
Tel. (00) 40 - 264 - 40.53.00\*; 40.53.01; 40.53.02  
Fax: 40 - 264 - 59.19.06  
E-mail: [staff@staff.ubbcluj.ro](mailto:staff@staff.ubbcluj.ro)

**FACULTATEA DE GEOGRAFIE**

Str. Clinicilor nr. 5-7  
400006, Cluj-Napoca  
[www.geografie.ubbcluj.ro](http://www.geografie.ubbcluj.ro)  
Tel: 0264 596116; 592214  
Fax: 0264 597988  
E-mail: [geogr@geografie.ubbcluj.ro](mailto:geogr@geografie.ubbcluj.ro)



---

Date: 30.11.2017

To: **Till Adams**

Organization: OSGeo Conference Committee

Subject: Letter of support for Bucharest FOSS4G2019 LOC

**Dear Sir,**

We are excited to have the opportunity to support the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

The Faculty of Geography from the Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, România is a traditional partner of the Romanian OSGeo Local Chapter - [geo-spatial.org](http://geo-spatial.org) - and we follow their activities closely. Since 2009, we organize together the Free and Open Source Solutions for geospatial data processing and visualization workshops. We also collaborated in the eHarta project - a volunteer collaborative project to digitally preserve old cartographic documents and maps. We were fortunate to develop such a project together because it allowed us, through their technical powerful capabilities to safeguard a wealth of historic maps for Romania. The project is ongoing and is available online.

We believe that the BLOC would rise to the challenge in organizing a successful event.

Sincerely,

**D. Petrea**

Dean, PhD. Professor  
Babes-Bolyai University  
Faculty of Geography

  
Decan  
Prof. Univ. Dr. Petrea Dan  




Universitatea  
Transilvania  
din Braşov  
FACULTATEA DE SILVICULTURĂ  
ŞI EXPLOATĂRI FORESTIERE

Str. Şirul Beethoven 1  
500123 – Braşov, Romania  
tel.: (+40) 268.418.600 | fax: (+40)  
268.475.705  
f-sef@unitbv.ro | www.unitbv.ro/silvic

December 4, 2017

**Till Adams**  
**OSGeo Conference Committee**

**Letter of support for Bucharest FOSS4G2019 LOC**

Dear Mr. Adams,

We are happy to have the opportunity to express our support for the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

At the Transilvania University of Braşov - Faculty of Forestry - we use open source software for some of the geospatial processing and visualization activities, including teaching activities. Thus, we understand the values of the open source community and we share its principles.

We would strongly support a global FOSS4G 2019 in Bucharest. It would be a unique opportunity to engage with the world wide Open Source community that we will not miss.

Yours truly,



Prof. dr. Alexandru Lucian Curtu  
Dean, Faculty of Forestry





Date: 03.12.2017

To: Till Adams

Organization: OSGeo Conference Committee

Reference: Letter of support for Bucharest FOSS4G2019 LOC

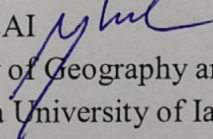
Dear Sir,

We gladly support the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

The Faculty of Geography and Geology from the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași is a power user of open source technology, as we use it to teach as well as in various research activities. We believe in the open source and open data principles and we support all initiatives in these directions.

We are familiar with the activities of the Romanian OSGeo Local Chapter - [geo-spatial.org](http://geo-spatial.org) - over the years. We are also partners in a GIS conference that we organize together with the Institute of Ecology and Geography of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova, the Technical University Gheorghe Asachi Iași, State Agrarian University of Moldova, Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj and the Romanian Academy. Hence, we are well acquainted with the team and we strongly believe in their capacity of organizing a successful event.

Thank you,

Lect. Dr. Mihai BULAI   
Vice-dean of Faculty of Geography and Geology  
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania  
Tel. +40232201074, Email. [geoiasi@uaic.ro](mailto:geoiasi@uaic.ro)





2069, Chișinău, str. Gh. Iablocikin 5  
Tel/Fax +373 (22) 75-49-24  
e-mail: [info@ust.md](mailto:info@ust.md)

5, Gh. Iablocikin Street, Postal Code 2069,  
Chișinău, Republic of Moldova,  
Tel/Fax +373 (22) 75-49-24  
e-mail: [info@ust.md](mailto:info@ust.md)

Date: November 30, 2017  
To: Till Adams  
OSGeo Conference Committee Chair

Dear Mr. Adams,

I am happy to have the opportunity to express our strong support for the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Chapter Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

At the Tiraspol State University, Faculty of Geography we put high value on the open source solutions for geospatial, using them to teach our students, but also in our research projects.

Although we have had a high interest in the global event, participation was not affordable. A number of colleagues had the opportunity to attend FOSS4G CEE in 2013, and they brought home a very positive impression with valuable connections.

A global FOSS4G held in Bucharest would be an event we would not miss.

Sincerely,

Eduard COROPCEANU, PhD, Professor

Rector of Tiraspol State University





ACADEMIA DE ȘTIINȚE A MOLDOVEI

INSTITUTUL DE ECOLOGIE  
ȘI GEOGRAFIE

str. Academiei, 1, Chișinău, MD-2028  
tel. 0 22 73.15.50; tel/fax 0 22 73.98.38,  
0 22 21.11.34  
e-mail: [ieg@asm.md](mailto:ieg@asm.md)



ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF MOLDOVA

INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGY AND  
GEOGRAPHY

1, Academiei str., Chișinău, MD-2028  
tel. 0 22 73.15.50; tel/fax 0 22 73.98.38,  
0 22 21.11.34  
e-mail: [ieg@asm.md](mailto:ieg@asm.md)

**Date: November 30, 2017**  
**To: Till Adams**  
**OSGeo Conference Committee**

Dear Mr. Adams,

We are pleased to support the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Chapter Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

The Institute of Ecology and Geography of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova develops several activities in which we make use of free and open source solutions for geospatial. Thus, we understand and appreciate the value of this movement and we consider that commissioning Bucharest to host the FOSS4G 2019 would be a wonderful opportunity to open lines of communication between scientists in this area of expertise.

Respectfully yours,

Prof. Ph.D. Maria Nedelcov

Director





Date: November 29, 2017  
To: Till Adams  
OSGeo conference committee

Dear Mr. Adams,

We are pleased to have the opportunity to express our support for the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Chapter Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

West University of Timișoara is one of the best rated such universities in Romania. The Geography Department is one of the most competitive in the region with a strong interest in providing the best start for our students in the workforce adventure. Thus, we have strongly encouraged Open Source and Open Data initiatives in Romania.

The West University of Timișoara is a long standing partner, promoter and supporter of the events and activities organized over the years by geo-spatial.org, the OSGeo Romanian Local Chapter. We are the local partner in the series of traditional geo-spatial.org seminars: Free and Open Source Software for geospatial data processing and visualization since 2010, gathering over hundreds students and young professionals at 7 seminars.

We have also supported FOSS4G CEE organized in 2013 in Bucharest, where we had the pleasure of first hand proof that the geo-spatial.org has the strength of professionally organizing an international successful event.

We consider that allowing a FOSS4G2019 in Bucharest would be an important and necessary support of the Free and Open Source solutions for geospatial in this part of the world and that the Local Organizing Team is the team to successfully put it together.

Sincerely,

Assoc. Professor PhD Cătălina Ancuța,  
Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology, Geography





DEAN

Date: 04.12.2017

To: Till Adams

Organization: OSGeo Conference Committee

Subject: Letter of support for Bucharest FOSS4G2019 LOC

Dear Sir,

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the Bucharest Local Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

Until now, this region was underrepresented on the FOSS4G map. We believe that bringing the FOSS4G to Bucharest will continue to strengthen the local geospatial community as well as enrich the overall OSGEO community. From our side we are determined to collaborate with the Bucharest LOC and to promote the event as better as possible in Hungary. Members of our institution would certainly participate in the conference process and the actual event.

We look forward to the success of the Bucharest 2019 bid!

Sincerely,

  
Dr. László Dunai



Date: December 4th, 2017

To: Till Adams

OSGeo conference committee

Dear Mr. Adams,

Teamnet Group (a leading IT integrator) is honored to submit this official letter to express its support for the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee, regarding a global FOSS4G 2019 in Bucharest.

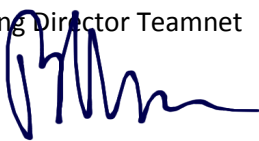
The company is very well acquainted with the Romanian OSGeo Local Chapter - [geo-spatial.org](http://geo-spatial.org) - and with their projects and values, being a fact that a part of our employees represent a constant input for the Local Chapter. Moreover, we identify our working principles on certain projects with the FOSS4G tools. In order to express our support, the company proudly sponsored FOSS4G CEE 2013 and appoints our colleagues to participate to FOSS4G conferences.

We strongly believe that a Bucharest FOSS4G 2019 would significantly increase the Local Chapter's awareness and improve the IT sector working capacity.

Yours,

Bogdan Nedelcu

Managing Director Teamnet



Date: 04.12.2017

To: Till Adams

Organization: OSGeo Conference Committee

Subject: Letter of support for Bucharest FOSS4G2019 LOC

Dear Mr. Adams,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to express my support for the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

I am very well acquainted with the Romanian OSGeo Local Chapter - [geo-spatial.org](http://geo-spatial.org) - and with their activities, projects and workshops. In fact, 50% of the BLOC are either part of my team in Terrasigna, or have been deep-rooted collaborators over time. As I have seen it at work, I believe in the sustainability and power of innovation of open source solutions and I understand the importance of the community and the necessity of organising events that allows it to interact f2f and to foster connections that, in time, lead to all kinds of fruitful collaborations. I support my team in that direction, sending them to FOSS4Gs all over the world. I have also been a sponsor for various FOSS4Gs, such as FOSS4G CEE 2013 or FOSS4G Europe 2017.

Bringing the global FOSS4G in Bucharest would be, without a doubt, a beneficial move for all parties involved. Bucharest is an extremely vibrant town, with an IT sector evolving significantly fast. And this is a recognized trend in the entire region. Because of the conference total cost barrier, I consider that this region was underrepresented in the OSGeo community and at this kind of events. However, a Bucharest FOSS4G 2019 could significantly change that status quo.

Yours,

Florin Șerban

Managing Director Terrasigna







SOFT BUSINESS UNION S.R.L.  
B-dul Regina Maria nr. 6 , demisol (cam. 2 si 4),  
parter (cam. 1), etaj 1, etaj 2, Sector 4, Bucuresti,  
C.I.F. : RO25274176,  
Reg. Com.: J40/ 3332/ 2009  
Tel.: +4 031.437.92.82 / Fax: +4 031.437.92.81  
office@soft-union.ro / www.soft-union.ro

Date: 04.12.2017

To: Till Adams

Organization: OSGeo Conference Committee

Subject: Letter of support for Bucharest FOSS4G2019 LOC

S.C. SOFT BUSINESS UNION S.R.L.			
INTRAIRE	Nr.	271	
IESIRE			
Ziua	04	Luna	12
		Anul	2017

Dear Mr. Adams,

We are honoured to support the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

We are a strong supporter of the usage of the open source solutions for geospatial and we constantly promote it in the public administration, through our implemented projects. We understand and share the values of the open source ecosystem.

We are also aware of the Romanian OSGeo Local Chapter - geo-spatial.org - activities that we have supported over time, volunteering for their projects or sponsoring events, such as the FOSS4G CEE 2013. We are convinced that the team has the capabilities of organizing a successful FOSS4G.

Sincerely,

S.C. SOFT BUSINESS UNION S.R.L.

Executive Director,



Sorin-Valeriu Alexandru



**Dear Mr. Adams,**

**We are glad to show our suport for the Bucharest Local Organizing Comitee bid to host the OSGeo Conference.**

**This would bring tremendeous value for the geospatial industry as it's a very good opportunity for the whole region to synchronize towards common open software and goals.**

**As an open source company we're pushing the same goals forward and this event would be great for all of us.**

**We're honored that you consider Bucharest as a viable option and we honestly believe that it's a great option.**

**Sincerely yours,**

**Tudor Bărăscu**

**Administrator**

**QTIBIA Engineering**





Date: 01.12.2017

To: Till Adams

Organization: OSGeo Conference Committee

Subject: Letter of support for Bucharest FOSS4G2019 LOC

Dear Mr. Adams,

I happily send our letter of support for the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

I know the activities of geo-spatial.org and I consider them essential for a healthy development of the GI young professionals in Romania. I believe that the open source ecosystem has robust principles and values that go beyond merely a business model, that they define a concrete, better way for individuals to report themselves to the world around them.

I supported geo-spatial.org activities over time with volunteer time and sponsorships for their events, such as the FOSS4G CEE 2013 and I am convinced that the team has both the energy and the knowledge to organize a successful global FOSS4G in Bucharest.

Sincerely yours,

Miruna Bădescu  
Managing Partner  
Eau de Web





Date: 30.11.2017

To: Till Adams

Organization: OSGeo Conference Committee

Subject: Letter of support for Bucharest FOSS4G2019 LOC

Dear Mr. Adams:

I am more than happy to send this letter to you expressing my official support for the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

Needless to describe my support for the geo-spatial.org team, the BLOC. I have been part of the geo-spatial.org board from the beginning. I believe that what we do, our activities and projects are important for the Romanian GI community and that is indisputable if one looks at how we grew over the years. I have volunteered my time and energy and, in some cases, the time and energy of my team at Forest Design, because I believe in the open source ecosystem and its principles.

I believe that we, the BLOC, can built a successful event in Bucharest and, that besides aspects such as our ability to put together a great program, prepare a fully equipped high level venue and of course, lay the grounds for memorable socializing days, FOSS4G 2019 Bucharest will be one of the most affordable events. In my opinion, as a SME managing director, that is a very important incentive.

Yours truly,  
Bogdan Candrea

S.C. Forest Design S.R.L  
Brasov City, str. Plugarilor  
nr. 3L13, Ap.1, Brasov County,  
Romania


Date: 04.12.2017

To: Till Adams

Organization: OSGeo Conference Committee

Subject: Letter of support for Bucharest FOSS4G2019 LOC

Dear Mr. Adams,

We are delighted to have the opportunity to express our support for the bid submitted by the Bucharest Local Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

We, CivicTech România (IT Center for Community Solutions), are a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the efficiency, quality and transparency of Romanian public administration — both central and local — by means of IT&C.

We are strong supporters and promoters of Open Source and Open Data initiatives and we develop a number of projects to actively contribute to the progress of our community.

We are excited to learn of such a proposal to host an IT global conference in Bucharest, Romania and we consider that it would be beneficial for all parties involved.

Sincerely,  
Lucian Stuparu

President

IT Center for Community Solutions



---



# EARSC

European Association  
of Remote Sensing  
Companies

---

Brussels

4th December 2017

To: Till Adams, OSGeo Conference Committee Chair

Dear Sir,

Having learned of the application by geo-spatial.org to organise the FOSS4G 2019 Conference in Bucharest we are pleased to lend our support to this request.

EARSC is the European Association of Remote Sensing Companies. We represent over 100 European EO service companies which are members of our association. In this respect we would be pleased to mobilise their collective efforts in support of the Conference.

EO Service companies are both providers and users of open data and we have a working group which is dedicated to this topic. We very much value the importance of these conferences for the development of new uses of space data to tackle societal challenges. As the trade association representing the industry, we also appreciate the opportunity FOSS4G conferences present for raising awareness of the capabilities of the sector and exchanging on issues of mutual interest.

In case Bucharest's application would be successful, we would be happy to promote the conference amongst our members and participate ourselves through a media partnership or similar arrangement.

We hope that we will have the pleasure of collaborating with OSGeo in the organisation of the 2019 FOSS4G Conference.

Yours sincerely,



F.G.Sawyer

EARSC Secretary General

European Association of Remote Sensing Companies, 26, Rue Beranger, Forest, 1190, BELGIUM

Phone: 0032476737564; E-mail: [secretariat@earsc.org](mailto:secretariat@earsc.org) ; web-site : [www.earsc.org](http://www.earsc.org)

VAT Number: BE0447243442

Bank Account: BNP Paribas Fortis Bank, Brussels, Belgium. IBAN Code :BE08210005496013 BIC, GEBABEBB36A



## Annex 2: Copernicus Program

The Copernicus European Earth observation programme is a joint initiative between the European Union (EU), its Members States, and the European Space Agency (ESA). The Copernicus Regulation established the programme, building on and continuing the experience of the previous Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) programme.

The European Union has established the programme to address observed gaps in European Earth observation capabilities and utilisation, and to guarantee European institutions and industry with independent access to Earth observation data and information.

The Copernicus service component aims to make data and products freely available for a wide variety of users. This component is composed of six services, which integrate data from the space and in-situ components in order to offer Copernicus products tailored to the needs of specific end-users. Each of the six services responds to very specific challenges identified as key for European society and is delegated to competent service operators (Entrusted Entities) that manage the Copernicus services, creating new products and performing research activities:

- Land Monitoring Service □
- Emergency Management Service □
- Marine Environment Monitoring Service □
- Atmosphere Monitoring Service □
- Climate Change Service □
- Security Service □

The Copernicus space component includes the procurement, launch and operation of the Sentinel satellites, the operation of the Ground Segment, and the distribution of Sentinels' and contributing missions' data. The space component is also responsible for providing in-situ data for calibration and validation of dedicated mission observations. The European Commission has entrusted the European Space Agency (ESA) to lead the technical coordination and procurement for the Sentinel fleet, which is operated by ESA and EUMETSAT in collaboration.

The Copernicus in-situ component is one of the three pillars of the programme. In-situ component data include observations from the ground, sea and airborne sensors as well as geospatial reference and ancillary data licensed or provided for use in Copernicus.

## Annex 3: Budget planning

	CONSTANTS	Budget	euro			
	USD Exchange Rate	0.843336				
	Early Bird Registrations	0.5				
	Workshop Slots	1				
	Local Currency	euro				
	Workshops Fee					
	Early Bird Conference Fee	330				
	Regular Workshops Fee	30				
	Regular Conference Fee	440				
	Complimentary Registrations					
	SUMMARY			Base	Better	Best
				Local Currency	Local Currency	Local Currency
	Total Attendance			600	850	1000
	Paid Attendance					
	Total Revenue			297200	393450	451200
	Total Expenses			246,694.95	295,205.46	325,540.44
	Surplus/Loss			50,505.05	98,244.54	125,659.56
	Surplus/Loss per Attendee			84.18	115.58	125.66
	REVENUE – REGISTRATION					
	Workshops	1	540	16200	16200	16200
	Early Bird Conference	0.5	330	99000	140250	165000
	Regular Conference	0.5	440	132000	187000	220000
	Total Registration			247200	343450	401200
	REVENUE – SPONSORS & EXHIBITION					
	Sponsors & Exhibitors			50000	50000	50000
				0	0	0
	Total Sponsorship & Exhibition			50000	50000	50000

	REVENUE – TOTAL	Budget		297200	393450	451200
	EXPENSES – CONFERENCE					
	On-site Expenses					
	Meeting room rental, Security and housekeeping			66745	66745	66745
	including A/V (projectors, screens, audio, plenary, setup, support)					
	Wireless Internet (for all attendees)			4470	4470	4470
	Volunteer appreciation			0	0	0
	Delegate t-shirts		9	5400	7650	9000
	Registration badges & tickets		2	1200	1700	2000
	Registration management systems+ desk+ self services registration kiosks			3000	3000	3000
	Committee and Speaker Costs					
	Invited speakers (travel, lodging, fees)			5000	5000	5000
	Gifts for speakers (invited, keynotes, etc)			0	0	0
	Marketing Expenses				0	0
	Logo and electronic stationary			1000	1000	1000
	Conference web site			3000	3000	3000
	Final Program (design)			1500	1500	1500
	Print advertising			0	0	0
	Internet advertising			0	0	0
	Singnage			7000	7000	7000
	Administrative Expenses					
	Photocopier, photocopies			300	300	300
	Bank & credit card fees (Visa & MC)		0.02	4944	6869	8024
	Conference Catering Expenses	days	euro/pers/day			
	Coffee break& pastery 1	3	6	10800	15300	18000
	Lunch (F& B included)	3	12	21600	30600	36000
	Coffe break& pastery 2	3	8	14400	20400	24000
	Ice breaker cocktail (F& B included)	1	35	21000	29750	35000
	Gala Dinner (F& B included)	1	45	27000	38250	45000

	Workshops costs	1		5400	5400	5400
	Volunteer/other complementary seats costs	1		10000	10000	10000
	Total Expenses			213759	257934	284439
	EXPENSES – OTHER					
	Contingency	0.05		10687.95	12896.7	14221.95
	Total Pre-tax Expenses			224446.95	270830.7	298660.95
	VAT - included	0.19		0	0	0
	Total Conference Expenses			224446.95	270830.7	298660.95
	EXPENSES – CONFERENCE ORGANIZER					
	Total Conference Organizer Expenses			22248	24374.763	26879.4855
	EXPENSES – TOTAL			246694.95	295205.463	325540.4355

## Annex 4: Event program

Workshops Monday 26 August											
Time	WSR 01	WSR 02	WSR 03	WSR 04	WSR 05	WSR 06	WSR 07	WSR 08	WSR 09	WSR 10	OSODC Room
8:00	Registration										
8:30											
9:00	Workshop Session 1-1										Open Source EO Data Challenge
9:30											
10:00											
10:30											
11:00											
11:30											
12:00											
12:30											
13:00	Lunch break										
13:30											
14:00	Workshop Session 1-2										Open Source EO Data Challenge
14:30											
15:00											
15:30											
16:00											
16:30											
17:00											
17:30											
18:00	Pub race										
18:30 - ∞											



Workshops Tuesday 27 August											
Time	WSR 01	WSR 02	WSR 03	WSR 04	WSR 05	WSR 06	WSR 07	WSR 08	WSR 09	WSR 10	OSODC Room
8:00	Registration										
8:30											
9:00	Workshop Session 2-1										Open Source EO Data Challenge
9:30											
10:00											
10:30											
11:00											
11:30											
12:00											
12:30											
13:00	Lunch break										
13:30											
14:00	Workshop Session 2-2										Open Source EO Data Challenge
14:30											
15:00											
15:30											
16:00											
16:30											
17:00											
17:30											
18:00	Pub race										
18:30 - ∞											

Conference Wednesday 28 August										
Time	Plenary room	CR 01	CR 02	CR 03	CR 04	CR 05	CR 06	CR 07	CR 08	CR 09
8:00	<b>Registration</b>									
8:30										
9:00	<b>Plenary session</b>									
9:30										
10:00										
10:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>									
11:00	<b>Parallel sessions</b>									
11:30										
12:00										
12:30	<b>Lunch break</b>									
13:00										
13:30	<b>Parallel sessions</b>									
14:00										
14:30										
15:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>									
15:30	<b>Parallel sessions</b>									
16:00										
16:30										
17:00										
17:30	<b>Birds of a feather</b>									
18:00										
19:30 - 2:30	<b>Welcome party</b>									
2:30 - ∞	<b>Pub race</b>									

Conference Thursday 29 August										
Time	Plenary room	CR 01	CR 02	CR 03	CR 04	CR 05	CR 06	CR 07	CR 08	CR 09
8:00	<b>Registration</b>									
8:30										
9:00	<b>Plenary session</b>									
9:30										
10:00										
10:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>									
11:00	<b>Parallel sessions</b>									
11:30										
12:00										
12:30	<b>Lunch break</b>									
13:00										
13:30	<b>Parallel sessions</b>									
14:00										
14:30										
15:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>									
15:30	<b>Parallel sessions</b>									
16:00										
16:30										
17:00										
17:30	<b>Birds of a feather</b>									
18:00										
19:30 - 2:30	<b>Gala dinner</b>									
2:30 - ∞	<b>Pub race</b>									

Conference Friday 30 August										
Time	Plenary room	CR 01	CR 02	CR 03	CR 04	CR 05	CR 06	CR 07	CR 08	CR 09
8:00	<b>Registration</b>									
8:30										
9:00	<b>Plenary session</b>									
9:30										
10:00										
10:30										
11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>									
11:30										
12:00										
12:30	<b>Parallel sessions</b>									
13:00										
13:30	<b>Lunch break</b>									
14:00										
14:30										
15:00	<b>Parallel sessions</b>									
15:30										
16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>									
16:30										
17:00										
17:30										
18:00										
19:00 - ∞	<b>OSGeo AGM &amp; Closing plenary session</b>									
	<b>Pub race</b>									

Code sprint Saturday 31 August	
Time	Code sprint venue
9:00	Code sprint
9:30	
10:00	
10:30	
11:00	
11:30	
12:00	
12:30	Lunch break
13:00	
13:30	Code sprint
14:00	
14:30	
15:00	
15:30	
16:00	
16:30	
17:00	
17:30 - ∞	Pub race