

Letter of intent for Global FOSS4G 2022

Dear OSGeo Conference Committee,

We feel honored to announce to you the Italian OSGeo local chapter, Associazione Italiana per l'Informazione Geografica Libera (GFOSS.it) intends to make a proposal to host the 16th Global FOSS4G in Italy in 2022. GFOSS.it, with the support of the Italian community, Florence University, AIM Group International, Firenze Fiera Congress & Exhibition Center and the Firenze Convention Bureau, is proud to propose Florence as the host city.

Please find here below our answers to all your questions listed on page 11 of the RFP.

Who is your conference chair?

Chair: Luca Delucchi. Member of GFOSS.it, OSGeo and OpenStreetMap advocate, he has been involved in GFOSS.it activities since 2008, including conference organization; he is an OSGeo Charter Member since 2011. He is part of the GRASS GIS development team and contributes to other OSGeo projects. He has contributed to OpenStreetMap since 2007 helping the Italian community to grow. He works at Fondazione Edmund Mach as a GIS expert.

Who is part of your local organizing committee (LOC)?

The Local Organizing Committee is a diverse group of people working in private companies, research centers and universities, Public Administrations and associations. Actual members are: **Andrea Antonello** (Hydrologis), **Valentina Bonora** (Università degli Studi di Firenze), **Stefano Campus** (GFOSS.it and Regione Piemonte), **Paolo Cavallini** (Faunalia), **Marco Ciolli** (Università di Trento), **Manuela Corongiu** (Consorzio LaMMA), **Paolo Dabove** (Politecnico di Torino), **Simone Dalmaso** (European Commission - JRC), **Amedeo Fadini** (IUAV - CNR), **Alessandro Fanna** (Elogika IT), **Bianca Federici** (Università di Genova), **Chiara Ferrario** (Freelancer), **Enrico Ferreguti** (GFOSS.it), **Silvia Franceschi** (Hydrologis), **Cristiano Giovando** (HOT) **Anisa Kuci** (Wikimedia Italia), **Marco Minghini** (European Commission - JRC), **Maurizio Napolitano** (Fondazione Bruno Kessler), **Andrea Peri** (Regione Toscana - ARTEA), **Annalena Puglisi** (Regione Toscana-Ente Terre), **Grazia Tucci** (Università degli Studi di Firenze) **Paolo Viskanic** (R3-GIS).

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

Most of the **FLOC members have experience in conference organization**. There is a strong group that has been working together for several years to organize the Italian FOSS4G conference, which has grown a lot in the last 4 years after three different conferences in the open geospatial domain (the academic-oriented GRASS GIS Italian user meeting whose first edition was held in 2000, the commercial GFOSSDAY event and OSMit, the Italian OpenStreetMap conference) were merged in a single conference. Some members took part in the organization of previous international FOSS4G conferences (such as the first Open Source Free Software GIS - GRASS users conference 2002 and FOSS4G Europe 2015) and others played a key role in other successful conferences on related topics such as State of the Map (SotM), the annual global OpenStreetMap conference, or Debconf which is the annual Debian conference.

What is your proposed venue?

The location of the conference will be **Firenze Fiera Congress & Exhibition Center**, where the main event will take place in two buildings located opposite each other, surrounded by a century-old park: *a beautiful 19th century villa named "Palazzo dei Congressi"* with an auditorium seating up to 1.000 people, smaller meeting rooms and *a modern and newly refurbished "Palazzo degli Affari" for the parallel sessions* (the largest meeting room hosts up to 400 people). The "Fortezza da Basso", a Renaissance fortress from the 16th century located near the two buildings could be the ideal venue for one of the social events. These three locations are all flexible and can be easily adapted in case social distancing will still be needed in August 2022.

Moreover, the Florence University will make the areas at the *Faculty of Engineering available for workshops and code sprints*. The University could also offer student housing where we could accommodate the selected Travel Grant Program candidates and our volunteers.

What are your provisional dates for the conference?

Our planned dates are between **August 22 and 28, 2022**. We reserved the venue for the conference from August 24 to 26 with an optional addition of August 27 in case it will be possible to also host the SotM conference (for this day the auditorium will not be available as another conference is taking place).

Early thoughts on prices of conference attendance?

A preliminary idea on the price is between **400 and 600 EUR**. Costs could come with discounts for the following categories: Low and/or Lower-Middle Income Economies (as defined by the World Bank and WHO), contributors to OSGeo projects and community projects, OpenStreetMap contributors.

What is the price range and general location of your proposed accommodations?

Daily prices cover all ranges, varying from 20 EUR for a hostel up to 310 EUR for a five star hotel. Please find below a more detailed table.

Rating	Walking distance	Nearby area	Outside the city centre
*****	€ 175 - 310	€ 160 - 295	€ 155 - 290
****	€ 110 - 210	€ 100 - 190	€ 90 - 150
***	€ 100 - 170	€ 85 - 150	€ 60 - 120
**	€ 40 - 110	€ 40 - 100	€ 40 - 90
Hostels	€ 19 - 100	€ 20 - 90	

Are you partnering with other organizations?

We are already in contact with a number of relevant communities in the open geospatial domain like **gvSIG Association**, **QGIS Association**, **GeoNode**, **OpenStreetMap** and the **Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT)**.

We are also in contact with most of the *Tuscany Region research centers, universities, public administrations and private companies* active in the FOSS4G area.

We also have the support of the PCO AIM Group International, Firenze Fiera (the organization managing the venue), Firenze Convention Bureau (a company supporting the conference organization in Florence) and several local institutions.

What makes FOSS4G in your proposed location and with your team compelling?

We believe our proposal can be attractive for several reasons:

- We are a **group of people deeply involved in FOSS and open data activities** with a clear vision of the future and we would like to redesign our conferences into a great worldwide event where all interested communities could find their space. This new design would offer several advantages: reduce people movement, reduce the organizational effort, reduce the risk of failure, and create a bigger event to promote our values.

- In addition Italy has never hosted a global FOSS4G conference and **Florence is one of the most beautiful cities in the world**: *based on statistics, it may attract more participants than in previous FOSS4G editions*. Please also consider that the proposed venues are located in the heart of the city, very close to the train station and the airport so logistics is very simple.

- We have identified AIM Group International as the Professional Congress Organizer that could best support us in the organization of the conference: thanks to their sixty years of experience in managing events of any type and size, we are fully confident that they will be the perfect partner for this conference.

What are your COVID-19 safety plans? What will you do if travel is significantly restricted in 2022?

Following the health emergency caused by the spread of Covid-19, *the destination has already adopted all the measures required for the recovery of any kind of event*, in full compliance with the health regulations issued by the Italian Government. Florence is an extremely safe city, the ideal place to welcome your attendees. At the venue all the needed safety measures will be taken.

Even AIM Group International developed new solutions and security protocols to respond to Covid challenges and limitations and its team is constantly updated with respect to the most recent regulations issued on the organization of events, conferences and congresses in all regions of Italy and abroad.

In case travel restrictions will still persist in 2022, *the proposed venue has the possibility to host hybrid or online events thanks to the availability of the latest state-of-the-art technology and its flexible spaces*.

Looking forward to hearing from you, we will submit a full detailed proposal by the due date (April, 21st, 2021), please do not hesitate to contact us should you need further details or clarification.

Sincerely yours,
Firenze Local Organizing Committee (FLOC)

Florence, 24th February 2021
Luca Delucchi

