

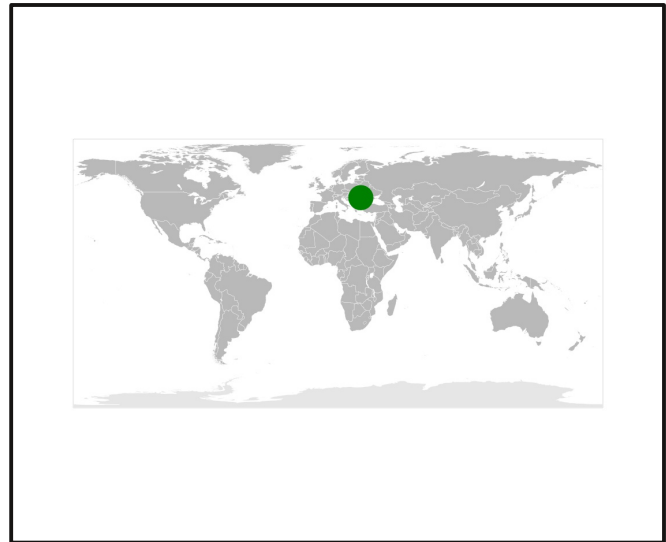
Romanian Chapter Report

About the Romanian Chapter

The Romanian OSGeo Local Chapter is represented by geo-spatial.org. The chapter was founded in 2007 by a small group of passionate people. Now, our community brings together approximately 700 members, from which about 25 members are regularly involved in projects, FOSS4G conferences and workshops.

Chapter Accomplishments

The chapter had a number of accomplishments in 2012. The chapter continued the series of workshops held every year in 3 different Romanian cities. It has continued work on one of its flagship projects, eHarta, which was started in 2010. It has also increased its involvement in the Open Data movement, through active participation in discussions regarding the Action Plan of Romania for the Open Government Partnership. The chapter also organized and took part in formal and informal



meetings with an Open Data focus.

Articles and Tutorials Published

- An article that describes the labeling system, the projection and the datum parameters of the sheets of the 1:75000 scale Romanian topographic map series completed prior to World War I in order to integrate them into GIS databases.
- A tutorial on downloading Landsat L1T imagery from Earth Explorer – USGS.
- A tutorial on downloading Landsat imagery from Global Land Cover Facility platform/database.
- A tutorial on handling Google, Yahoo, Bing and OSM layers in QGIS.

- A tutorial on processing MODIS data using R - LST <Land Surface Temperature> and SC <Snow Cover>.
- A review for the “Past time, Past place: GIS for history”.
- A review on the application EuroVegMap 2: Map of the Natural Vegetation of Europe, scale 1:2,500,000.
- A thesis regarding runoff modeling using GIS. The thesis examines the application of this GIS tool to modeling in the torrential basins in the Apuseni Mountains.

Work on Open Geodata

- The soviet topo maps, scale 1:50000, georeferenced in Stereo70
- 6 tourist maps of mountain trails of the Turing-Club of Romania Association, an interwar Romanian organization whose purpose is raising awareness regarding Romanian tourism sites. Maps’ scales vary with regard to the depicted area. Three have a 1:30000 scale and three 1:50000. The maps were georeferenced in Stereo70.
- The administrative boundaries of Romanian interwar counties (1930).

Open Letter

An open letter, signed by 184 members of the community, was sent to the Romanian National Mapping Agency (<http://ancpi.ro>) asking for free access to the geospatial data files for the boundaries of the Romanian municipalities, either as a downloadable file or through OGC web mapping standards. The response to the letter was not satisfactory. The chapter will therefore press ahead with the data request, pressing for access that should be granted because of the Open Government Partnership signed by Romania.

Translations

The chapter has supported the translation of the Open Data Handbook published by Open Knowledge Foundation (<http://opendatahandbook.org>) into Romanian. Four of the chapter members were actively involved in the translation, which can be found at <http://opendatahandbook.org/ro>.

Projects Initiated, Developed, and Maintained

- eHarta - Campaign #2: Collecting ground control points for georeferencing the Romanian maps in

Cassini, Bonne and Lambert projections and the Soviet ones in Gauss-Kruger projection. The project introduced ground control points that allowed for the georeferencing of approximately 1100 old Romanian Maps. More details can be found at:

<http://earth.unibuc.ro/articole/eharta-campania-ii> eHarta is a collaborative project which aims to digitally preserve cartographic materials of historical value of the Romanian territory and to make them freely available to the community through individual georeferenced downloadable files or through web-mapping services. The community involvement in this project was facilitated through specially developed web interfaces for documenting the maps and collecting ground control points for georeferencing. The project started in 2010. In 2011, the chapter enrolled the eHarta project into the Open Data Challenge (<http://opendatachallenge.org>), Europe's biggest open data competition and won the Better Data Award prize. The prize was awarded at the Digital Agenda Assembly, being held in Brussels on 16th and 17th June 2011, by the European Commission Vice-President Neelie Kroes. For further reading <http://earth.unibuc.ro/articole/eharta?la>

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- A collaborative project for documenting the quality of the OrbView3 images that cover Romania. The purpose is to ask USGS to georeference only the images taken in clear-sky days and then make them available through standalone files and web mapping services. The community involvement was done through the specially developed web interface. More details can be found at <http://earth.unibuc.ro/articole/documentare-orbview3>

Events

May 21-23, 2013: FOSS4G-CEE and Geoinformatics in Prague, Czech Republic - A general presentation of geo-spatial.org, the study case of building and developing a successful reference point in the FOSS4G community.

Meetings and Workshops

June 21-23, 2013: At the City of Cluj-Napoca 50 people attended the International Symposium entitled "Historical Maps in Environmental Geosciences". The purpose of this event is the coagulation of an academic

community interested in studying historical maps. Further details can be found here.

April 27-28, 2013: At the City of Cluj-Napoca 140 people attended the FOSS4G workshop on manipulation and representation of geospatial information. Dedicated workshops were held on webmapping (TileCache), image processing (LEOWorks), spatial analysis (GRASS, R, QGIS). Further details and registered presentations can be found here.

October 12-13, 2013: At the City of Bucharest 120 people attended the conference entitled “Technologies, Geospatial Open Data and Open Knowledge” . Further details and registered presentations can here.

November 23-24, 2013: At the City of Timisoara 120 people attended the FOSS4G workshop on manipulation and representation of geospatial information. Dedicated workshops were held on webmapping (TileMill), spatial analysis and geodata representation (GRASS, GDAL, QGIS, Inkscape, OpenJUMP, SoLIM), image processing (LEOWorks). Further details and registered presentations can be found here.

Hackathons, Code sprints, Cartography sprints, Mapping parties

September 29-30, 2013: At the City of Bucharest 60 people attended the Open Media Challenge Hackathon. The Open Media Challenge (OMC) was a Knight-Mozilla Open News funded event, initiated by the Sponge Media Innovation Lab for Eastern Europe and organized by CRJI, geo-spatial.org, Ceata, ROSEdu and ApTI. OMC facilitated the writing of code leading to free software solving real-world media problems pertaining to data aggregation & visualization. This collaborative hack initiative, brought together professionals from different fields of activity (Coders, Designers, Journalists and Activists) and was a first in the Eastern European region. Coders, Designers, Journalists and Activists who value media & data specific issues, submitted some valuable proposals and worked to bring these great ideas to life.

October 13, 2013: At the City of Bucharest 30 people attended a hackathon to raise awareness regarding the necessity of open geodata.

Member Activities

May 21 – 23, 2012: The chapter had a substantial delegation present at the FOSS4G-CEE and Geoinformatics event held in Prague, Czech Republic. The chapter members present included Cristian Balint, Dan Mihai Nita, Bogdan Candrea, and Vasile Craciunescu.

Chapter members organized a number of workshops and talks at the event. These included:

- “Roll Your Own 3D datasets: Practical Aspects”
- Ion Nedelcu presented “Image Processing with LEOWorks”
- Codrina Maria Llie presented “geo-spatial.org: The Reference Point for the Romanian FOSS4G Community”
- Ion Nedelcu presented “Learning Earth Observation Image Processing with LEOWorks”
- Vasile Craciunescu presented Interactive “METEOSAT: Educational Platform for Meteorological Applications Entirely Developed with FLOSS Software”
- Cristian Balint, Dan Mihai Nita, Vasile Craciunescu, and Bogdan Candrea, presented “Roll Your Own 3D datasets:

Theoretical Aspects”

Open Media Challenge Hackathon: Chapter members Bogdan Grama, Iulian Iuga, Vasile Craciunescu, and Ilie Codrina have been participated in the hackathon while working on the team for the project Political Colours of Romania Interactively Mapped. More details can be found at [here](#).

Chapter member Alex Morega participated in the hackathon while working on the team for AgriPAY. More details can be found [here](#).

Areas for Improvement

The chapter would like to do more work presenting the benefits of open source software to private companies involved in the geospatial business in Romania.

Outlook for 2013

In 2013 the chapter would like to organize our three traditional seminars on free and open source geospatial software in Cluj-Napoca, Timisoara and Bucharest.

The chapter would also like to organize the FOSS4G-CEE 2013 conference in June, Bucharest.

The chapter has a goal of adding more data in our web mapping service.

The chapter had its first meetings with the Romanian NGO <http://monumenteuitate.ro/en> to explore the possibility of adding geospatial data related to forgotten historical Romanian monuments.

The chapter would also like to continue having regular meetings during the year and to keep adding articles and geospatial datasets on geo-spatial.org, the chapter web site.