

In The Loop





Executive Summary

With the theme “In the Loop” the FOSS4G2010 conference intends to reach out towards and provide a platform for the various international stakeholders in open source geospatial technologies and data. The conference will thereby involve developers, students, managers, end users, policy makers, academia and suppliers alike. This focus will bring together previously separated stakeholders and enable mutually beneficial and long lasting relationships.

The Local Organizing Committee as well as the many supporting organizations incorporate the breadth and depth of the Dutch Geo-ICT sector and its strong ties into the European geospatial community. The members of the LOC have long time experience in the organization of technology related conferences, open source GIS development, sponsoring and marketing&communication.

FOSS4G2010 in The Netherlands and the city of Utrecht in particular benefits from the central location in Europe, the traditional politically and culturally neutral position, the easy international accessibility, the affordable high standard of living and a conference venue uniquely tailored for ICT related conferences.

The robust financial plan is based on actual quotes, prudence and Dutch merchants’ tradition. While ensuring the quality of the visitor experience FOSS4G2010 will be profitable.

As the LOC we are convinced that our multifaceted conference strategy will provide a new bench mark in the history of FOSS4G.





Letters of support



Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water management

Note: The letter is expected in the first week of December 2008

Date November 7, 2008
Our reference GIST 008-048
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Letter of Recommendation FOSS4G

Delft University of Technology

B3Partners
Attention to: Marc Vloermans
Zonnebaan 12-C
3542 EC UTRECHT

OTB Research Institute for Housing,
Urban and Mobility Studies

Visiting address
Jaffalaan 9
2628 BX Delft

Postal address
P.O. Box 5030
2600 GA Delft
The Netherlands
www.gdmc.nl
www.otb.tudelft.nl

Dear Mr Vloermans,

With this letter the Delft University of Technology, and more specifically the GIS technology section, wants to express its support for the organization of the FOSS4G conference in 2010 in the Netherlands.

Making GIS technology research results available by way of freely accessible open source software is from the academic point of view perhaps as important as publishing a scientific paper. It allows others to evaluate the new developments and to build further on this. It does work in two directions: both using other open source software as a starting point (gives a jump-start in the development of one's own new prototypes) and making developed software available as open source (allows others to re-use one's own ideas and thereby enlarging one's academic reputation). Therefore it is important to make the developed research software available as open source. When doing this one also has to pay attention to certain non-academic aspects, such as easy access, good documentation and version management.

Based on the above motivations the Delft University of Technology supports the FOSS4G conference and would like to be involved in the academic part of the program: evaluation of submissions based on peer review of full papers dealing with GIS technology issues and open source software.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Van Oosterom'.

prof.dr. Peter van Oosterom/
Chair GIS technology.

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Mr Jeff McKenna
OSGeo VP Conferences
Suite 200
30 Rosemount Ave Ottawa, ON K1Y 1P4
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Subject
Letter of Endorsement to host FOSS4G2010 in the Netherlands

Date

11-18-2008
Our reference

KNMI-2008/2268
Your reference

Contact

Wim Som de Cerff

Direct dialling number
015-2757062

Enclosure(s)
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Dear Mr. McKenna,

On behalf of the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), we would like to express our support for the Dutch bid to host the Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) Conference in 2010 in Utrecht.

KNMI is part of the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management and has a public task to provide weather forecasts and warnings. In addition KNMI is a national data and knowledge centre for weather, climate research and seismology. Being one of the first government agencies to implement Linux on the desktop we feel increasingly confident about using Open Source Software in the geospatial realm.

Within the ADAGUC project, short for Atmospheric Data Access for the Geospatial User Community, we have developed extensions of the GDAL library and use this library, together with OGR and UMN MapServer, for the dissemination of atmospheric data as OGC services (WMS, WCS, WFS).

We are convinced that FOSS4G can make an important contribution to the process of spatially enabling government institutions, especially in anticipation of the new EU legislation INSPIRE. By bringing FOSS4G to The Netherlands there will be an excellent opportunity to share experiences and create spin-off for both providers and consumers of geodata.

We look forward to attend the conference in 2010.

Yours sincerely,



Ir. Wouter Nieuwenhuizen
Director Information and Observation Services and
Technology, KNMI



Dr. Gijsbertus H.J. van den Oord
Head R&D Information and Observation Technology,
KNMI

Rabobank International Utrecht, nr.19.23.23.822

● ● ● ●
KNMI is easily reached by public transportation.
Phone the public transport hotline for information on +31900 9292.

KNMI, Ministry of Transport
Public Works and Water Management



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Your ref. :
Dated : 10 November 2008

Our ref. : D-08.084/mm/jl
Date : 10 November 2008

Subject : FOSS4G2010

To whom it may concern

The Directorate of ITC would like to support the Dutch team in their bid to host the *Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial 2010 Conference (FOSS4G2010)* in The Netherlands.

The knowledge field of ITC is geo-information science and earth observation, which consists of a combination of tools and methods for the collection - through aerospace survey techniques -, storage and processing of geo-spatial data, for the dissemination and use of these data and of services based on these data. In exploiting these tools and methods, ITC supports the development of open standards and open source software. For this matter, ITC has recently migrated its ILWIS GIS software into open source. Moreover, ITC actively participates in collaborative platforms such as the Open Geospatial Consortium and 52 North and endorses the importance of the activities of OSGEO.

Hosting a conference of this nature will assist our efforts in extending the use of open source software within our customer base worldwide. Our staff will be happy to take part in the organization of this exciting event in case of a successful Dutch bid.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Martien Molenaar', written over a horizontal line.

Prof. dr. ir. Martien Molenaar
Rector
International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)



Mr Jeff McKenna
 OSGeo VP Conferences
 Suite 200, 30 Rosemount Ave
 Ottawa, ON K1Y 1P4
 CANADA

reference 2008.260 date 26th November 2008 page 1 / 1
 subject Letter of recommendation for Utrecht 2010

Dear Mr. McKenna,

On behalf of Geonovum, I would like to express my support for the Dutch bid to host the Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) Conference in 2010 in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Geonovum is the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) executive committee in The Netherlands, founded in spring 2007 and devoting itself to providing better access to geo-information in the public sector. Geonovum develops and manages the geo-standards necessary to implement this goal. As such, we have invested in the build-up of a national Geospatial Data Infrastructure using OGC Standards and Open Source Software, e.g. for our national geoportal and the national INSPIRE portal.

FOSS4G can make an important contribution to the process of spatially enabling other government institutions, especially in anticipation of the new EU legislation INSPIRE. Bringing FOSS4G to The Netherlands in 2010 will establish an excellent platform to share experiences and create spin-off for both providers and users of geodata.

I look forward to attending the conference in 2010, hopefully in The Netherlands.

Yours sincerely,
 Geonovum

geteekend verzonden

R.J. van de Velde, M.Sc.
 Director

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OTB Research Institute
Fao Mrs E.M. Fendel
Postbus 5030
2600 GA DELFT

Utrecht, 14-11-2008
Betreft: Endorsement FOSS4G 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

Herewith the 'Open Geo Groep' expresses its support for the FOSS4G 2010 initiative and its Dutch Local Organisation Committee .

As a collaborative group we support the use of open source geospatial technology within The Netherlands. To bring FOSS4G 2010 to The Netherlands - as ICT gateway to Europe - would greatly enhance awareness and knowledge of open source geospatial technology, the OSGeo organisation and the many geo-related opportunities as provided by the Dutch Government regarding open source policies. The conference would also be mutual beneficial with the European INSPIRE project. As such this international conference complements our present efforts, such as (free) central workshops and a national open GIS conference in 2009.

The Open Geo Groep consists of technical experts, consultants and market developers. Due to this unique mix we are able to add value to the Dutch Local Organisation Committee in terms of organisation, technical expertise and marketing.

Based on the above we fully endorse FOSS4G 2010 and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to this unique conference in The Netherlands.

Sincerely yours,
Open Geo Group

Gijs Koedam
GeoInfoBalans

Milo van der Linden
dogodigi

Co-Drost
GISwerk

Thijs Brentjens
Brentjens Geo-ICT

Bart van den Eijnden
OSGIS

Jan Skornsek
Geoforza

Richard Duivenvoorde
B&D Advies

Collin Kleiboer
GisSense

Chris van Lith
B3Partners

Raymond Nijssen
Terglobo

Jeroen Ticheler
GeoCat

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B3Partners

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OSGeo VP Conferences
Suite 200
30 Rosemount Ave
Ottawa, ON K1Y 1P4
CANADA

Utrecht, 28-11-2008
Betreft: Letter of Recommendation FOSS4G2010

Dear Sir,

Herewith we wish to express our support for the Dutch bid to host the FOSS4G2010.

B3Partners is the largest pure player in the field of GIS with open source and open standards in The Netherlands. The company was founded in 2000 and throughout its history effectively develops the market for OSS in general and Open GIS in particular. From our offices in Utrecht we are able to actively contribute to the organisation of FOSS4G2010.

We are convinced that bringing FOSS4G2010 to The Netherlands will boost our present and future market development and awareness efforts, e.g. free workshops and national Open GIS conference in 2009.

Kind regards,
B3Partners BV



Chris van Lith
Director



Marc Vloemans
Director

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Inspiration and Theme





Inspiration

Bringing FOSS4G to Europe in 2010 will prove to be a strategic timely choice. The general situation on spatial information in Europe is one of fragmentation of data sets and sources, gaps in availability, lack of harmonization between data sets at different geographical scales and duplication of information collection. These problems make it difficult to identify access and use data that is available. Under the project title INSPIRE the European Commission addresses the need for quality geo-referenced information to support understanding of the complexity and interactions between human activities and environmental pressures and impacts

The initiative intends to trigger the creation of a European spatial information infrastructure that delivers to the users integrated spatial information services. Open standards and open source are corner stones for such a policy. These services should allow the users to identify and access spatial or geographical information from a wide range of sources, from the local level to the global level, in an inter-operable way for a variety of uses. The target users of INSPIRE include policy-makers, planners and managers at European, national and local level and the citizens and their organizations.

This variety is indicative for the need to actively target and involve the widest possible range of stakeholders through the conference. With the political implications in mind The Netherlands are traditionally the preferred neutral location for its larger neighbors to exchange views and reach consensus. The city of Utrecht in particular has historically been neutral host to many international summits.

Proposed theme: In the Loop

FOSS4G2010 will provide the multilevel interactive platform where developers and policy makers, suppliers and users, academics and practitioners and many other GIS professionals from around the world can interact. Thereby bringing all stakeholders of open Geo/ICT “in the loop”. The conference intends to foster long term relationships between the groups and individuals from different backgrounds and committed to the FOSS4G principles.



Obviously, this will be executed in line with the OSGeo mission. As such, an important part of the program will address outreach issues. On the occasion of FOSS4G2010 the following activities are suggested:

- ◆ Invitation of decision makers and end-users at a 'meet the developers'. This initiative will be scheduled as an integral component of the program.
- ◆ Open source challenge: a competition in which participants are invited to demonstrate the successful exploitation of open source by means of use cases. The subscription to the challenge is free for anybody. Demo submissions will be published on the web and will be peer-reviewed prior to the conference. Besides the presentation at FOSS4G 2010, the demos will make part of the outreach activities in external workshops.
- ◆ Travel grants for students (with a priority for developing countries). Sponsor-based travel grants will be issued well in advance at universities around the globe, so that this has an early and positive impact on the interest in the conference.
- ◆ The organization of FOSS4G 2010 in The Netherlands will foster the local interest in open source usage and development. This will strengthen the activities of OSGeo within the Netherlands. Present workshops aimed at local government representatives will provide a solid base for further initiatives.
- ◆ Distribution of OSGeo4W CD (an even more comprehensive package than the current version, including software, data and quick-start tutorial) to universities, governmental organizations in development countries and other priority groups.
- ◆ Special sessions will be proposed on real-life applications (e.g., open source for water security, disaster management, ...) and on links between geo-ICT and other ICT application fields.
- ◆ Environment to enable meetings between GIS practitioners and geospatial students. This provides professionals a venue to impart future workforce needs and allows geospatial students the opportunity to research and prepare for future employment.



We conservatively expect to attract 650 attendees. The extensive marketing experience within the LOC complements the technical expertise present. This enables the LOC to attract a balanced mix of technical and managerial visitors, from both the supply and the demand side of the industry.



Local Organization





OSGeo in the Netherlands and Belgium

The Netherlands and Belgium are formally lacking a OSGeo chapter, although a Dutch OSGeo mailing list is presently operational.

The OS GIS Community in the Netherlands revolves around a wide range of professionals from developers to managers. The Dutch Open Geo Group presently acts as an ad hoc OSGeo representation in The Netherlands.



Proposed Organizing Committee (LOC)

The bid team represents organizations in the areas of central government, solution development, academia and conference organization. Besides a lot of time and energy each member brings a specific strength to the initiative and is thereby committed to the end result. The Local Organizing Committee consists of:

Nancy van Baak, Media Plaza

Nancy van Baak is project manager Media Plaza Foundation for Innovation by using ICT and New Media and in particular subjects in and around the open source domain. She is initiator and moderator of workshops, congresses, presentations and brainstorm sessions. She organizes Open ICT events (open source, open standards and open content) for already 2 years, and has past field experience as marketing and sales manager at a open source software company. She takes pride in het A-level result in geography at high school.

Dirk Frigne, DFC Software Engineering

Dirk Frigne has more than 20 years experience in geo-ICT. His thorough know-how built as a developer, architect, project manager and business manager forms the basis for a broad vision on the future geo-ICT developments. He is founder of DFC Software Engineering, a Belgian IT service provider and sponsor of www.geomajas.org Dirk is also president of the www.gegis.org round table, representing the geGIS local community in Belgium. Furthermore he is secretary of the Flemish Association for GIS and (co)author of renewing GIS articles. Currently he is active as international community manager for Geomajas.



Michel Grothe, Geonovum

Michel, PhD degree in Spatial Computer Science was affiliated to several organizations: the National Physical Planning Agency, the Department of Regional Economics of the Free University Amsterdam, the Manchester Metropolitan University (UNIGIS), the Province Noord-Brabant and the Spatial Research and Development Centre of CMG (IT company). Since 2001 he is senior consultant Geo-ICT at the Data ICT Department of the Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water management. He was project manager of Geoservices; a comprehensive programme started in 2003 to develop and implement the Geo Data Infrastructure (GDI) of Rijkswaterstaat based on international open standards and Open Source software. In 2007 he also joined Geonovum, the Executive Committee for the realization of the SDI in the Netherlands. In this position he is project leader of the national Geoportal and the Dutch INSPIRE portal both implemented with Open Source software. Since 2005 he is also active member of the European INSPIRE drafting team Network Services. He wrote more than 40 publications on GIS, spatial decision support systems, Geo Data Infrastructure (GDI) and location based services.

Wim de Haas, Directorate-General for Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water management

Wim finished his degree in the field of Geology and Oceanography in 1992. He has worked for several consulting companies in the ICT business before he moved to Rijkswaterstaat in 2001. He is cofounder of the programme called Geoservices, which addresses all information logistics in the geospatial realm based on open standards and built on open source software (OSS). Rijkswaterstaat has been awarded a national award for the programme in 2007. Having been introduced to OSS in 2003, he has become an advocate ever since, which is being reflected in the prominent use of OSS in the Rijkswaterstaat organization. He also co-organized several national OSS events. Wim now works as senior advisor information architecture and policy advisor at Rijkswaterstaat.

Rob Lemmens, International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)

Rob is Assistant Professor Applied Computer Science in the department of Geoinformation Processing at ITC since 1998. He holds a PhD in



Geoinformatics from Delft University of Technology. His expertise consists of internet GIS, mobile GIS, GPS and Spatial Data Infrastructures and semantic modeling of distributed geo-information services and ontology-based geo-information. Rob is ITC's representative for the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and community leader of the ILWIS open source GIS software at 52North. He has initiated and participated in various outreach projects, e.g. courses on interoperable web mapping in Africa, European Persistent Testbed for geo-webservices, SDI project in Mongolia, project consultant on GIS at the University of Zambia etc.

Thijs van Menen, Directorate-General for Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water management

Thijs van Menen finished his Social Geography study at the University of Amsterdam (UvA), offered a GIS side course. Since then Thijs was hooked to this more or a less new phenomena called GIS which resulted in a job at Rijkswaterstaat. Till this day he still works for this governmental department. Within the realm of GIS he always could be found in the more innovative projects. So when a couple of years ago a project started with Open Source Geo software, Thijs helped out. Nowadays Thijs is the coordinator on all the Open Source Geo projects in Rijkswaterstaat build upon their Open Source GDI. Thijs is also know for his enthusiasm about Open Source Geo software and is a regular visitor of the FOSS4G conference.

Wilko Quak, Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)

Wilko is researcher at the section GIS Technology of the TUDelft OTB Institute for Housing. His two main research topics are spatial DBMS performance and standardization of spatial data. For the first topic he is co-developer of the spatial module of the MonetDB database engine (monetdb.cwi.nl). For standardization he co-developed NEN3610 (a standard that implements the ISO/TC211 standards for the Netherlands), this work is done as a consultant for Geonovum (Geonovum is the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) executive committee in the Netherlands).

Jeroen Ticheler, GeoCat

Jeroen studied Tropical Forestry at the Wageningen University with specialization in GIS and Remote Sensing. Upon graduation in 1997 he worked on Participatory Soil Fertility Management in Africa at the Royal Institute for the Tropics of The Netherlands until he joined the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN FAO in 1999. In 2008 he started a new



company, GeoCat that supports clients with the development and implementation of geospatial information management solutions. He initiated the GeoNetwork open source project in 2000 as the foundation for the spatial data management in FAO: FAO GeoNetwork. He has been promoting the use of international standards and Free and Open Source Software for geographic data and information ever since he started working on GeoNetwork open source. He participated in writing the UNSDI Reference Architecture document, to be downloaded from the UNGIWG website. He's a fan, supporter and member of the Open Source Geospatial Foundation board, created to support and build the highest-quality open source geospatial software.

Marc Vloemans, B3Partners

Marc has a MSc in architecture and urban planning from the Technical University of Delft and a MBA in strategy and general management from the Rotterdam School of Management/Erasmus University. He is co-founder and director of B3Partners, the de facto largest Dutch pure player in the field of OS GIS. He is initiator of the Open Geo Groep (Group), a unique collaborative initiative of most local OS GIS players to drive the use of OS GIS in the market place. In his 'free' time he is columnist in GISMagazine and columnist on Livre.nl, de leading Dutch open source online publisher. He advocates the professionalization in the marketplace of the open source supply side in general and the open source GIS suppliers in particular.

Eveline Vogels, OTB Research Institute for Housing, Mobility and Urban Studies

Since 2001 Eveline is head of the Educational and Training office at OTB Research Institute, Delft University of Technology. Eveline has a lot of experience in organizing and hosting (inter)national (scientific) conferences, courses and workshops on various topics in the field of housing, construction and the built environment. She recently organized the European Network for Housing Research Annual Conference (500 participants, www.enhr2007rotterdam.nl).





Proposed Dates and Conference Support





Proposed Dates

The proposed dates for the Utrecht FOSS4G 2010 are Sunday 19th of September to Thursday 23rd of September 2010. These days have been booked with the Jaarbeurs conference venue. On Wednesday 15th until Friday 18th a code sprint is organized under the supervision of the ITC.



Conference Support

FOSS4G 2010 will be supported by a host of internationally and locally well recognized academic, (semi-)public and private organizations, which reflects the increased interest in FOSS for geospatial purposes.

The Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (Rijkswaterstaat)

www.verkeerenwaterstaat.nl/english/



Rijkswaterstaat

Rijkswaterstaat (pronounced rayks-varter-starrt) is the executive arm of the national Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (generally referred to as the Ministry of Transport). On behalf of the Minister and State Secretary, Rijkswaterstaat is responsible for the design, construction, management and maintenance of the main infrastructure facilities in the country.

Tasks

Rijkswaterstaat manages the main road network, the main waterways network and the main water supply and drainage systems. Rijkswaterstaat focuses both on the technical condition of the infrastructure and particularly on its user-friendly character. It dedicates itself to the safe and smooth circulation of road traffic; a safe, clean and user-friendly national water system and the protection of the country against flooding.

Geo-ICT

Rijkswaterstaat makes extensive use of spatial information and spatial technologies for its main tasks. Spatial information and spatial technologies are therefore considered strategic assets for the Rijkswaterstaat organization. As such, there is a large investment and effort made in the



build-up of a Geospatial Data Infrastructure using OGC Standards and both proprietary and Open Source Software. In anticipation of the new EU legislation INSPIRE, new technologies in the geospatial realm are closely monitored.

Technical University Delft

www.tudelft.nl



Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) is the largest university of engineering and sciences in the Netherlands, with some 13,000 students and an academic staff of 2,100 (of which 200 are professors). Research and education are closely interlinked. The university's research portfolio is currently brought together in fourteen Research Centres, each of which focus on particular societal issues and address them from a multidisciplinary perspective. One of these Research Centres is the Delft Centre for Sustainable Urban Areas which brings together a wide range of knowledge about the urban environment, ranging from transnational urban planning and regional development to neighborhoods and buildings. The two organizations most active in this Research Centre are OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies and the Faculty of Architecture.

OTB Research Institute for Housing, Mobility and Urban Studies (OTB) is an interfaculty research institute with a strong background in the social sciences. It employs some 150 staff, of which 120 are research staff and 9 are professors. OTB's staff has substantial experience of international collaborative research, as well as nationally and locally funded research.

Apart from the scientific proceedings that will be distributed at the conference we plan to select the best scientific papers from the proceedings as a special issue in a leading scientific journal. (Currently we are considering the 'Computers and Geosciences' as Peter van Oosterom is to become Associate Editor there). This will act as a stimulus for the submission of scientific papers and will increase the visibility of the open-source community in the geospatial world. By carefully choosing the conference topics in the call for papers we expect to collect many papers that cannot continue without open-source software.



International Institute for Geo-information science and earth observation - ITC

(www.itc.nl).

ITC is an internationally recognized centre of excellence in international education in the field of geo-information science and earth observation. ITC aims at capacity building and institutional development of professional and academic organizations and individuals specifically in countries that are economically and/or technologically less developed. The education is based on knowledge exchange between scientific and professional organizations in less developed countries on the one hand and those in the Western world on the other, whereby ITC acts as a two-directional gateway for knowledge exchange. ITC's approach is application-oriented, directed at finding solutions for and strengthening civil society in addressing issues of local, national and global dimensions such as the multifunctional use of scarce resources, including space, the effects of climate change and environmental security.



Media Plaza

www.mediaplaza.nl

The Media Plaza Foundation is a committed advocate of open source in general and OS GIS in particular in the Dutch market place. With a team of 15 project managers and support staff Media Plaza is the largest local organisation of its kind. Through a consistent two-year program of workshops, seminars and a local OS GIS Conference in 2009 the organisation aims at potential users in profit en non-profit sectors. With their long time experience in the market they provide a strong marketing platform for FOSS4G2010.



Geonovum

www.geonovum.nl

Geonovum is the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) executive committee in the Netherlands. The organization is founded in spring 2007 and devotes itself to providing better access to geo-information in the public sector. Geonovum develops and manages the geo-standards necessary to implement this goal. In its role as enabler of the national geo-information infrastructure, Geonovum connects public sector managers with the work floor professionals.





The activities of Geonovum are subsidized by the Ministries of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM), Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and Traffic, Public Works and Water Management (V&W), the land registry (Kadaster) and TNO. Geonovum is recognizable and professional, result-driven and independent. Its main goals are:

- ◆ to develop and standardize the geo-information infrastructure while also being innovative
- ◆ to build up and disseminate knowledge in the area of geo-information infrastructure
- ◆ to make the geo-information infrastructure more accessible to administrative bodies, institutions and departments in the Netherlands and the European Union

Geonovum is conference organizer of the GSDI 11 World Conference in 2009 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The GSDI 11 World Conference hosts the World (GSDI), European (INSPIRE) and national SDI conference.

Open Geo Groep (Group)

www.opengeogroep.nl

This professional group harbors the technical expertise in The Netherlands regarding the total range of OSGeo projects and beyond. The combined references of its members span the full OSGeo range of implementations, both in depth and in scope of the projects. This unique commercial and organizational OS GIS initiative focuses on:

- ◆ joint knowledge dissemination
- ◆ joint project execution
- ◆ joint customer support

The members are well respected and well connected in the local open source GIS community. This will raise the technical quality as well as the organizational profile of FOSS4G2010.





DFC Software Engineering

www.dfc.be



DFC Software Engineering is for over a decade a competent player in the Belgium market place. As such the company is responsible for various initiatives such as www.gegis.org en www.geomajas.org. Due to the increased linkages of the Belgium and Dutch market through European cross-border projects, DFC is able to actively involve the Belgium professionals and users.

DFC is an active promoter for the use of OSS GIS solutions and uses OSS GIS software in many of her bespoke software projects. Thanks to the many initiatives DFC is taking, a through ecosystem is growing with other Flemish software players, utility companies and governmental organizations.

GeoCat

www.geocat.net



GeoCat focuses on the development, customization and support of cutting-edge open source geospatial software, especially geospatial catalogue software on both server and desktop. we offer support and training to clients on the solutions offered. GeoCat can also provide hosting services and content management for clients.

GeoCat works as an international company in the fast growing market of national, regional and global Spatial Data Infrastructure developments and the market of geospatially enabled technologies as a whole.

B3Partners

www.b3partners.nl



As the largest pure player in the Dutch market B3Partners has implemented a wide variety of OS GIS projects over the years throughout a diverse scope of Dutch governmental bodies.

For nearly 10 years B3partners is active in the field of open source and standards

The company is an active promoter of OS GIS within the local open source community. This will secure visibility of FOSS4G2010 of and translate into a wider public for the conference.



Professional Conference Organizer

The LOC will enlist volunteers for various roles in the organization of the conference. In collaboration the conference will be managed by the LOC and OTB as Professional Conference Organizer (PCO). The PCO will answer to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). Where required the LOC will seek guidance from members of OSGeo.

OTB

One of the core activities of the OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Housing Studies is knowledge transfer, and one of the main means is the organization of (international) congresses, study days, workshops, (in-company) courses, a postdoctoral training programme and various colloquia. The body responsible for these organizational tasks within the OTB Research Institute is the OTB Educational and Training Office. Four persons (29, 15, 7 and 2 years of experience) are currently on the staff. This human capital is temporarily expanded in times of great events. This office will be, together with the Local Organizing Committee, responsible for the organization of the conference. The office will answer to this LOC.

OTB Research Institute has a lot of experience in hosting conferences, courses and workshops. On a yearly basis OTB organizes through its own Educational and Training Office about 6 courses, 4 national congresses and 2 international workshops/conferences on various topics in the field of housing, construction and the built environment.

OTB recently organized the 2007 European Network for Housing Research (ENHR) Annual Conference (500 participants, for more information please see www.enhr2007rotterdam.nl). In addition, in 2007 the 2nd International workshop on 3D Geo-Information took place (www.3d-geoinfo-07.nl). In 2008 OTB organized the seminar and workshops Open Source Geo ICT: knowledge from the source. This event brought people together who are specialized in Open Source Software in order to reinforce the knowledge and application of Open Source GIS-software. The Urban Data Management Symposium (www.udms.net) takes place every two years (one of the staff members holds the position of Executive Secretary of UDMS since 1985). The average number of participants of UDMS is 200. In 2005 the first Symposium on Geo-information for



Disaster Management (Gi4DM) has been initiated and organized. More than 330 participants from 60 countries attended this symposium.

Elfriede Fendel and Eveline Vogels were also member of the 2007 ENHR Organizing Committee. They will bring in a lot of experience in the 2010 AESOP Organizing Committee. In addition, in 2007 the 2nd International workshop on 3D Geo-Information took place (www.3d-geoinfo-07.nl).

The OTB Educational and Training Office has the disposal of its own professional software package for conference registration and abstract/ paper handling.

Potential sponsors and subsidies

The conference premises allow for both traditional and more innovative means of sponsorship, e.g. multimedia presentations, trade fair, bill boards, closed TV-circuit and other means. The LOC is thereby able to offer tailored services to a wide variety of sponsors.

Apart from the expected usual support from organizations such as: Google Earth, ESRI, Autodesk and other regular benefactors, we are confident to gain further support from:

- ◆ Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management (Rijkswaterstaat). This largest governmental body has a vested interest in OS GIS by means of many installed applications.
- ◆ Logica: Logica is a leading IT and business services company, employing 39,000 people across 36 countries, mainly Europe. They have a dedicated open source GIS strategy.
- ◆ Cap Gemini Sogeti: Cap Gemini is a leading IT and business services company, employing, 86,000 people in North America, Europe, and the Asia Pacific region.
- ◆ Open Geo Groep: the technical and commercial collaboration of the leading 12 companies in the Dutch market
- ◆ Geonovum: the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) executive committee in the Netherlands.



The Netherlands have a long standing tradition of subsidizing activities aimed at knowledge transfer in an international setting. With the backing of our well regarded scientific partners the LOC will be able to secure further funding from various institutes. Most notably The Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences, which contributes to the cost of organizing international conferences, workshops and colloquia in the Netherlands, is expected to contribute.

Marketing FOSS4G2010

In order to attract the various different target groups for the conference appropriate 'segmentation marketing' will be applied.

To reach the development community

- ◆ In the build up to FOSS4G2010 a draft program will be presented at several (open source) GIS conferences such as Utrecht 2009, Nottingham University 2009, GSDI 2009 (Rotterdam), AGILE (Hannover), FOSS4G2009 Sydney
- ◆ The OSGeo development network will be involved in building the technical program of the conference

To reach policy makers:

- ◆ Publications will be organized in Dutch and international on and offline websites, magazines etc.
- ◆ The Geonovum network among the European GIS policy community will be actively targeted

To reach the public for the conference outreach program:

- ◆ A targeted marketing strategy will be implemented, in conjunction with ITC

To reach general users:

- ◆ The (inter)national media contacts of all conference supporters will be enlisted



To reach the suppliers:

- ◆ Communication of the presence of policy and decision makers will undoubtedly attract them

Ramp up towards FOSS4G2010

FOSS4G2010 would prove to be the pinnacle of a two year initiative to raise the profile of OS GIS sector in the Netherlands. The program was initiated by B3Partners in conjunction with the Open Geo Groep and Media Plaza and started in 2008 with a recurring workshop program on OS GIS which will continue throughout at least 2009. The workshops lead up to the national 2-day OS GIS conference on 20th and 21st of May 2009, also organized by members of the LOC FOSS4G2010. This conference in turn will provide a stepping stone towards FOSS4G2010.



Budget





Budget

The LOC expects to attract a conservatively estimated 650 visitors with 40% coming from outside of Europe, 30% from The Netherlands and 30% from the rest of Europe. Especially the attendance of the last group is kept conservative. Main reason for this is the fact that the various large OSGeo groups in Western Europe have previously lacked pan-European gatherings. The relatively short travel distances within Europe (as compared to other parts of the world) will undoubtedly work to our advantage.

The entrance fees for the conference & technical workshops is kept relatively low to accommodate the developers group. The pricing for conference and managerial workshops is set somewhat higher as these participants will be more able to have their employers reimburse costs.

The Dutch political climate favoring subsidies and the special conference premises, which allow for traditional and innovative sponsor related activities. As a result we expect to attract around 1/3 of the total income from sponsorships and subsidies.



The various cost items are kept in line with earlier conferences and based on preliminary cost estimates from the various foreseen suppliers. For budgeting reasons we intend to heavily promote the 'early birdie' option. Thus allowing us to financially plan well ahead of the event.

Additional activities and events will only be organized when extra budget is acquired. We expect that this relatively conservative approach will result in a overall successful conference.



Expenses

Type	Expenses Per Participant	#Participants	Total
Facilities			US\$120,000
Catering	US\$200	650	US\$130,000
Gala dinner	US\$90	450	US\$40,500
Marketing			US\$30,000
Administration	US\$50	650	US\$32,500
Management	US\$100	650	US\$65,000
Hardware	US\$250	200	US\$50,000
Miscellaneous			US\$10,000
Total Cost			US\$478,000

Income

Type	Registration Fees Per Participant	#Participants	Total
Early Bird Registration			
Conference	US\$350	100	US\$35,000
Conference & workshops (introduction)	US\$650	50	US\$32,500
Conference & workshops (technical)	US\$455	150	US\$68,250
Sub Total Early Bird		300	US\$135,750
Regular Registration			
Conference	US\$520	200	US\$104,000
Conference & workshops (introduction)	US\$950	100	US\$95,000
Conference & workshops (technical)	US\$650	50	US\$32,500
Sub Total Regular		350	US\$231,500
Total revenue			US\$367,250

Balance

Type	Total
Participants revenue	US\$367,250
Sponsors	US\$125,000
Subsidies	US\$15,000
Expenses	-US\$478,000
Net revenue	US\$29,250

Note: Rate US\$1 = €0,79 (currency date 28-11-2008)





Conference Facilities and Infrastructure





The University of Delft

Apart from the scientific proceedings that will be distributed at the conference we plan to select the best scientific papers from the proceedings as a special issue in a leading scientific journal (Currently we are considering the 'Computers and Geosciences' as Peter van Oosterom is to become Associate Editor there). This will act as a stimulus for the submission of scientific papers and will increase the visibility of the open-source community in the geospatial world. By carefully choosing the conference topics in the call for papers we expect to collect many papers that cannot continue without open-source software.



Utrecht Convention and Exhibition Centre

Located in the centre of the Netherlands, 30 minutes from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, at the junction of railways and highways, the “Jaarbeurs” Conference Centre Utrecht is the logical choice when planning for visitors from all corners of the world.

The Jaarbeurs is the largest Dutch conference centre in The Netherlands. Trade fairs, congresses, conferences, meetings, events, and musicals have found a home at Jaarbeurs Utrecht. Twelve multi-functional halls, 100,000 m² of floor area, and seven floors of conference and meeting rooms are at everyone’s disposal. The Jaarbeurs is able to provide customers a full service, including catering on site, restaurants, stand construction, equipment etc.



Products/Services:	
Total number of meeting rooms:	45
Distance to the Airport in KM/MILES	30/18.6
Distance to the Airport in minutes	30
Gross exhibition space m ² /Sq.ft	105000/ 1130211
Seating capacity	4500



For some 360-impresions please visit:



<http://www.jaarbeursutrecht.nl/vt/360foto3.aspx>

<http://www.jaarbeursutrecht.nl/vt/360foto4.aspx>

Media Plaza

In 1997 the Media Plaza was founded by the Dutch government and ICT sector to boost innovation in the Netherlands. The foundation inhabits a special part of the Jaarbeurs Centre in which it offers a unique conference environment which caters specifically to the world of ICT and New Media.



Media Plaza organizes a wide variety of innovative, interactive and inspirational seminars conferences, workshops, master classes and round table meetings throughout the year.



During their stay at FOSS4G2010 the visitors are treated to a high tech environment of conference halls, workshop theaters and 15 break out rooms fully equipped with the latest in ICT infrastructure.

The capacity of the central hall with its spectacular sky light is 900 seats and located at the heart of the centre it will function as the heart of the conference.

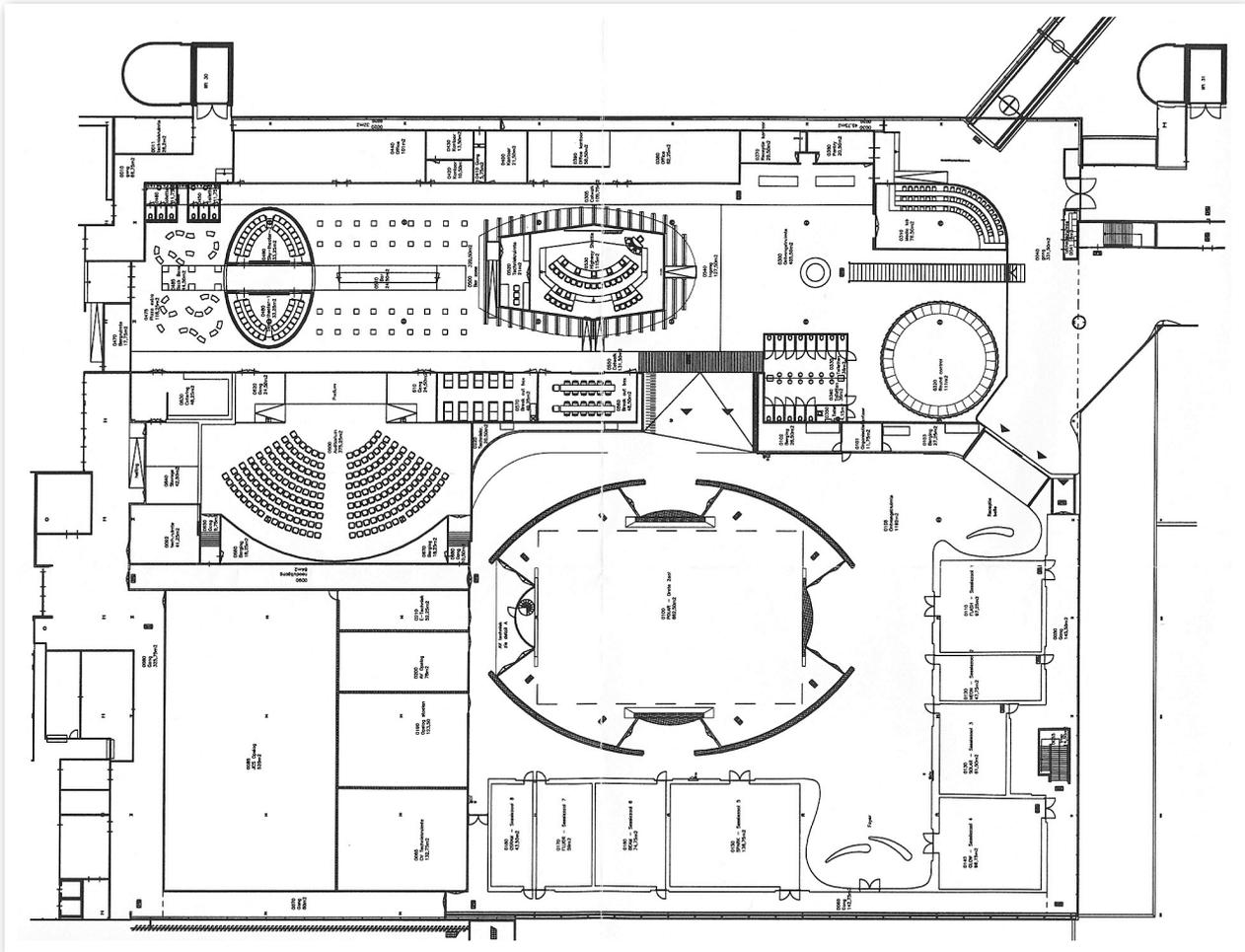
Each separate room, theatre and conference hall has its own atmosphere and use; for small discussions, lectures, interactive presentations, brainstorm sessions and break out sessions as well as large general meetings halls and trade fair area.

Free WiFi enables visitors to work and play during their visit. The conference venue can be customized with special lightening, logo projections and a narrow casting system to provide a recognizable back drop for FOSS4G2010



ITC

ITC will be host to the FOSS4G2010 Code Sprint activities. As an internationally recognized centre of excellence in international education ITC offers a complete ICT infrastructure for multiple



Floor Plan of the conference facilities

developers. ITC's hands-on approach to the development and application of geographical information systems (GIS) for solving problems create a conducive environment for workshops and the like. Quality of services will furthermore be guaranteed by its long time experience with and knowledge field which consists of a combination of tools and methods for the collection storage and processing of geo-spatial data, for the dissemination and use of these data and of services based on these data.





The City of Utrecht

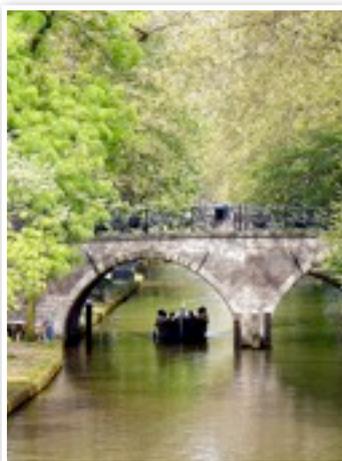
General information

Utrecht is the fourth largest city in The Netherlands. Large because of the number of residents (around 300,000), but also due to its important central location in the country and its boundless ambition. Hidden behind Utrecht's well-known picturesque and intimate atmosphere, is the most innovative, talent-rich and creative city in The Netherlands. As the national hub for all railways and highways in The Netherlands, Utrecht is a meeting point for companies, professionals and students.



Leisure

One of the many advantages of Utrecht is its central location. Literally at the crossroads of major high ways and (international) train routes Utrecht is well situated and only 30 minutes away from Schiphol Airport, one of the major hubs in Europe. Want to unwind between presentations, workshops and meetings? Utrecht's two top attractions are the "Domtoren", the highest church tower in the Netherlands (112 meter) with a truly fantastic views and the canal area "Oudegracht" with café's, restaurants and shops in quaint canal-side cellars and quays. The attractive city centre of Utrecht is less than a ten-minute walk away from the conference venue. The centuries-old buildings and canals make a visit to the city a unique experience. Despite their historic setting, the shops, café's and restaurants are entirely from this day and age. Everyone can find something to his or her liking. From student hangouts to fashionable discotheques. Utrecht is a pleasant mix of urban excitement and small-town charm, with the cathedral tower of the Dom as the centre of attraction.



In the autumn there are plenty of fun things to do for everybody. And if the weather is bad, the covered Hoog Catharijne shopping centre at 5 minutes from the conference centre, with over 160 shops, offers the perfect alternative!

Lots of wonderful city events are scheduled each autumn. Cultural Sundays continue until the end of the year, while it is also the time of the Dutch Film Festival, which always ensures lots of spectacular premières. Then there are



the numerous museums, such as the Spoorwegmuseum (Railway Museum). In short, there is something for everyone in autumn!

Meeting point for companies

Utrecht is also at the heart of the business world. Large, internationally operating insurance companies, financial institutions, ICT and computer companies have chosen Utrecht and its surroundings as their home base. Furthermore, Utrecht is the home of one of The Netherlands' most prominent universities.

The combination of the central location in The Netherlands, high degree of accessibility and the available infrastructure has made Utrecht an ideal business hub in The Netherlands. Utrecht has a charming historical city centre with excellent facilities for organizing meetings, courses and conferences. As a hospitable meeting place with conference and exhibition facilities, education and training centres, educational institutions, Utrecht also offers many restaurant facilities and lively events.



ICT City

The ICT sector in Utrecht employs almost 24,000 persons in 3,150 establishments, and occupies a prominent position within the economy of Utrecht.

Utrecht is primarily a service city which has grown into a metropolitan area:

- ◆ More than half (54%) of employment is in commercial services. This includes trade, the hotel and catering industry, transport and communications, financial services and business to business services.
- ◆ About 36% of the city's employment is in the non commercial service sector, including local government, education, health care, public welfare, culture and other public services.
- ◆ The ICT sector in Utrecht is the largest in the Netherlands in relative terms
- ◆ From 1996 to 2000 employment in ICT industry increased by 44%





- ◆ Utrecht’s labour force is the most highly qualified in the Netherlands – 51% of the population is highly qualified; the national average is 27%.
- ◆ The growth in employment from 1991 to 2001 was approximately 8% higher than the national average
- ◆ Its central location in the Netherlands makes Utrecht a much sought after residential location
- ◆ Of the four large cities in the Netherlands, Utrecht has the lowest unemployment figure
- ◆ The University of Utrecht is the largest university in the Netherlands with more than 22,400 students
- ◆ Utrecht has a favorable climate for start-up companies – the number of start-up companies is far higher than the national average



Utrecht Accommodation

Due to its central location Utrecht acts as a national hub from which visitors to the Netherlands explore the country. When taking the conference venue in the centre of Utrecht as the destination, the number of available rooms is:

Room Availability	
Number of B&B rooms within 1 KM	100
Number of hotel rooms within 1 KM / 0.625 Miles	800
Number of B&B rooms within 5 KM	200
Number of hotel rooms within 5 KM / 3.125 Miles	2000

The LOC will provide a comprehensive list of accommodations well in advance of the conference to facilitate and enable early birdie (block) bookings. Furthermore the Utrecht University is experienced in provision of low cost (group) accommodation at its premises.

With the conference venue next to the railway station, visitors who prefer to stay in Amsterdam only have a half hour trip to make.



Special Event Venues

The Netherlands is known for her relative small size but as a country known for great things and achievements. The mix of a rich cultural heritage, a truly cosmopolitan society and high tech infrastructure – all within a 2 hour travel distance from each other - provide a back drop for an inspiring conference and exiting social program. This gives us the opportunity to do many great things for the anticipated gala event.



There are some good possibilities within Utrecht itself and Amsterdam offers some great and interesting locations for hosting the gala event. From modern science museums to museums that takes you back to the hey days of Holland as a seafaring nation. From loungy refurbished ware houses to large dinner cruises. There are far more options than there are evenings in the week.



Furthermore, by going to our capital city the FOSS4G attendees from abroad will see what Amsterdam is all about. Find out the things they all talk about but probably never experienced themselves.



Utrecht: International Conference City





Utrecht international

Already in 1713 the city of Utrecht played a key role on the European stage. With the Peace Treaty of Utrecht the European countries could put aside 110 years of war and prepare for a political, cultural and economic Golden Age.

Nowadays the City Council is still international active through bilateral city contacts, representation in Pan-European initiatives and international collaborative projects.

In 2018 Utrecht intends to be European host as Cultural Capital of Europe. In preparation for this the city has a long range agenda to build up towards this prestigious title.

Utrecht is on one hand a recognized student town with its University and various “Hogescholen” (High Schools), on the other hand it caters to highly educated professionals in service industries. This attracts students and professionals alike from abroad. No wonder that Utrecht can be called a truly international city.

Jaarbeurs experience with marketing international fairs and conferences and Media Plaza with its roots in the open source world will provide professional marketing services.

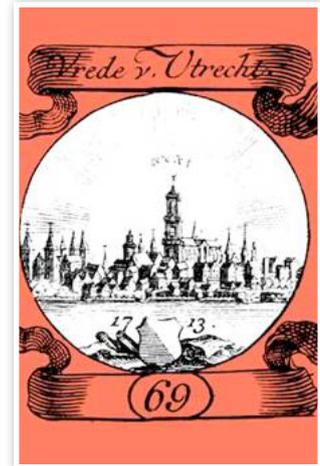
Europe has a burgeoning open source community and with the short travel distances within Europe, the LOC expects interest from the larger OS community.

The Netherlands: Electronic Gateway to Europe

The Dutch government has set a national ICT-agenda 2008-2011 which comprises all government activities relating to the national ICT policy. The Netherlands are international front runners regarding broad band usage. With the fastest network for research (SURFnet) and the largest internet hub worldwide (the Amsterdam Internet Exchange) the Netherlands are the gateway to Europe.

The Netherlands: OSS Champion

Starting 2008 new Dutch legislation regarding open standards and open source has become effective. Forty-seven government organizations, including a large number of local authorities, have already signed the





'Manifesto of the Open Government Organizations' to achieve increased openness in their ICT systems in the following areas:

- ◆ supplier-independence;
- ◆ transparency, controllability and manageability;
- ◆ interoperability;
- ◆ digital sustainability

The Government intends to achieve a number of goals, such as good participation from citizens, sustainability of information and innovation, and a reduction in administrative burden (by supplying information only once, for example). With the aim of realizing these goals in an efficient manner, the Cabinet intends to use competition in an effort to encourage parties to realize or help realize the goals listed. Interoperability between businesses and governments, between citizens and governments, and between the government bodies themselves is a necessary condition for achieving these social goals.

The Dutch Lower Chamber, with an eye on these social goals, has announced that it considers the use of open standards and open source software by the government and the public and semi-public sectors to be important. For this reason the Lower Chamber has asked the Cabinet to prepare a plan for this.

The Netherlands: International destination

There are ten very good reasons to host FOSS4G2010 in The Netherlands:

1. Economically and politically stable environment

The country prides itself for maintaining a politically and economically even keel for over decades. This ensures one can organize events like FOSS4G2010 without qualms.

2. Excellent international accessibility

All major international airlines service Amsterdam Schiphol Airport as a major hub for Europe. Additionally public transport is very well organized as an alternative for the car. High speed international train connections are due to become operational within the next year.



3. A compact country

Compared to many countries and urban conglomerations The Netherlands has made a strength out of its lack of size. Due to the short distances all potential locations are within easy reach. This avoids unnecessary travel time and enables visitors efficient time management. Whether they travel by car or public transport.

4. A metropolitan area: Amsterdam, Utrecht, Rotterdam

These three cities constitute a single metropolitan area the size of any other international metropolis. Connected by means of 24/7 train schedule and various highways it is the heart of the country.

5. Conference culture

The Netherlands offer numerous interesting locations for pre- and post conference visits, all within a 2 hour range from Utrecht. From student budget to professional allowance every visitors is catered for.

6. Free, hospitable and international atmosphere

The Netherlands have a reputation to uphold when it comes to tolerance and international focus. Both enormous advantages for organizing a international conference. In addition, the vast majority of inhabitants speak English which can make foreigners feel at home.

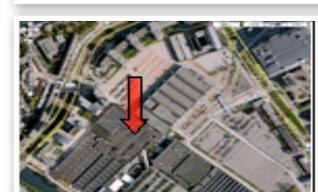
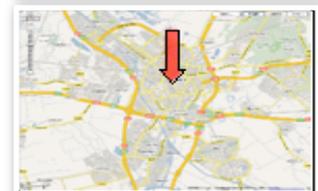
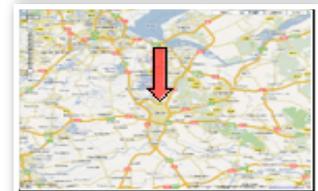
7. Professional organizers

The Netherlands boast a wide ranging and professional conference infrastructure and experience; from appropriate locations to specialized organizers. This translates into a personal, pragmatic and approach.

8. Modern ICT-infrastructure

With its “fiber” policy every one has access to a broad band connection. On top of that the number of hot spots for WiFi in the public areas is increasing at a rapid pace.

9. Culture and entertainment





When it comes to organizing a social programme, the country boasts a wide variety of cultural activities and entertainment. From classical to modern dance, mediaeval to house music, and from theatre, clubbing and pubbing to large periodical events, the calendar is full throughout the year.

10. Good quality for a reasonable price

In terms of cost of living The Netherlands provide good value for a reasonable price. Foreigners are able to avoid Value Added Tax on their purchases.

Dutch conference statistics

In 2007 the Dutch Bureau for Tourism and Conferences (NBTC) published some facts on The Netherlands as a conference destination, based on the numbers for 2006.

The Netherlands as conference destination in 2006	
Total number of international conferences	1.022
Total number of conference attendee days	777.655
Average number of visitors	195
Average length in days	3.80

Source: NBTC 2007 with data 2006

In 2006 the Netherlands were successful as an international conference destination. Our country achieved fourth place in international rankings as yearly published by the UIA (Union of International Associations). Especially in comparison to much larger countries. Besides its modern facilities and infrastructure, according to the UIA the rise of The Netherlands can be attributed to the compact nature of the country.



The top 15 international conference countries according the UIA association- and governmental conferences

RANKING				COUNTRY	NO. CONFERENCES			
2006	2005	2004	2003		2006	2005	2004	2003
1	1	1	1	United States	894	1039	1080	1068
2	2	2	2	France	634	590	552	647
3	3	3	3	Germany	434	410	491	487
4	7	12	10	Netherlands	391	341	208	268
5	8	9	9	Austria	382	314	279	274
6	6	5	6	Spain	362	368	361	376
7	4	4	5	Great-Brittan	350	386	377	420
8	21	18	15	Finland	325	119	156	185
9	5	6	4	Italy	324	382	336	437
10	15	18	21	Singapore	298	177	156	122
11	9	7	7	Switzerland	288	268	302	322
12	10	8	8	Belgium	239	242	282	283
13	12	14	14	Canada	230	214	197	218
14	11	10	20	China, Hong Kong & Macau	204	216	231	123
15	13	11	12	Australia	202	200	224	220

Source: UIA Statistics Report 2007/06/05/04 with statistics of 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2003

Affordability

The Netherlands are part of the so called Euro zone. The Eurozone refers to the currency union among 15 European Union member states that have adopted the Euro (€) as their sole official currency.

Based on official estimates of 2007 GDP and purchasing power parity among the various currencies, the Eurozone is the largest economy in the world. For travelers this provides many advantages. Most important is the advantage of a stable exchange value with other currencies. When traveling around there is less need to change money into additional currencies. This largely levels out price deference between the countries.

Lifestyle

The Dutch have a high standard of living, but the cost of living is at an acceptable level. The costs of accommodation, schooling, entertainment and cultural activities are lower than in most West-European countries. The



'United Nations Human Development Report 2004' placed The Netherlands amongst the five best countries of the world to live in.

The city of Utrecht is fairly representative of the Netherlands as a whole. Living and working in Utrecht offers all the advantages of The Netherlands, with the specific advantages and dynamics of this lively city being an added bonus.

In Utrecht, a lot of attention is paid to the living and residential environment of its inhabitants as well as for greenery and recreational facilities. The convenient city centre radiates warmth and intimacy, but Utrecht is also a lively city with national events such as the Dutch Film Festival. The residents of the city greatly appreciate the 'quality of life' (Rated with an 8.1 in 2004). Thanks to the development of well-thought out programs, a drop in criminality for example, was achieved in 2004 for the third consecutive year. The urban project Leidsche Rijn, which is currently under development and will be completed in 2015, will provide living space for 80,000 people, and is aimed at ensuring the city's population adequate living space in the future as well.

Climate and delegate safety

The Netherlands, as most of Western-Europe, boasts a moderate climate with mild autumns.

Due to its longstanding economic and political stability the Netherlands provide a safe environment for visitors. The rate of violent crime in the Netherlands is low.

There are no health risks associated with travel to the Netherlands and no inoculations are required. It is safe to drink tap water. The standard of health care in the Netherlands is very high, but the necessary health insurance provisions must be made before traveling. Good medical facilities are widely available.

Green urbanity

The city of Utrecht is placed at the green heart of the Netherlands. From centre to surrounding country side will take less than 30 minutes whether by car, public transport or bike. This enables visitors to escape the urban setting of the city and conference and wind down in the country side at any given moment.





Travel and Access





Travel and Access

Utrecht is accessible by train, road and bus from many parts of Europe, and international travelers can fly into Schiphol Airport, which is about a 40-minute drive from Utrecht's city centre.

Utrecht's central location in The Netherlands is one of its most valuable characteristics. This makes a quick access possible to the cities both within and outside the Metropolitan area, and most European cities as well, via public transport or by car. The ICE train for example takes you to Frankfurt via Düsseldorf and Cologne in less than four hours. The Schiphol airport, with all its important international connections, is just half-an-hour's drive away. Starting March 2006, the Utrecht-Schiphol route will only take 20 minutes, thanks to a modern, direct train connection. The city of Utrecht is also part of the Nieuw Sleutel (New Key) Project. This project plans to link a number of Dutch cities (Rotterdam, The Hague, Utrecht, Breda, Arnhem and Amsterdam) via a high-speed line to complement present 24/7 train schedules.

International Access

By Air

Some statistics and information about Schiphol Airport in 2007

- ◆ 47.8 million passengers, 40 % business passengers
- ◆ 110 airlines serving 267 scheduled destinations and excellent transfer connections
- ◆ Amsterdam Airport Schiphol serves the second largest catchment area in Europe including over 1500 international companies in the Amsterdam area. The Randstad region (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht and The Hague) is the fourth largest economic urban area in Europe
- ◆ Passengers benefit from a one-terminal concept
- ◆ International hub with 6 runways and 93 gates
- ◆ High peak hour capacity and slot availability





From the airport, travelers can choose to take a taxi, train or shuttle bus to Utrecht city. Trains depart from the NS Terminal at Schiphol Airport. Passengers should follow the train icons to get to the departing rail terminal. Trains usually leave the airport train terminal every 30 minutes from 06:00 to 12:00, after which trains run hourly. Passenger will not need to change trains on their way to Utrecht.

Furthermore Utrecht is located close to Amsterdam Airport (Schiphol) (30 minutes by train), Rotterdam Airport (50 minutes by train) and Eindhoven Airport (60 minutes by train).

By train

All roads lead to Rome, but almost all the trains in the Netherlands pass by (and stop in) Utrecht. There are direct trains from many stations in the Netherlands (e.g. Rotterdam, Amsterdam, The Hague, Maastricht, Eindhoven, Groningen). There are international (night) trains from Vienna, Prague, Basel, Moscow, Warsaw and Berlin going to Utrecht.



It is also very convenient to get to Utrecht by using the international train network. Trains from several major European cities arrive at Utrecht on a daily basis, as it is the centre of the Dutch railway network. Several trains also dock at Rotterdam, from where passengers can get a connecting train to Utrecht, with a journey time of about an hour.

Train travel is the best way to see Europe's cities. Travel by train gets you from city center to city center quickly, and Europe's train stations almost always have reasonable hotels close by.

Europe prides itself on having one of the most extensive train networks in the world. Traveling Europe by train can take you where you want to be. Travel to capital cities and charming, forgotten towns where time has stood still for centuries. You can save by going second-class (it's hardly roughing it) or travel first class all the way - with gourmet meals and private sleepers.

Bus

Almost all international busses to the Netherlands have a stop in Utrecht at the Jaarbeursplein, next to Utrecht Central Station. When the bus doesn't stop in Utrecht, take the train to Utrecht (like the Eurolines busses stopping at "Amsterdam Amstel").



Europe has a good bus network system and many of the bus services stop directly at Utrecht's main bus station, at Jaarbeursplein. Some international buses stop at Amsterdam and from here travelers can get to Utrecht by transferring to a connecting train or bus. Alternatively, you can take a taxi.

By car

If visitors prefer to drive, the European roads A2, A12, A27 and A28 all lead to Utrecht. It is very easy to get onto these highways from almost all European cities. The roads are in good condition and the signs showing the directions are easy to read. Many of the highways outside The Netherlands require drivers to pay a toll, and it is important to have the car registration and insurance documents to hand.



Visas

The Netherlands is a party to the Schengen Agreement. The agreement enables free travel within the larger part of Europe. Visitors from other countries therefore only have to apply for a visa in the Netherlands in order to travel unhindered throughout most of Europe. U.S. citizens, and several other nationalities may enter the Netherlands for up to 90 days for tourist or business purposes without a visa.

To increase foreign attendance the LOC provides visa service for visitors. OTB has long time experience with arranging visa's for visitors from abroad when participating in conference.

Transportation in The Netherlands

National

Public transport

The Netherlands has an extensive and much-used railway network, which connects virtually all cities and many towns with each other. Trains are frequent, with one or two trains per hour on lesser lines, two to four trains per hour on most lines in the country and up to 8 or 10 trains an hour between the big cities. There is a night service, called Nachtnet (Night Network, although it is just a single U-shaped line) with an hourly service



connecting Rotterdam Central , Delft, The Hague Central, Leiden Central , Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam Central, Utrecht Central (i.e., most of the large cities in the [Metropolitan](#) area as well as the main airport).

From the airport, travelers can choose to take a taxi, train or shuttle bus to Utrecht city. Trains depart from the NS Terminal at Schiphol. Passengers should follow the train icons to get to the departing rail terminal. Trains usually leave the airport train terminal every 30 minutes from 06:00 to 12:00, after which trains run hourly.

Private transport

The Netherlands has one of the most advanced motor-way networks in the world, with Variable Message Signs and electronic signalization across most of the country. So, no need to lose your direction.

Regional

Public transport

Both regional and city buses can be found throughout the country. Light rail connections are available from Utrecht centre to the southern suburbs.

Local

Private transport

The conference venue and city centre in Utrecht are within 10 minutes walk from each other. However, cycling is a very common and popular method of transportation in the Netherlands and Utrecht in particular. Bicycles can be rented per ½ day or more and are mainly used for short-distance trips such as shopping, going to school and work. Bicycles are also well-used for recreational purposes.

Public transport

In case the footwork proves too strenuous there are of course other options. Buses operate during most of the day from the centre to the town's outskirts and back. A single fare will cost you around \$2. Taxis, either pre-booked or halted on the street will bring you from door to door. In the city centre of Utrecht you will find them everywhere. The price of a taxi to a place in Utrecht itself is normally around € 10 - € 15.



Transport Pass

Train tickets can be purchased at the railway stations. For local public transport a single transport pass is available.





Pre and Post Conference Touring





The LOC will suggest and - where appropriate - arrange pre- and post-conference tours and cultural activities for FOSS4G2010 participants and accompanying persons prior, during and after the conference.

Visitor attractions in and around Utrecht

Due to its wide variety of inhabitants Utrecht offers something for everyone.

Cultural life in this city is thriving. Classical and modern theaters, a wide range of museums and various music halls create a buzzing atmosphere. Utrecht hosts the annual Dutch Film festival one of the busiest events in the Netherlands. No wonder that cinemas with movies from art house to block buster have settled close together on the so called Film Boulevard.



Shopaholics can rummage through specialized stores in the old centre of Utrecht or stroll from department store to another in the huge Hoog Catherijne shopping Mall.

To experience the charms of the city a boat tour on the canals is recommended. Autumn provides a scenic back drop for one of the oldest towns in Europe.



Terraces on the side of the canals offer food and drinks all day long. Restaurants for every purse, from student to yup, and for every taste of the world are within walking distance of the Conference venue. For the sleepless the city of Utrecht has a buzzing nightlife ranging from small quaint bars to Irish pubs. Clubbers can choose from a host of dance halls, tea-dances and discotheques.

Touring options around Utrecht and the Netherlands

The city of Utrecht is surrounded by a host of estates, castles and palaces, within an hour distance from the city centre. Due to the short distances within the Netherlands touring options around the Netherlands deserve extra notice.

The Netherlands as a whole are an internationally attractive and compact tourist destination (in 2007: 10,1 million inbound passengers via Schiphol Airport). It is a country with a rich history, cultural heritage, multicultural society and spirit of commerce and entrepreneurship.





The city of Amsterdam is within a distance of half an hour, by car or train. This enables conference visitors and others to visit the country's capital at any given time 24 hours a day.

Touring options around Europe

Europe, also known as “The Old World” is the cradle of Western society. This is reflected in cities, monuments and artifacts dating back hundreds if not thousands of years. In combination with contemporary buildings etc the juxtaposition of old and new provides a sensational experience for every visitor.

Europe has taken on the task of making its territories and cities accessible to everyone, and so offers solutions adapted to people with disabilities.

For those who like to travel by car it serves to know that most major capitals in Europe can be reached within 1 day! In case a car is not an option. A European rail pass would be an ideal alternative to purchase in this situation. It's a train pass that gets you on virtually any train at any time so that you can travel to any country across Europe.



However do not exclude travel by air just for money reasons. Budget airline travel makes it fast and simple to get from one country to the next for prices as low as \$20 for a one way ticket.

Last but not least, bus tours are some of the most convenient and fun ways for new travelers and seasoned ones alike to take in the sites. These tours can range anywhere from four days to over a month and include some meals. Various bus operators maintain a number of convenient long-distance coach connections between e.g. Amsterdam and Utrecht and many cities across Europe. Citysprint buses also travel across the English Channel to the United Kingdom.



Europe has some of the major attractions, which are of historical and cultural importance. Some of the most beautiful natural sights are also located in the very picturesque Europe. The climate of Europe is considerably milder as compared to other areas around the world located on similar latitude.

