

Dear FOSS4G selection committee,

I am pleased to send you this *letter of intent* for the organization of FOSS4G conference in 2013 in Prague, Czech Republic.

Local Organization Committee

Karel Charvát, Conference Chair

Karel Charvát is former president of EFITA, current member of Board of Seniors of EFITA and contact person for cooperation with Africa, chair of CCSS, actively participating on various EU projects and geospatial communities.

Jáchym Čepický, Programme Committee Chair

Long-time active developer and user of Free and Open Source Software for Geoinformatics. Former developer of GRASS GIS, contributor to various projects, original author of PyWPS. Nowadays working HSRS as developer.

Other members of organization committee have experiences with organization of conferences and are active in world wide geospatial communities:

- Karel Charvát – Conference Chair, Chair of Czech Centre for Science and Society
- Jáchym Čepický – Programme Committee Chair, Help Service - Remote Sensing
- Zbyněk Křivánek – Conference Economy and Management, Czech Centre for Science and Society
- Jitka Faugnerova – Czech Environmental Information Agency (CENIA)
- Martin Landa – Czech Technical University
- Aleš Čepěk – Czech Technical University
- Otakar Čerba – University of West Bohemia in Pilsen
- Jan Ježek – University of West Bohemia in Pilsen
- Milan Novotný – T-Mapy Ltd.
- Josef Hnojil – Geobusiness

Conference Organizers

[Czech Centre for Science and Society](#) (CCSS - the main organizing company) is an association of high-tech SMEs, the public administration and research organizations. It is an independent, non-profit and non-governmental research organisation. It is focused on International activities in the field of international research projects and utilization of modern technologies. CCSS has experiences with organization of international events, like small project meetings up to large conferences (last year it was European and world congress for Informatics in Agriculture and Precision Farming, this year it is first FOSS4G-CEE).

[Help Service – Remote Sensing Ltd.](#), most active Czech company regarding development and contributions to Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (PyWPS, OpenLayers, MapServer and others).

[Czech Environmental Information Agency](#) (CENIA), established by Czech Ministry of Environment, being responsible (among others) for implementation of INSPIRE directive in Czech.

The [Geomatics section](#) of Department of Mathematics of Faculty of Applied Sciences in the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen (UWB) contributes to various “open”-geospatial activities. Open Source applications represent the very important part of education curriculum as well. Important part of our activities is focused on European projects (Plan4all, SDI-EDU etc.).

Event will be organised together with [PRAGIA incoming agency](#), which will take care about the main organization process.

Venue Information

Preliminary date: 9-13 September 2013

Conference and accommodation

International four-star hotel [Clarion Congress Hotel Prague](#) is a state-of-the-art congress centre providing high quality services for hosting variety of events. The hotel has an extensive conference spaces with the capacity for

up to 2,500 persons. All 27 halls and meeting rooms, covering total area of 4,000 m², are equipped with the most modern technology for hosting all types of events and activities. There are rooms and conference spaces of different sizes, from the Conference Suites suitable for private meetings, through restaurants, staterooms, lounges and halls, to the Congress Hall with a capacity of 1,500 attendees. Television broadcasts is possible too. The continuous spacious foyer (1,300 m²) is perfect for exhibitions and additional programmes. Hotel is covered by WI-FI signal in conference halls as well as in the rooms.

Workshops and code sprints

We have started negotiations with Czech Technical University in Prague (CTU) to use their campus for FOSS4G 2013 workshops and code sprints. Whole campus is covered with WI-FI access with sufficient capacity for daily traffic produced by students. Computer rooms for workshops are at hand.

Accommodation

Clarion Congress Hotel (four-star hotel – the venue) has over 500 standard or executive rooms and eight rooms designed and set up specifically for the handicapped. Hotel is covered by WI-FI signal and is located in wider centre of Prague (15 minutes to downtown using public transport). Accommodation starts at 140€, going up to 200€. Besides Clarion, various smaller or bigger hotels in the area of Congress centre with price range from 40€ to 250€ can be found. Hostels with price around 30€ or lower are possibility too.

Overview about transport times

- From Prague airport to Clarion Hotel approx 35 minutes by taxi, 45 minutes by public transport
- From Prague airport to CTU Campus 15 minutes by taxi, 30 minutes by public transport
- From Clarion to Campus 20 minutes by taxi, 30 minutes by underground + 5 minutes walking
- From Clarion to Prague downtown approx 15 minutes using underground

Prague: „hearth of Europe“

Prague (Praha in Czech) was the ancient capital of Charles IV's Bohemian Kingdom, and has played a pivotal role in the development of Central Europe since the Middle Ages. Its epic history has produced a vibrant city of stunning buildings and lovely old squares, with the result that today, Prague is one of the world's most beautiful cities. In 1992 the historical centre of Prague, all 866 hectares, was listed in the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Register.

Located in the middle of Europe, Prague is predetermined to be a crossings of people's tracks, their ideas. Undoubtedly FOSS4G Conference would be great opportunity to visit Prague, Czech Republic or any other places in Central Europe.

Geospatial Open Source Community in Czech republic

Although there is no Czech OSGEO Local chapter, Czech FOSS4G community is active regarding software development, it's usage and support. There is regular [Geoinformatics](#) conference (organized by Czech Technical University, Prague) with international attendance (from Germany, Poland, Slovak and other countries). In May 2012, first [FOSS4G-CEE](#) conference is organized in Prague, with attendees coming not only from Europe. Many Czech developers are active in various FOSS4G projects.

Conference is supported by universities, which are actively participating on FOSS4G development (UWB Pilsen, CTU Prague, TU Ostrava). It is also supported by governmental organizations Forest Management Institute (FMI) and Czech Environmental Information Agency (CENIA) and others.




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