

Academic Track at FOSS4G2010 Barcelona

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FOSS4G (Free and Opens Source Software for Geospatial) is the international annual conference of Open Source Geospatial Software. It is heralded as the international "gathering of tribes" of open source geospatial communities, where developers and users exhibit their latest software and projects. The FOSS4G2010 Academic Track acts as an inventory of current research topics, but the major goal is to promote cooperative research between OSGeo developers and academia. The academic track is the forum that highlights important research challenges and trends in the domain, and which becomes the basis for an informal OSGeo research agenda. It fosters interdisciplinary discussions in all aspects of the geospatial and free and open source domains.

The 2010 forum was held in Barcelona from 6th to 9th September. Topics of the conference were:

- Geo-Visualization
- Geospatial software Development
- Comparison of geospatial software
- Case studies
- Public geodata, collaborative data collection, data sharing, open standards

There were approximately 900 participants. The conference was subdivided in two parts: workshops over two days 6th-7th September followed by oral presentations and posters on the 8th- 9th Sept. WG IV/5 was requested to co-organize the Academic Track.

There were 61 abstracts submitted for the Academic Track; among them 16 were accepted for oral presentations and 40 were accepted for poster presentations. The Academic Track was organized in four sessions on the 8th September, one of which was chaired by Maria Antonia Brovelli (co-chair of the ISPRS WG IV/5). Themes proposed in the session were broad, ranging from environmental data geo-processing to web services and web applications. The attendance at the Academic Track was significant, reaching to over two hundred persons for some presentations. At the conference the two ISPRS co-chairs that were present (Maria Antonia Brovelli and Bert Veenendaal) met the members of the OSGeo EDU Committee and discussed the reciprocal interest in maintaining close relations, also for future events.

The Proceedings CD will be issued by the Local Organizing Committee in the next months. Some of the papers have been selected to go through a peer-review process for possible publication in Enviromental Modelling & Software and in a special journal issue on Applied Geomatics, of which Maria Antonia Brovelli is one of the editors.



FOSS4G2010 Opening Session (Photo by Christopher Schmidt)



FOSS4G2010 Academic Session (Photo by Christopher Schmidt)