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**Word from the Editor**

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to present you a new edition of the AGILE newsletter. It has been some time since you were handed one of the last copies. As you know, these are important times in the life of our organisation. AGILE is no longer pioneering the idea of a pan-European organisation focused on GI research. This is no longer a possibility but a reality. Now, we are a well established and respected association of nearly 100 laboratories that is in the centre of some of the most important spatial initiatives in our continent like the INSPIRE process or the GMES programme. The organisation is also developing links with similar groups in the 5 continents, we have an annual conference that next year will celebrate its 10th anniversary, our working groups are involved in a series of important international initiatives, our associates actively contribute to enhance current scientific knowledge through a series of special publications, etc.

In conclusion, we have grown as an organisation and now we need to improve our communication channels. Our web site initiated an important process of renovation last year in order to keep information updated. Now it is the turn to our Newsletter, which has been conceived, like the web site, as a living document where everybody is invited to read the news but also welcome to contribute to it. Enjoy reading!

Juan Suarez  
 Chief Editor

**10th AGILE Conference**

International Conference on Geographic Information Science  
*The European Information Society:  
 Leading the way with geo-information*  
 Aalborg, Denmark  
 8-11 May 2007  
[www.agile2007.dk](http://www.agile2007.dk)

On behalf of the AGILE Council and Working Groups, we invite you to participate at the 10th scheduled conference to take place at Aalborg University situated at the Top of the Continent in Denmark. The program will offer paper presentation sessions, plenary round table debates, poster sessions and pre-conference workshops to share your ideas, explore on-going research, future developments, including state-of-the-art applications, and to network with the professionals from academia, industry and government who are interested in promoting GI teaching and research activities among GI laboratories at the European level.



**Conference topics**

Contributions are invited on all topics within the fields of geo-information, geomatics, and geocomputation, including (but not limited to):

- Geospatial data capture, fusion and harmonisation
- EO Systems: issues and applications
- Demographic and socioeconomic modelling
- Environmental and ecological modelling
- Health and medical informatics
- Applied urban and regional modelling
- Natural resource management and monitoring
- Disaster and risk management
- Climate change and carbon management

- GI education and training
- GIS and society Spatial Cognition
- Space-time analysis and modelling
- Visual analytics and geovisualisation
- Spatial Information Infrastructures
- GI policy and society, e-Government
- Interoperability and geospatial technology
- Location based services and mobile applications
- Spatial Data Usability
- Uncertainty in geographic information
- Geographic data mining and knowledge discovery

## Submission Guidelines

Potential contributors are invited to submit:

- Full-paper submission (maximum 6000-word manuscript) of original and unpublished fundamental scientific research. High-quality scientific submissions will be accepted for presentation at the conference and published in the new Springer Lecture Notes Series on Geo-Information. We especially encourage PhD students to submit full papers. Papers must be written in English according to the Springer formatting guidelines.
- Long abstract submission (2000 to 3000-word manuscript) of original and unpublished research work. High-quality scientific and strategic (industrial and governmental) submissions will be accepted for presentation at the conference and published in the AGILE proceedings volume (with ISBN). Papers must be written in English according to the submission template and formatting guidelines.
- Short abstract submission (500 to 1000-word manuscript) of original scientific and strategic research work. High-quality submissions will be accepted for poster presentations at the conference and provide the exceptional opportunity to stimulate scientific discussions and exchange novel ideas. Papers must be written in English according to the submission template and formatting guidelines.

Authors' instructions are available at [www.agile2007.dk](http://www.agile2007.dk). All submissions must be sent electronically via the on-line conference manager.

## Review Process

Full-paper submissions will be independently reviewed by 3 reviewers from the Programme Committee and will result in one of the following decisions: accepted or rejected. Authors of rejected contributions will be invited to re-submit their manuscripts as long abstracts, which will be reviewed again for oral presentation and publication in the conference proceedings.

Both long and short abstract submissions will be independently reviewed by 3 reviewers from the Programme Committee and will result in one of the following decisions: accepted, conditionally accepted, or rejected. Abstracts conditionally accepted will have

to satisfy the recommendation of the reviewers if the authors want them to be included in the final programme.

At the conference, prizes will be awarded to the best paper and poster, courtesy of a corporate AGILE affiliated member.



## AGILE Grant Programme

The AGILE Grant Programme will allocate 10 grants (scholarships) to AGILE 2007 attendees, with priority given to student candidates from lesser developed regions. Each grant consists of the following:

- Full conference registration (including all events that are covered by the conference fees and proceedings);
- A maximum of four nights (including breakfast/dinner) at a hotel to be chosen by the conference organisers.

The estimated value of each grant is approximately 500 Euro. The AGILE Council will manage all transactions, including hotel payments and payment of the conference registration fee. Grantees must however make their own hotel reservation and take care of the conference registration themselves. More details will be provided to successful applicants.

Those interested in the programme, please send an e-mail to Fred Toppen ([f.toppen@geog.uu.nl](mailto:f.toppen@geog.uu.nl)), having as subject "AGILE 2007 grant" and include the following information:

- Full name;
- Institution full address;
- Full personal contact details including e-mail address, telephone and fax number;
- Gender (male/female);
- Professional status (professor, PhD-student, student, government researcher, full-time or part-time student, etc.);
- If you are an AGILE 2007 conference paper/poster (co-)author;
- A ONE-PAGE letter of interest highlighting the impossibility of getting (sufficient) other sources of funding, the strategic value of applicants institution within the country of origin, and the importance for applicant to attend the AGILE 2007 conference, also with respect to the scientific expectations of the applicant.

## AGILE Working Groups and Pre-Conference Workshops

AGILE Working Groups play an important role in putting together an attractive and coherent programme. They suggest conference themes and are involved in

the abstract review process. The conference organisers also support the organisation of pre-conference workshops organised by the AGILE Working Groups. The workshops normally take place before the AGILE conference. A list of workshops and dates will be displayed in the conference web site.

## Programme Committee

Programme Chair: Monica Wachowicz, Wageningen University and Research Centre

Programme Co-Chair: Sara Fabrikant, University of Zurich

Chair, Local Committee: Lars Bodum, University of Aalborg

## Important Deadlines

15/11/2006: deadline receipt of full papers  
20/12/2006: notification full-paper acceptance  
18/01/2007: deadline receipt of abstracts  
26/01/2007: deadline request for grants  
20/02/2007: notification of abstracts acceptance  
01/03/2007: full-paper copies, camera-ready  
31/03/2007: abstract copies, camera-ready  
8-11/05/2007: conference



## From the President

Dear AGILE members and friends,

Since we last met face to face, at the Visegrad conference in April, several association news items have come to light that I am pleased to share with you.

The AGILE Council held a regular meeting on September 19 in Münster, just prior to the GI Science conference held in that same city. Among the decisions taken, four are especially important:

1. Council proposed to amend the association's household rules, to better align the terms of council officer positions (nominated) with council member elected terms. This will provide for better continuity among and between chairs, secretaries and treasurers, and will facilitate officer appointments. Details will be sent to you shortly, as the household rules can only be amended with your approval.
2. Council decided to focus efforts during the coming year on revising the AGILE Research Agenda, a process that is long overdue. Council will take the first step of analyzing the websites of current members, other research agenda including the UCGIS Body of Knowledge (see <http://www.ucgis.org/priorities/education/modelcurriculumproject.asp>), and also will match on-going and planned AGILE research to the FP7 programme of work. We are counting on the active assistance of the

membership, via the respective AGILE Working Groups. The new research agenda will be a sort of political statement (manifesto) as well as an academic tool, and so we want to know your opinion; we will be sending a draft document soon.

3. Council similarly decided to focus on improving relations with the GI and related industries. The round table discussion at the Visegrad conference showed how an open and active dialog between researchers and industry is both healthy and productive. How can we create better synergy between traditionally long research cycles and short development cycles? Hopefully we are able to organise some sort of industry event for the 2007 meeting.
4. Council accepted the formal offer of University of Girona (Spain) to host the 11th AGILE Conference in 2008. Girona is a wonderful location and is now a RyanAir hub! Council now welcomes offers for the 2009 and 2010 events, and any offers received will be considered within the coming 12 months.

In other matters, council learned recently that it will be losing one of its members, as Martin Raubal has accepted a faculty position in Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara, starting at the end of this year. We are sorry to lose Martin, and we thank him for his council service and we wish him well in his new adventure "out west". The vacant council position will be filled during the next regular election, within the coming months.

The latest news item is that we are, at the time of this writing, busy preparing for AGILE's participation in a Network on Spatial Data Infrastructure education, under the latest 'eContent Plus' Call for Proposals. The idea is to include AGILE as a coordinator and then assign tasks to members in the network, which would be supported by the grant the form of (modest) funding for travel and organization of seminars. The Call closes on October 19, and we hope to have news on the bid, for the next issue of this newsletter.

A final reminder from my side regarding the 10<sup>th</sup> AGILE conference: members seem to be pleased with the recent move to full paper reviews and the publication of a Springer monograph, in addition to the regular long abstract Proceedings volume. HOWEVER, this means that we all need to send high quality full papers, before the November 15 deadline, which is quickly approaching.

The Council will next meet at the Aalborg site, on February 7-9, 2007. I welcome your feedback now, if possible, but certainly before that February meeting. Help us to help you!

Michael Gould  
University Jaume I, Castellón, Spain



## Working Groups

### Urban and Regional Modelling

The future activities of the Urban and Regional Modelling Working Group until the conference in Aalborg are: first, we investigate the possibility of submitting a joint **research proposals** to ESPON program of the EU (responsibility: Henk Ottens) and to the 7th EU Framework (responsibility: Itzhak Benenson). Second, we are organizing an **information base** on available urban and regional modelling platforms, applications and relevant papers. Third, we plan a one day **pre-conference Workshop** on "*Urban Modelling and Geo-visualization*", which will be held at AGILE 2007 at Aalborg. We invite everyone interested in the links between urban modelling and geovisualization to take part in the workshop.

Everybody interested in actively participating in the Working Group is most welcome. For information please contact Itzhak Omer, [omery@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:omery@post.tau.ac.il).

### Education

The Education Working Group was founded in 2001 and an initial meeting was held at the 4th AGILE conference in Brno in 2001. The mission is to strengthen GI education by cooperation with AGILE. Further information can be obtained from the Education Working Group homepage (<http://plone.itc.nl/agile-edu>).

Some of you might have attended the **EUGISES 2006 conference**. The bi-annual conference is traditionally supported by the AGILE Education Working Group. This year, it took place in Poland (Crakow-Pieniny, Sep 7-10, 2006). The presentations provided the newest developments in GI education, e.g., e-Learning and curriculum development, and new contacts and ideas for new activities and projects.



A side event of EUGISES 2006 was a meeting between Ann Johnson (ESRI, USA) and AGILE representatives. We discussed about the contribution of AGILE to the "**Body of Knowledge**". The BoK (<http://www.ucgis.org/priorities/education/modelcurriculumaproject.asp>) is an initiative of the NCGIA (University Consortium for Geographic Information Science), and has just been published in a first version. "The Model Curricula is a vision of how higher education should prepare students for success in the variety of professions that rely upon geospatial technologies. Central to that vision is a comprehensive Body of Knowledge that specifies what aspiring geospatial professionals need to know and be able to do." The cooperation of AGILE and BoK will be discussed in the next AGILE council meeting. An option is to perform a BoK workshop at AGILE 2007.

Another strategic meeting took place as a side-event of GIScience 2006 (Münster, Germany, Sep 20-23, 2006, [www.giscience.org](http://www.giscience.org)). In November 2005, the new Latin-American GI organization **GILA** (Geographic Information in Latin-America, <http://www.gilanet.org/>) was launched in Brazil. GILA's goals are similar to those of AGILE. Therefore, the meeting of several representatives of both organizations discussed options for cooperation.

In cooperation with the OGC University Working Group, the AGILE Education Working Group organized a workshop on "**Teaching OpenGIS**" as a side event of AGILE 2006 (workshops materials see <http://plone.itc.nl/agile-edu/Members/brox/workshop-teaching-opengis>). The focus of this workshop was to develop concrete ideas for projects. The outcomes were three potential projects:

- User requirements analysis for needs in teaching OGC and SDI
- Development and exchange of OGC/SDI modules by e-Learning/blended learning
- Development of a software system for providing OGC compliant software and data to GI teachers. .

As a follow-up, the results were summarized and detailed in the paper of Simonis and Brox "*Teaching SDI and OGC*", which will be presented at the GSDI-9 conference in Santiago de Chile. The goal of this paper is to further discuss these project ideas and to acquire partners for concrete applications for funding (pre-published version see <http://ifgi.uni-muenster.de/~broxc/>).

The EC project "**GI-indeed**", coordinated by Anders Östman, started in October 2005 within the LEONARDO program. Content is the development of e-Learning modules for professionals. AGILE is an official project partner, represented by Christoph Brox. AGILE's tasks are to support the development of the curricula and quality management. For further details see <http://www.gisig.it/gi-indeed/>. A first GI-INDEED workshop on "*GI training: experience and needs in the new European dimension*" was held on October 2-3, 2006, Genova, Italy.



Another ongoing EC project is **eduGI**. A consortium of eight partners from eduGI.net ([www.eduGI.net](http://www.eduGI.net)) and AGILE started a project within the EC e-Learning program for the exchange of e-Learning courses. The key idea is to use existing resources (e.g., digital learning materials, existing e-Learning courses, e-Learning platform) in a non-fee business model. For further details see [www.eduGI.net/eduGI](http://www.eduGI.net/eduGI).

All AGILE members interested in actively participating in the Education Working Group are most welcome. For information, please contact Christoph Brox, [broxc@uni-muenster.de](mailto:broxc@uni-muenster.de). (<http://plone.itc.nl/agile-edu>).

## Environmental Modelling

The 2006 AGILE conference in Visegrad, Hungary, brought a change for the working group on environmental modelling. After six years, a new chairman was elected during the annual meeting of the working group. Can Ayday from Anadolu University, Turkey, is now leading the group. Several activities were planned for the period 2006 – 2007, among others the support of the conference 2007 in Aalborg concerning the review process, the organization of “**special sessions**”, especially **coastal management**, and the initiation of new relationships to other organizations that are involved in environmental modelling and environmental information, such as the new PEER network, where a specific pillar on “GI” was established in 2005. Concerning the contact between AGILE and PEER, you can contact Juan Suárez at: [juan.suarez@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:juan.suarez@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) or Hardy Pundt at: [hpundt@hs-harz.de](mailto:hpundt@hs-harz.de).

Secondly, the group is actively supporting the organisation of the next **ForestSAT** conference happening in Montpellier (France) in 2007, organised by Michel Deshayes from Cemagref. This series of conferences started in 2002 in Edinburgh and had a continuation in 2005 in Borås (Sweden). This event focuses on the technology transfer of research between GI Science and Remote Sensing and the forest industry. The call for papers will be announced soon.

For any information about the working group on environmental modelling, or in the case you plan any initiatives in the environmental sector, feel free to contact Can Ayday via email: [cayday@anadolu.edu.tr](mailto:cayday@anadolu.edu.tr).

## Data Policy

The origin of the Working Group goes back to the decision at the 1999 AGILE conference in Rome to set up a small group to co-ordinate the AGILE response to the EC Green Paper on Public Sector Information (Comm 585/98). Since then several papers were written and initiatives were taken in the field of Data Policy and more recently to support INSPIRE.

The Data Policy Working Group organised a **workshop on Monitoring and Reporting Spatial Data Infrastructures** in support of the INSPIRE initiative on April 19th in Budapest, at FÖMI, prior to the AGILE conference in Visegrad. The workshop has been co-organised by the Spatial Data Interest Community MORE ([www.sdic-more.org](http://www.sdic-more.org)). Presentations are available at the website of the working group <http://www.agile-online.org>.

There are plans to organise a follow-up workshop in spring 2007. For more information contact Ewa Wysocka at the Institute of Geodesy and Cartography, Poland ([ewa.wysocka@igik.edu.pl](mailto:ewa.wysocka@igik.edu.pl)).

## Report 9th AGILE Conference —

The Association of Geographic Information Laboratories in Europe (AGILE) held its 9th annual conference on Geographic Information Science, in Visegrad, Hungary, 20-22 April 2006. The conference programme consisted of a selection of 37 oral presentations, grouped in 10 parallel sessions, and 27 posters being displayed in 2 sessions.

### Old Europe, new Europe

By looking at the list of authors and their countries of origin, AGILE seems very alive in Europe. However, the organisation also develops interest beyond the old continent and gains support in America, Africa and Asia. This is another good example of how our annual event consolidates as the necessary reference in GI-Research across Europe and beyond. The thematic areas in the programme are the living demonstration of how the GI Science is evolving. Most of them were closely aligned to some of the priority research areas defined by the European Union, such as GMES, INSPIRE, the Water Management Directive or Risk Management. Some streams like Spatial Data Infrastructures, Earth Observation, Geo-visualisation, or the implementation of Decision Support Systems have been trendy this year too. **Semantics, Cognition and Interoperability** have been the most popular this time with the highest number of submitted abstracts. Perhaps, this is an indication that geo-services are booming everywhere. In this edition, the Water Management stream was introduced in the programme in response to the growing interest from the EU towards this issue. The number and the quality of the work submitted indicated a good reaction from the GI scientific community. This is the level of commitment of the European GI Scientists towards the fulfilment of a European Research Agenda.



### New Peer-review System

In AGILE, there is a constant endeavour to achieve a high degree of quality in its annual conference. This year, the scientific committee implemented a new peer-review system, whereby each abstract was evaluated by a team of three reviewers. The list of members in the scientific committee was made deliberately large to facilitate the revision of the submitted work, avoiding the overloading of each individual reviewer. At the same time, a large number of referees ensured that each paper was evaluated by somebody with the

required level of expertise to formulate a qualified opinion about your work. In addition, the review process was made blind. Papers were stripped down of the author's name and affiliation in order to remove any possible bias in the review system. A selection of papers of outstanding quality was reserved for a best papers session. This year the **best paper** award, selected by the audience, was given to Natalia and Gennady Andrienko, for *"Intelligent Visualisation and Information Presentation for Civil Crisis Management"*. After the conference, a selected group of authors have been asked to contribute to a special issue in Transactions in GIS.

### GMES Process and Disruptive Technologies

This year, two key note speakers introduced some of the most fascinating subjects in Europe: the future of GMES and the links between industry and research. The first speaker was Herve Jeanjean from CNES (France), who talked about the latest developments in the **GMES** process, the civilian use of the space, the new sensors and their impact on GI-Science. He concluded his presentation with an interesting outline of the French national space programme from SPOT to Pleiades and the Venus programme. Interesting to mention the sharp increase on the demand of SPOT imagery from users that can get free access to these data. This is an indication of the enormous appetite of earth observation products to support GI-applications.

The other invited speaker was Prof. Mike Jackson, from the University of Nottingham (UK). His talk focused on the nexus between **research and industry** and was followed by an industry session with other invited participants representing GIS software companies. Prof. Jackson outlined the effect of 'disruptive technologies' in research and industry. New technological developments that completely change our way of approaching solutions to today's problems, which will open new horizons that we don't currently recognise or can barely conceive. He illustrated this idea with examples like 3G mobile applications, the Galileo programme, the impact of GoogleEarth and on-line mapping.

The **industry panel session** was dedicated to responding to the provocative points made by Jackson and to discuss the links between academia and industry and the role of AGILE as a facilitator. Speakers in the round table were representatives from ESRI, Intergraph, Bentley, ProGIS, and Definienis.

### Exchange of Ideas

AGILE conferences, as always, wanted to prioritise communication. Both the venue itself and the structure of the conference were carefully chosen for facilitating the networking and the exchange of ideas between the delegates. Large breaks between sessions facilitated the **contact between delegates**, the visits to the exhibits and attendance to the poster sessions, which were regarded as social events and an opportunity for presenting research in a more visual context. The Thermal Hotel Visegrád and the local organisers managed to combine gracefully efficiency with a fairly

relaxed atmosphere; all of it in front of the ever impressive Danube that majestically meandered its way, barely 200 metres from the venue. The **social activities** intended to improve knowledge about Hungary and its history, traditions, cuisine or people. The local organisers put together a memorable group of activities in medieval castles that included tournaments, lavish banquets, music and traditional dances. Furthermore, the AGILE conference also included the annual meeting of the **working groups** supported by the organisation: Data policy, Education, Environmental Modelling, Urban Planning, Interoperability and Usability. Progress reports were presented at the end of the conference and can be visited at the AGILE website: [www.agile-online.org](http://www.agile-online.org). The Education and the Data Policy working groups organised two workshops prior to the conference in Budapest.



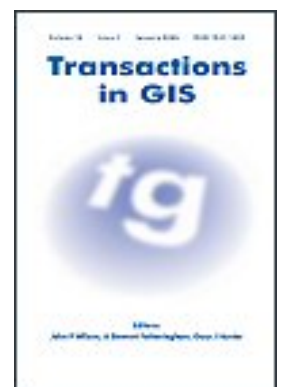
All the conference presentations and the photographic records are available at <http://www.agile2006.hu>.

Finally, the **AGILE Council** announced the appointment of a **new chairman, Michael Gould** from University Jaume I, Castellón, Spain, and the election of **two new members, Irene Compte** from University of Girona, Spain, and **Sara Fabrikant** from University of Zurich.

Juan Suárez  
Conference Convener

### Selected papers conference in Transactions in GIS

A selection of 16 papers has been submitted to John Wilson, chief editor of *Transactions in GIS*, in order to constitute a monograph issue in this journal. This issue will see the daylight at the beginning of 2007. The papers were carefully selected by the scientific committee of the last conference in Visegrad to represent a collective view of AGILE about the most important scientific challenges in GI research in Europe.



## GIScience conference 2006

This year's Conference on Geographic Information Science (GIScience 2006) was held in Europe for the first time and saw a record number of more than 350 participants. It was organized by the Institute of Geoinformatics at the **University of Münster**. The conference itself was held at Münster Castle—built from 1767 to 1787, formerly the Prince Bishop's residence, now part of the University.



The GIScience conference series ([www.giscience.org](http://www.giscience.org)) had been created as a forum for all researchers who are interested in advancing research in the fundamental aspects of Geographic Information Science. Starting with GIScience 2000 in Savannah, Georgia, USA, the conferences have been held biennially, bringing together a highly interdisciplinary group of scientists from academia, industry, and government to **analyze progress** and to **explore new research directions**. The conferences focus on emerging topics and basic research findings across all sectors of Geographic Information Science.

This year's conference was again a meeting point for researchers coming from various disciplines, including cognitive science, computer science, engineering, geography, information science, mathematics, philosophy, psychology, social science, and statistics. The advancement of Geographic Information Science requires such interdisciplinary breadth, and this is also what makes the conferences so exciting. In order to account for the different needs of the involved scientific disciplines with regard to publishing their research results, we have again organized two separate stages of paper submission: 93 full papers were each thoroughly reviewed by three program committee members and 26 were selected for presentation at the conference and inclusion in **Springer's Lecture Notes in Computer Science**. Then, 159 extended abstracts, describing work in progress, were screened by two program committee members each. 42 of them were selected for oral presentation, and 46 for poster presentation at the conference. All extended abstracts were published in a separate book in the Institute for Geoinformatics, University of Münster-Prints series (ifgi-prints).

The proceedings of GIScience 2006 provide ample evidence that the field of Geographic Information Science is both maturing and growing. This year's

number of full-paper submissions marked a record, topping the previous submission rate by more than 30%. Another important trend is the increasing competitiveness for entering the LNCS proceedings. The acceptance rate for full papers was below 28%, a clear indication for the quality of the proceedings. The mixture of topics at GIScience 2006 demonstrates that the field is still exploring **classical topics**, but also moving into **novel directions**. Among the traditional topics are spatial representations and data structures, spatial and temporal reasoning, computational geometry, spatial analysis, and databases. A significant number of papers dealt with navigation, interoperability, dynamic modelling, ontology, and semantics. Geosensors, location privacy, social issues and GI research networks rank among the important and exciting new directions.

In addition to the paper sessions, GIScience 2006 included four acclaimed **keynote addresses** by **Chris Gold, Gilberto Camara, Fiona Goodchild, and Melissa Bowerman**. Five pre-conference **workshops** with more than 120 participants, an interactive poster session, and social events were also part of the conference. The water castle of Nordkirchen, one of the most beautiful sights in the area, served as the location for the gala dinner. This year's conference turned out to be yet another highlight of the series combining excellent research with a picturesque background.

Martin Raubal  
Programme Committee Chair



Photos by Krzysztof Janowicz.

- Werner Kuhn, General Chair, [kuhn@uni-muenster.de](mailto:kuhn@uni-muenster.de)
- Martin Raubal, PC Chair, [raubal@uni-muenster.de](mailto:raubal@uni-muenster.de)
- Christoph Brox, Administrative Chair, [broxc@uni-muenster.de](mailto:broxc@uni-muenster.de)

IFGI, <http://ifgi.uni-muenster.de>, [www.giscience.org](http://www.giscience.org).



Geographic Information Science, 4th International Conference, GIScience 2006, Münster, Germany, September 20-23, 2006. Proceedings, Series: [Lecture Notes in Computer Science](#), Vol. 4197, Raubal, M.; Miller, H.J.; Frank, A.U.; Goochild, M.F. (Eds.). 2006, XIII, 419 p., Softcover, ISBN-10: 3-540-44526-9, ISBN-13: 978-3-540-44526-5

## Upcoming Events

### COSIT'07

The Ninth International Conference on Spatial Information Theory is to be held in Mt Eliza, Melbourne, Australia on September 19-23. COSIT'07 is concerned with theoretical aspects of space, time, and spatial information. Of special interest are aspects of "large-scale" space, i.e. spaces too large to be apprehended at once without technological aid. These include spaces of geographic and environmental scales in which humans make decisions and carry out actions. Spatial information theory also deals with the formal and natural description of processes and events in spatial environments, thus providing a foundation for the design and construction of geographic information systems (GIS) and for spatial information systems (SIS) in general. Empirical investigations, formal models, and the use of spatial information technologies reveal a large number of interesting research questions which require an interdisciplinary approach for their solution. The COSIT conference series brings together researchers from many disciplines and topics, in particular:

- Cognitive, Perceptual, and Environmental Psychology
- Geography and Geoinformation Science
- Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, and Cognitive Science
- Engineering and Human Factors
- Cognitive Anthropology, Psycholinguistics and Linguistics
- Ontology of the Geospatial Domain
- Architecture, Planning, and Environmental Design

The COSIT proceedings will be published by Springer-Verlag in the Lecture Notes in Computer Science series. Full papers are expected by 2nd of March 2007. More information at: <http://www.cosit.info>. Please address all correspondence about the conference to Stephan Winter, Department of Geomatics, University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia ([winter@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:winter@unimelb.edu.au))



### ForestSAT'07



Scientific Workshop

*Forest and Remote sensing: Methods and Operational Tools*

Organised by Michel Deshayes  
CEMAGREF

Montpellier, November 5 – 7, 2007

Forests are a vital component of our environment, at all levels, from local to global. They play a vital role in terms of production, protection, conservation and a social one. Since the early 90's, they are subject to a renewed interest, due to wide concerns regarding biodiversity and greenhouse effect that have resulted in multilateral agreements such as the Convention on biological diversity or the Kyoto protocol. Consequently the needs are growing for an inventory and characterisation of forests and for the knowledge of their functioning. In that context, remote sensing techniques have already shown that they can play a significant role. The recent years have seen the launch of new generations of satellites, with more being expected in the years to come, and now a large range of data is available, with spatial resolutions from a few kilometres to a few decimetres and acquisition periodicity up to several times a day.

Coming after two former issues, ForestSat'02 in Edinburgh (Scotland) and ForestSat'05 in Borås (Sweden), ForestSat'07 will take place in Montpellier, in early November 2007. It aims at presenting an organised panorama of the varieties of forest studies - either under development or having produced significant operational results - that take benefit from remotely sensed data.

Papers are expected on:

1. development of remote sensing methods : mapping, assessment of biophysical parameters, change detection
  - using existing satellites,
  - using advanced techniques: LiDAR, RADAR, VHR imagery...
2. applications of remote sensing to :
  - resources assessment and indicators of sustainable management
  - forest functioning and carbon cycle
  - monitoring of the impacts of global change
  - landscape ecology
  - biodiversity

Participants wishing to present a paper or a poster at the scientific workshop should submit a maximum 500 word abstract by e-mail. Submissions should be made on the conference website, at <http://forestsat07.teledetection.fr>.



Deadline for submission of abstracts is 1st June, 2007. Authors will be informed of the status of their proposal before 15th July, 2007.

Deadline for papers to be published in conference proceedings is the 1st of October 2007. Papers selected for peer review must be submitted by the 15th of January 2008.

## Silvilaser 2006



November 7-10, 2006  
Ehime Prefectural Convention Hall  
Matsuyama, Japan.

Organized by: Japan Society of Forest Planning  
Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute Ehime  
University

Applications of laser scanning systems to characterise forested areas have expanded rapidly over the last several years, particularly in the domain of forest inventory. The application of LiDAR data is expanding over an ever increasing range of interest areas. Previous conferences relating to LiDAR application in forestry were held in Canada, Australia, Sweden, Germany and USA. The Matsuyama conference will be the sixth in these international series. In the 21st century, LiDAR systems will be used worldwide for natural resource assessment, and this conference will generate interest in Asia as well as the rest of world. The intention of Silvilaser 2006 is to provide a platform for information sharing and to enable the communication of experiences users have had in using LiDAR data to meet a range of information needs. Developing the linkage between LiDAR practitioners across a range of applications domains is also a conference goal.

Info at <http://www.ffpri-skk.affrc.go.jp/event/silvilaser/>.

## IJSDIR, new on line Journal on SDIs

Call for articles in the International journal of spatial data infrastructures research.

IJSDIR is a **peer-reviewed journal** published exclusively on line by the **Joint Research Centre** of the European Commission. The aim of the Journal is to further the scientific endeavor underpinning the development, implementation and use of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs). These are defined as frameworks of technologies, data, policies, institutional arrangements, and people aimed at increasing the availability, understanding, and use of spatial data and services to support policy, business, research, and society at large.

The Journal is published free of charge and adheres to the Open Archives Initiative, which aims to facilitate the dissemination of electronic content. Authors submitting their work will therefore be also required to submit harvestable metadata. Authors publishing on IJSDIR retain full but non-exclusive rights in their articles, and will be required to use one of the Creative Commons licenses for submitting their work (<http://creativecommons.org>). The Journal requires authors not to submit their works to other publishers for review while the article proceeds through the IJSDIR review process. During this process however, the article will be already posted in the IJSDIR web site under the "Articles under Review" section to facilitate the timely exchange of ideas and progress of science. As soon as the article is accepted for publication, it will be moved to the Published section of the Web site. This process ensures that articles are published as quickly as possible and do not suffer the usual delays of journals in print.

## Agenda

3-11/11/2006	9 <sup>th</sup> GSDI Conference, Santiago, Chili
7-10/11/2006	Silvilaser 2006, Matsuyama, Japan
15/11/2006	Deadline Full Papers AGILE 2007
21/11/2006	Start Conciliation Process INSPIRE
18/1/2007	Deadline Abstracts AGILE 2007
7-9/2/2007	AGILE Council, Aalborg
March 2007	Elections Vacancy AGILE Council
8/5/2007	Pre-Conference Workshops AGILE
9-11/5/2007	10 <sup>th</sup> AGILE Conference, Aalborg
4-6/7/2007	13 <sup>th</sup> EC GI&GIS Workshop, Porto
Sept 2007	AGILE Council, place TBD
19-23/9/2007	COSIT 2007, Melbourne, Australia
5-7/11/2007	FORESTSAT 2007, Montpellier
Jan 2008	AGILE Council, Girona
Apr 2008	11 <sup>th</sup> AGILE Conference, Girona



## Ongoing activities

### GILA collaboration

During the GIScience conference several council members held a lunch meeting with Gilberto Câmara and Andrea Rodríguez, representatives of the fledgling association "Geographic Information Latin America", or GILA (see <http://www.gilanet.org>). In search of ways in which AGILE and GILA might cooperate in the near future, it was suggested that perhaps a special GILA-AGILE session could be arranged at an upcoming Geoinfo conference, perhaps in November 2007 (see <http://www.geoinfo.info/geoinfo2006/index.html>).

This event would then become less Brasil-focused and more Latin American in the wider sense, and hosts INPE could perhaps provide local support for AGILE participants. We will keep you informed of any concrete advances in this cooperation.

### INSPIRE Conciliation Process

The formal conciliation process should begin on the 21st November 2006. It is hoped that an agreement will be reached on that day or very soon thereafter. Intensive informal discussions between the Council of Europe, European Parliament and the Commission are underway in order to prepare this.

The final directive must be agreed and adopted by the Council and European Parliament. The Commission's role at this stage in the negotiations is to facilitate a compromise between the two.

Following agreement at political level the text will go through a process of linguistic revision and so we could expect final adoption in spring 2007.



Experts of the INSPIRE Drafting Teams, JRC, October 2005

### INSPIRE workshop new Member States

On September 14-15, the Joint Research Centre organised a workshop in Ispra, Italy, for the 'new' and Candidate Member States on the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive. All the Member States, except Malta, as well as the Candidate Countries attended the workshop. Each of them explained the status of their National SDI and how they want to organise INSPIRE InfoDays to support the implementation of the Directive. Several Spatial Data Interest Communities active in the field of SDI were asked to give their view on the SDI developments and the INSPIRE implementation process in Europe: AGILE, AGI, EUROGI, EUROCITIES, ... Danny Vandenbroucke attended the workshop on behalf of AGILE.

## GI PEER Network

The PEER network was created in 2001 and all PEER partners have a common scope of leading the development of a European Research Area in the environmental sciences, by integrating a broad range of environmental disciplines to provide science-based support for the development of a sustainable European environment (<http://peer-initiative.org/>).

Geo-Information is a PEER network pillar created in 2005 (<http://peer.teledetection.fr/>). The GI PEER aims to promote GI Science to scientific communities including universities, non-profit organizations and society. The future cooperation between PEER and the EMOD AGILE working group on environmental modelling is being discussed. This is one of many (but hopefully important) opportunities, to enhance and publish the activities and results concerning the use of GI technologies to process environmental information). Some initiatives are currently being set up, for example a special issue that includes high quality papers dealing with problems that concern both, GI PEER and EMOD AGILE.

### Banff meeting

May 30-31, a workshop was held in Banff, Canada, to discuss collaboration between Geo(matics) Research Organisations. Monica Wachowitz attended the workshop on behalf of AGILE. Other participants were: Michael Goodchild (NCGIA), Santiago Borrero (PAIGH), Michel Maingnaud (SIGMA), Arnold Bregt (RGI), Peter Woodgate (CRC SI), Roman Foley (NCG), John Wilson (UCGIS), Harlan Onsrud (GSDI) and Nicholas Chrisman (GEOIDE)

All the participants in this meeting agreed upon the need for formal international collaborations and discussed the convenience of setting up a global infrastructure for a 'Network of Networks' focused on geomatics (GI) research.

The potential reasons for creating such a global infrastructure are:

- Equity issues: inclusive all regions and all disciplines
- Pooling resources: avoid duplication of efforts (e.g. do not invest in programs on research that are already being covered in other countries)

- Improved practices: new mechanisms for distribution of tasks among communities and researchers.

The global infrastructure assets will be on sharing knowledge on:

1. Teaching materials, curricula, training courses (translation on different languages)
2. Data (SDIs, GSDI)
3. Analytical tools (software, applications, etc.)
4. Literature (concepts, theory)
5. Procedures, scripts (ways to do things)
6. Tools for mobility (removing barriers for improving collaboration)

The group also identified other organisations that should also participate in setting up this international network. They were CPGIS (Chinese Professional GIS), CSIS (Japan), ICSU, CODATA, FIG, ISPRS, OGC, ISO, and others from India and Africa.

The participants in this meeting outlined the need of:

1. Expanding to a second meeting with more organizations probably in mid 2007 in Mexico.
2. Demonstrating some level of collaboration via students' exchange, training events, etc.
3. Project interactions and development of collaborative projects.
4. Nick Chrisman will write one page statement explaining the purpose and objectives of this international network.
5. There are interesting funding initiatives for international collaboration: NCE (Network of Centres of Excellence in Canada) and RGI (NL), GEOIDE (Canada) and CRC SI (Australia) who will provide parallel funding opportunities for project collaboration.

## SIGMA collaboration

One of the outcomes of the Banff meeting is the willingness of both SIGMA and AGILE to collaborate at the level of collaborative projects. The idea is to use both SIGMA and AGILE networks to bring members together for developing project proposals for the 7th EU Framework. The French National Council of GIS (FGEO) organized a meeting on September 13th in Strasbourg. Danny Vandenbroucke, AGILE council member, participated in the meeting. The meeting discussed the collaboration between research and industry in France, and the potential collaboration between SIGMA and AGILE.

## Corporate news

So far, AGILE has signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) with some corporate AGILE members. When signing a Memorandum of Understanding, the parties involved agree to cooperate in a group of activities that are of mutual benefit. See [www.agile-online.org](http://www.agile-online.org) for detailed information.



## ESRI - AGILE International Internship Program

The ESRI - AGILE MOU includes an International Internship program. AGILE's internship coordinator to assist in the selection of appropriate candidates for the program is Juan C. Suárez from Forest Research, UK ([juan.suarez@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:juan.suarez@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)).

## DEFINIENS - AGILE International Internship Program

Definiens Imaging grants AGILE members a 15% discount on the suggested academic pricing for the eCognition product line. Contact point for marketing and sales questions is Martin Ehrhardt ([mehrhart@definiens.com](mailto:mehrhart@definiens.com)). Free trial versions and self training courses are available from <http://www.definiens-imaging.com>.

Definiens Imaging offers the possibility for internships of at least three (3) consecutive months in the Definiens headquarters in Munich, Germany. During this time the interns will have the possibility to work with experienced eCognition consultants on selected image analysis projects. Contact point for the internship program is Gregor Willhauck ([gwillhauck@definiens.com](mailto:gwillhauck@definiens.com)).

## BENTLEY – AGILE

Bentley Systems offers to AGILE members subscription to the Bentley Education Network, BEN, at 30% discount from the list price of Euro 110 per seat per year (Minimum is 15 seats). For more information on Bentley Education Network, BEN, please visit <http://www.bentley.com>. Also, Bentley Systems will offer free training on MicroStation for one person from each institution, AGILE member, who subscribes to BEN.

## INTERGRAPH – AGILE

INTERGRAPH has an interest in expanding the number of university graduates with GeoMedia experience, receiving prototypes and papers that demonstrate research results, getting involved in more AGILE projects and receiving information and feedback from AGILE on GeoMedia technology. Under the terms of the agreement, INTERGRAPH will provide a 25% discount on normal Power to Learn prices (Laboratory License, Instructor License and Internet Research License) and a 50% discount on Campus Site License to AGILE members. It will provide all AGILE members who purchase the Power to Learn License(s), with 24x7 web based technical support and access to the GeoMedia suite Knowledge Base.

## News from AGILE

### Martin Raubal is moving to other pastures...

Martin Raubal is moving to other pastures across the Atlantic. He has been an active member of AGILE and part of the council for the last 1,5 years. Certainly, we will miss Martin's dedication, honest work and bright contributions to this organisation. We can only wish him the best in this new step in his already bright professional career.

He sent us a goodbye note that we want to transmit to you: *"Dear friends and colleagues! After being a member for one and a half years, unfortunately I have to leave the AGILE council at the beginning of 2007. The reason is that after working at the University of Muenster for almost 5 years, I have accepted a tenure-track position at the University of California at Santa Barbara (Department of Geography) and will soon move to sunny California. It has been a pleasure working for AGILE and I wish you and our organization all the best for the future. See you at some future AGILE conferences! Best regards, Martin Raubal"*

All the best my friend and good surfing ... ☺

### Election new Council members

Since Martin is leaving the Council in January 2007, his position will become available. In addition, our treasurer Wolfgang Reinhardt has finished his 4 year mandate. We all hope Wolfgang will be candidate again!

The AGILE Council will organize elections for the two positions in March 2007. More information on the election procedure will be given in the next issue of this newsletter, on the website of AGILE and through mail.

### Call for hosting conference 2009-2010

AGILE is seeking for AGILE members wants to host one of the upcoming annual conferences. After Aalborg, it will be Girona who will welcome us. AGILE members can prepare their candidature for 2009, 2010 or beyond, by preparing a formal offer using the forms that can be obtained through our Secretariat. Organising an AGILE Conference is challenging but can also put your Laboratory or Institute on the European GI map!

### Join AGILE!

Is your lab or institute active in the field of GI research and/or education? Then your place is at AGILE! As a member of AGILE you have: reduced fees for our annual conference and pre-conference workshops, easy access to the AGILE network for joint research proposals and European collaboration in general, the possibility to influence the GI research agenda, participation in one or more working groups, better access to products offered by our MOU-partners,

access to database on research activities in Europe, etc.

### AGILE Council

- Michael Gould - Chairman, Geographic Information Group - Dep. of Information Systems (LSI), University "Jaume I", Castellón, Spain
- Monica Wachowicz - Secretary, Wageningen University and Research Centre, Centre for Geo-Information, The Netherlands
- Wolfgang Reinhardt - Treasurer, UniBw Munchen, AGIS GIS Lab, Neubiberg, Germany
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- Sara Fabrikant, University of Zurich, Department of Geography, Switzerland
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- Juan C. Suárez Mínguez, Forest Research, UK
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Our former President Mauro Salvemini and our Chief Editor Juan Suarez preparing the AGILE Council in Munich, 2005