České centrum pro vědu a společnost
Czech Centre for Science and Society
Radlická 28/663
CZ-150 00 Praha 5

We would like to present our offer for organizing FOSS4G conference 2011 in Prague. This document is prepared for second round of selection procedure and part of the documentation is also financial annex, with detail financial analysis of revenue and expenses. Our team has large experience from organizing national and international events (this year we organized three international Worldwide congresses) and the results of these congresses are also reflected in the offer for FOSS4G 2012. We are also planning to use tools, which were already developed, so all paper registration can start without any delay. Our team is now also supported by large number of public bodies and companies interested in cooperation on conference preparation. Organizing team is participating on large number of international SDI activities and projects including INSPIRE team and OGC activities, so we are able to promote events on different forums and also we are able to attract large communities including active presenters. Due the fact, that our team is promoter of Open Source tools in research project, but also in commercial activities, we could guarantee large impact of conference not only in Open Source communities, but also towards public and commercial sector.

Karel Charvat   Jachym Cepicky

1 Reasons for hosting the conference, goals for FOSS4G

1.1 How will your conference succeed financially?

The detail financial analysis are shown in the finance annex. The financial analysis has been done very realistically and it is based on our experiences from international events organized this year. We were very conservative in our estimation of revenue, because we would like to avoid any potential risks. From the analysis it is visible, that already with 450 peoples the conference will be profitable. To decrease financial risk, and also increase potential audience, we agreed, that as interconnected events Czech national INSPIRE conference will be organized. This event what will increase number of potential participants, but also will attract higher number of local exhibitors. Due to these facts we are able to guarantee financial success of conference. All possible financial risks are on the site of organization bodies.

1.2 How will your conference succeed socially?

The social influence of the conference could be seen from two points:

1. Social and political aspects of the conference
2. Social program of the conference

1. Conference will be organized in cooperation with public organization, which will be responsible for building national spatial infrastructure for environment and forestry, so participation of this organization will increase visibility of conference and we will also have political support from public bodies. Including Czech INSPIRE conference as part of event will also have large social and political impacts. We are also planning optional excursion into these two public organization for participants, who would like to be better informed how OS are used in our public sector.
2. We are preparing large social program during conference, which will include ice break party and gala dinner. As optional program there will be optional tourist trips before, during and after conference. We will be mainly focused on large cultural heritage of Prague and Czech Republic. The list of events is in detail described in annex. We have long time contract with travel agencies, which are also able to prepare other potential trips.

1.3 How will your conference provide open source education?

We already agreed on cooperation with most of Czech Universities dealing with education in geospatial technologies, so we are planning to organize special session OS in education.
Our next idea is to make all presentation available for education. We are planning to prepare video streams from all sessions and after conference making this streams, but also presentation freely available for large audience. This will bring benefit to educational sector from conference.
We will also offer reduced cost for regular and PhD students for the conference.

1.4 How will your conference promote open source geospatial?

We are planning to focus FOSS4G conference 2012 partly on services for public sector. Public sectors is one from large users of Geospatial technologies. Promote OS solution towards public sector is important aspect for better utilization of OS, so part of program will be focused on public sector and on INSPIRE directive.

Second part will be focused on large utilization of OS in research activates. We will use advantage of organizations, which are broadly participating in international research so it will help to attract important international projects dealing with OS.

As a part of the conference there will also be an exhibition. To promote OS solutions we are planning to make exhibition freely available at least for one day.

We already have partner for public relation - journal GeoBusiness, we are also planning to promote events and results trough other online resources. Important part will using one of our servers related to Geospatial technologies and social networks.

The conference committee is preparing conservative budget, which should guarantee, that even in economically turbulent times we should be able to be economical.

2 The hosting location

2.1 What city will the conference be in, what is interesting about it?

The conference will take place in Prague. 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. Prague has a compact city centre. From Prague Castle on one side of the historical centre, to Wenceslas Square on the other (walking down through the Lesser Town, across Charles Bridge and through the Old Town), is just a 25 minute stroll.

The Czech Republic covers an area of 78,864 square kilometres. It borders Slovakia, Austria, Germany and Poland. The highest mountain is Snezka (1604m). The longest river is the Vltava (434km).

The population is 10.3 million. Czech's belong to the West Slavic group of peoples, along with the Poles, Slovaks & Luatians. Romanies, or Gypsies, are the most conspicuous minority in Prague. They are thought to descend from Indian migrants in the 15th century.

2.2 What venue will the conference be in, what are the number of rooms available, seating, and associated pricing?

The conference will take place in the areal of Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CULS). Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (formerly of Agriculture) provides public higher education. In 2006 it celebrated its centenary anniversary. In first half of the 1960´s new campus of the University of Agriculture in Prague at Suchdol in the Prague outskirts, was build. Nowadays, CULS consists University consists of five faculties, two institutes and three agricultural enterprises for practical education.

Suchdol is part of Prague, located at the north of Prague. There is well and fast public transfer connection to the city center, which capacity is adjusted for daily life of the university. It takes 20 minutes with the public transfer to reach the heard of the city center.

CULS has enough capacity for both, conference talks and practical workshops. Since academic year at CULS starts at October, there will be no capacity limitations.

Study and Information Centre of CULS

2.3 Available workshop facilities, number of rooms, computers per room, pricing, strategy for providing workshop facilities.

7 – 10 rooms, 16 - 20 computers per room

2.4 Available rooms for additional small business meetings.

5 rooms every day for 10-40 people, with Internet access.

2.5 What accommodations are available? Where are they relative to the venue? Pricing? Quantity?

The closes and most valuable accommodation offers CULS Dormitories. They are located at the university campus, so it takes several minutes to come the the event (which is proofed by some students on daily basis). Dormitories do have capacity for conferences, rooms are nice and clean.

At Suchdol directly, there is Hotel WIENNA – Galaxie. Again, it takes about 15 minutes by walk to reach the university campus.

Directly in Prague, 10 minutes by public transport, several hotels are located.

Hotel name	Category	Distance to CULS	Price (per room, per night)	
			Single room	Double room
In place				
CULS Dormitories	Dormitories	<5 minutes walk	$45	$60
Wienna - Galaxie	****	15 minutes walk	$130	$150

In Prague, 10 minutes by public transport				
Diplomat Hotel Prague	****	15 min approximately	$190	$190
Crowne Plaza Prague	****	15 min approximately	$180	2$180

NOTES:

- ⚞ Price includes breakfast and taxes
- ⚞ Price of Crowne Plaza and Diplomate hotels does include shuttle service
- ⚞ Wienna – Galaxie hotel does not offer air condition

2.6 What is the maximum size your venue could entertain? The minimum?

Minimal economical size is 400 attendees. Maximum attendees for plenary sessions is 2×500 persons. With an exception for plenary sessions, the capacity of CULS campus is theoretically unlimited for the needs of FOSS4G Conference.

NOTE: There are two halls with capacity of 500 people in the CULS campus. We are planing to use teleconference technique for joining those halls together for plenary sessions.

3 The hosting organization and local community

3.1 Supporting local organizations and individuals

Following local organizations stated till now publicly support to FOSS4G Conference 2012 in Prague:

- ⚞ T-mapy ltd., by Milan Novotný
- ⚞ Microsoft ČR, by Jan Martínek,
- ⚞ Google ČR, by Filip Hráček,
- ⚞ Intel, by Pavel Kubů
- ⚞ Česká škola, by Janek Wagner
- ⚞ Computer Press
- ⚞ CENIA Jiri Hradec
- ⚞ Forest Management Institute Josef Fryml
- ⚞ Exigen Peteris Sliedes
- ⚞ West Bohemia University Tomas Mildorf
- ⚞ Ostrava University Jiri Horak
- ⚞ Martin Landa

At the moment, we are negotiating with other private companies and governmental organizations (except for those, listed in the organization team).

3.2 Local organization committee

Our organization committee has experiences with conference organization and it's members are active in worldwide geospatial communities:

Conference Chair
Karel Charvát – Czech Centre for Science and Society
Milan Novotný (Vice-Chair) – T-Mapy Ltd.

Programme Committee
Jáchym Čepický – Help service remote sensing Ltd.
Martin Landa - Czech Technical University
Jitka Faugnerova - CENIA
Petr Kubíček – Masaryk university
Jiří Horák – Technical university of Ostrava
Josef Fryml – Forest Management Institute
Karel Janecka – University of West Bohemia in Pilsen

Workshop Committee
Otakar Čerba – University of West Bohemia in Pilsen
Jan Ježek – University of West Bohemia in Pilsen

Organisation Committee
Zbyněk Křivánek – Czech Centre for Science and Society
Přemysl Vohnout – Czech Centre for Science and Society
Tomas Mildorf – University of West Bohemia in Pilsen
KArel Charvat Junior – Czech Centre for Science and Society

Media and Public Relations
Josef Hnojil – GeoBussines
Janek Wagner – J4W

3.3 Local open source development and implementation activity, interest and enthusiasm for open source geospatial in your region.

The Czech OSGeo Local chapter is till now not legally registered, but it is already formed around regular Geoinformatics conference (organized by Czech Technical University, Prague) with international attendance (from Germany, Poland, Slovak and other countries). The community is active and every year publish also proceedings. Czech FOSS4G community is active regarding software development, it's usage and support. Many Czech developers are active in various FOSS4G projects. There are Czech sponsored Open Source project like HSLayers, PyWPS, Geohosting and others, and Czech experts also contribute to development of such products like OpenLayers, Mapserver, GRASS, GeoTools and others). Important is broad acceptation of Open Source products by public bodies and it is not only on local level of municipalities (for example Mapserver, OpenLayers), but also on regional and central level. As examples of projects partly or fully utilize Open Source could be mentioned Czech National INSPIRE portal, portal of Forest Management Institute, Regional Flood Protection portal of Liberec Region, Middle Bohemia Geoportal and others. There also exist numbers of small companies in Czech Republic, which are offering their services in the Geo- area, are offering some support for Open Source alternative to common proprietary software. The utilization of open source products on market is in Czech also supported by large companies like IBM, HP, Microsoft, Google, Exigen and others.

In Czech exist also strong support for Open Street Map project and it is not only on the level of individuals, but also on institutional level. HS-RS made street map of their HSTopo product available for Open Street Map and Forest Management Institute supported OSM by freely available aerial photographs and WMS services. Some data are derived from WMS services produced by Czech office for surveying, mapping and cadastre.

Important initiative coming from Czech Republic supporting Open Source and Open Data Access is called 4th way to SDI – supporting building INSPIRE compliant infrastructure interconnecting public commercial and voluntary data sources. The focus is on exploitation of Open Source and open standards. "4th WAY 2 SDI" is a support for building of so called Single Information Space for the Environment (SISE). It is based on "spider net infrastructure", where different local or global levels are able directly share data. The flag products of these initiative is so called Geoportal4everybody, utilizing in large scale Open Source. The principles and components of Geoportal4everybody are utilized by many European projects and initiatives and around these projects and initiatives are cutrently formed user communities (Plan4all, Habitats, EnviroGrids Back See, NarurNet, SDI EDU, Briseide). These initiatives cover Europe, Black See regions, but some communities are also formed in Africa.

The theme of OS are discussed now only on Geoinformatics conference but also other conference, like GIS Ostrava, usually offered separate section for FOSS4G, with several workshops.

3.4 How do you plan to manage/organize work and relations with OSGeo (especially with the board and conference committees)?

Organization team has large experience in coordination of conferences with international teams. Last year we cooperated with EFITA, ECPA and ECPLF organization. Our experience demonstrate, that it is important to have representative of these organization directly in organization committees. The regular meetings could be organized using synchronous communication tools (the selection will be agreed on the base of discussion) with regular asynchronous communication. In the case of European delegates we would like also recommend minimally one in situ meeting with inspection of facilities. It could be organized in relation with some event organized in Czech Republic.

For program committee we expect large participation of experts nominated by OSGeo, it will be mainly important for selection of papers and workshops for the conference. Czech team will support Program Committee by both researchers from Universities, but also by expert from practice. We expect minimally 50 percent of program committee members nominated by OSGEo. Team work will be organized asynchronously using registration tools. In the case of solving concrete problem also synchronous communication could be used. We don't expect in situ meeting.

After acceptance of papers and workshops, local team will prepare draft of program, which will be agreed with OSGeo board.

If there will be some necessary cost covering communication of the team with OSGEO, cost will be covered from the budget of conference.

4 The budget

4.1 What is your budget? Expenses for venue, food, marketing, audio-visual, network access, etc

This chapter is covered by the budget annex, which is part of this letter.

NOTES:

Regular fee includes:
- Participation in conference
- Electronical proceedings
- Refreshment (lunch, coffee breaks) each day
- Ice-break drink
- Guided sightseeing of Prague Castle

Student fee includes:
- Participation in conference
- Electronical proceedings
- Refreshment (lunch, coffee breaks) each day
- Ice-break drink
- Guided sightseeing of Prague Castle

Complimentary Registrations fee includes:
- Participation in conference
- Electronical proceedings
- Refreshment (lunch, coffee breaks) each day
- Ice-break drink
- Guided sightseeing of Prague Castle

Workshop fee includes:
- Participation on workshop
- Lunch and coffee break

Workshop organizer will get one free access to any other selected workshop.

4.2 What is your expected attendance? Why? Where do you think delegates will come from?

On the base of analysis numbers of participant on previous FOSS4G conferences we expect as minimal number of attendance 600 people (very conservative estimation). The reasons are:

- Easy accessibility of Prague from all Europe. There are large and stronger communities in Germany, Italy, Spain and other countries and it is easy to rich Praha for all this communities

- Prague is easy accessible for now forming communities in Eastern Europe, mainly in countries of former Soviet Union. So the conference could help to this new communities join common effort

- Attractiveness of Prague as tourist destination. This could help together with attractive social program to attract people not only from Europe, but also from other continents, namely from America and Asia.

- The possibility of low cost hostels and university dormitory together with special fee for students will open large possibilities for participation students

4.3 What is your expected sponsorship? Why? Do you have local potential sponsors already identified? At what levels?

Our conservative estimation of sponsorship and fees for exhibitors is exhibitors is 792,500 CZK / $47,546. It is done by our experiences from previous events, but also on the base of discussions with potential cooperating organization. List of cooperating organization is given below. We start already concrete discussion with large IT industries in Czech and with representatives of

international companies in Czech. We also expect stimulate large number of exhibitors offering low prizes for exhibition area. We see this as excellent opportunity for small OS developers to demonstrate their work. This attractiveness could be increase with the fact organized parallel Czech National INSPIRE conference and offer minimally one day free of charge access on exhibition.

5 The program

5.1 Provide a high-level view of the program, indicating number of tracks, size of tracks, workshops, size of workshops, and other features of your program. Indicate the number of presentations, posters, and workshops you expect to accept.

Attached as Annex 1 in PDF format. The program was designed for 28 workshops and 224 presentations in 57 sections. The poster session can host 250 comfortably.

5.2 What social events will be part of the schedule?

Common dinner at Royal brewery of Premonstratensians at Strahov

Premonstratensian monastery at Strahov was founded in 1140 by the Bishop of Olomouc, Jindřich Zdík, with the support of the Czech prince, and later king, Vladislav II.

A huge complex standing at the outset of the Royal Way offers pleasant dining in the historical Klášterní restaurant.

For centuries, Strahov Monastery has been a centre of culture and art. Since the 18th century, a valuable painting collection has been situated in its picture gallery. Strahov's library is also very interesting and precious. A unique collection of Czech incunabula is also on of Strahov's jewels. After a tour around these points of interest, you can refresh yourself in our restaurant located only a few steps from Strahov Monastery.

Prague city center sightseeing tour - Half-day event (7 hours) with guide

This will consist of

- Jewish Quarter – Josefov Old Town hall with Astronomical clock
- Old Town Square
- Old Town hall with Astronomical clock

For more details of this tour, see annex 3.

Unoffitial meetings

Campus of CULS is well equipped with student clubs and pubs, which are very suitable for meetings of conference attendees on private basis. Some of them will be reserved during the conference for our attendees.

5.3 What dates do you expect to run the conference? Are they adjustable?

We estimated the date of conference to 17/9/2012 till 21/9/2012 with code sprints at 22/9/2012. This will be confirmed by 30/9/2011 by CULS and other organizations.

5.4 Provide a list of local/regional/international conferences around the selected date that are viewed as competition or could provide synergy.

In Czech republic, there is

- Geoinformatics at Czech Technical University Prague, usually at Mai.
- GIS Ostrava, Technical University Ostrava, at January
- Local INSPIRE conference, at November
- Geomatics in projects, at University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, at October
- and others.

In central European region, there are

- Otvorený softvér vo vzdelávaní, výskume a v IT riešeniach, Žilina, Slowak republic, July
- FOSSGIS Germany, April
- Intergeo, Germany, September

- ⚔ Free software in GIS, Poland, May
- ⚔ and others

Naturally, FOSS4G could attract attention to its self, so that number of potential cross border attendees will be lower. On the other hand, we do plan to join FOSS4G and local Czech INSPIRE conferences together, so that their schedule will not overlap. We see potential synergy effect together with traditional Intergeo in Germany (takes place right after planned FOSS4G).

Annexes

Annex 1

FOSS4G Shedule – attached as PDF file.

Annex 2

Detailed budget – attached as PDF file.

Annex 3

Accompanying tours – attached as PDF file.