



# CASCADOSS

Development of a trans-national cascade training programme on Open Source GIS&RS Software for environmental applications

## OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE SOLUTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

“Open Source Software” (OSS) is technically defined as software whose source code is available to the public, or “open”. However truly successful OSS projects are not created by merely releasing free source code, they are created through the growth of communities of shared interest.

Over the last few years the concept “open source” has gained currency within the geospatial community. However, although the geospatial community has already made huge strides towards OSS that can truly compete with proprietary software, many geospatial end-users still shy away from using OSS due to the lack of formal support and a fear of new technology. As such, a considerable degree of potential innovative geospatial projects based on OSS is left unexploited.

The goal of CASCADOSS is to encourage geospatial end-users, especially those linked to GMES services, in using OSS. This is to be achieved by setting up a trans-national cascade training programme on Open Source GIS&RS software with an emphasis on environmental applications. The cascade training programme aims at training, at international level, small groups of 'high-end' geospatial users (e.g. high level Geographic Information System (GIS) and/or RS (Remote Sensing) and/or IT experts). They will be expected to transfer on national or regional level the acquired knowledge and abilities to 'low-end' geospatial users (e.g. scientists, public administrators) and could support them in finding open source solutions for environmental problems.

Principal target groups for the cascade training programme are geospatial end-users from Central and Eastern EU Member States. The adoption of OSS in those countries is a topic of particular interest as this will reduce licensing costs and will promote indigenous technological development. Open source GIS&RS software can play a key role in making a truly European Spatial Data Infrastructure.

## THE THREE PHASES OF THE TRANSNATIONAL CASCADE TRAINING PROGRAMME

This training programme is divided in three phases.

In the **first phase**, an extensive study will be conducted on issues related to Open Source Geographic Information System (GIS) & Remote Sensing technology (RS):

- A wide range of Open Source GIS & RS software projects are reviewed and evaluated.
- A wide range of environmental applications build on top of Open Source GIS&RS Software are reviewed and evaluated.
- Different types of business models that can be based on the Open Source GIS&RS technology are explored and documented.
- Open Source licensing policy is screened and translated into a comprehensive guide on Open Source legal issues.

In the **second phase**, CASCADOSS will organize a one-day international symposium, combined with a 3-day information workshop. The symposium will bring together both professional developers and potential customers of Open Source technology and will also stimulate research & innovation and networking in this field.

In the **third phase**, the consortium participants will transfer the acquired knowledge to local stakeholders by organizing a 2-day national or regional information workshop in their own countries. The target audience will be people involved in the use of GMES services.



Source: K.U. Leuven

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## LIST OF PARTNERS

- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
- GISAT s.r.o., Czech Republic
- Compet-Terra Szervező és Tanácsadó Bt., Hungary
- Environmental Information Centre UNEP/GRID Warsaw, Poland

## COORDINATOR

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## PROJECT INFORMATION

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