

GEOIDEA.RO

Newsletter

Editorial

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first issue of the GEOIDEA.RO newsletter.

The project started in January 2013 and its name stands for GEodata Openness Initiative for Development and Economic Advancement in ROmania and it represents a collaboration between the ETH Zurich and the Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest.

The main objective of the project is to improve the scientific basis for open geodata model adoption in Romania. It is our belief that publishing governmental geodata in Romania over the Internet, under an open license and in a reusable format can strengthen citizen engagement and yield new innovative businesses, bringing substantial social and economic gains.

During 2013, the GEOIDEA.RO team has successfully accomplished important steps that will lead to fulfilling the project's goals in a timely manner.

The GEOIDEA.RO team

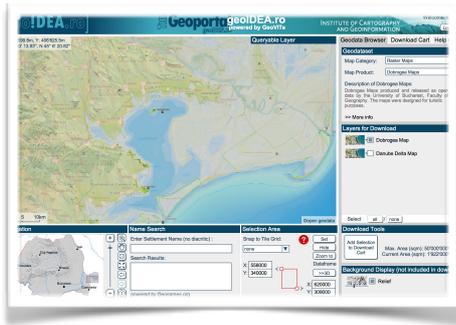


Kick-off Meeting

The official start of the project was marked by an extensive kick-off meeting held in Bucharest on 7th February 2013. Invitations were sent to interested parties such as governmental agents, civil society representatives, universities and research institutes and geoinformation-related (GI) companies.

The overall objective was informing the stakeholders as well as raising awareness of and interest in the GEOIDEA.RO project and the open data and geodata movement in Romania. The presentations and panel discussions at the workshop provided fruitful insights into the relation between the data producers and the potential users, the National and European legal framework and the technologies that can be used for interactive geodata publishing.

Please check <http://bit.ly/1gmzc87> for the detailed agenda, photos and presentations.



Online resources

GEOIDEA.RO website

The website has been active since the beginning of 2013. We are keen in disseminating all related GEOIDEA news, reports and updates on the GEOIDEA geoportal. Our website address is <http://www.geoidea.ro>.

GEOIDEA.RO geoportal

The geoportal has been launched as a testing prototype and research tool for the project. At this time, the users have the possibility to view, query, select and download vector and raster geodata. As from October, we have on the geoportal the first set of maps for a specific theme in Romania: the maps of Dobrogea and of the Danube Delta in raster format. They were produced by the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography and released as open data. The geoportal can be accessed free of charge at <http://bit.ly/1i75C3L>.

Social media

You can follow the developments of the project on your favourite social media network:

- LinkedIn (<http://goo.gl/dBJK6K>)
- Facebook (<http://goo.gl/0AfeKA>)
- Twitter (<http://goo.gl/uJagdE>)

Moving Forward: Open Data Discussions For an Open Romania

On 18th June 2013, as part of the second edition of the international conference “Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial – Central and Eastern Europe” (FOSS4G-CEE), the GEOIDEA.RO team together with the Soros Foundation Romania and the Online Services and Design Department - Prime Minister's Chancellery organised an event dedicated to a public debate on open data in Romania.

The meeting attracted participants from both the private and public sector, with special guests from the OGP (Paul Maassen - civil society coordinator for the OGP), the Open Knowledge Foundation (Marcus Dapp - strategy and business development coordinator) and the Romanian Government (Radu Puchiu - State Secretary and Prime Minister advisor).



Full meeting agenda is available at <http://bit.ly/LjHM9H>.

The Open GeoData Hackathon

During the same FOSS4G-CEE Conference, the GEOIDEA.RO team and the Soros Foundation Romania organised on 20th June a hackathon that brought together around 15 participants, GI persons, journalists, jurists, activists, whom, on the spot, divided into teams to work on four colourful project.

These dedicated teams worked on projects pertaining to administrative transparency in Romania, spatial distribution of national TV stations, spatial distribution of official prices for basic products and statistical information on every county, city and commune in Romania.

Collaboration Agreement with the Romanian Government

A very important step in successfully achieving our goals has been the agreement signed with the Government Department of Online Services and Design, the Romanian institution that will implement the Open Government Partnership commitments. The agreement represents the basis of the collaboration between the GEOIDEA.RO project and the Romanian Government, that will help in developing methodological and technical methods in manipulation, visualization and publishing of open geodata for the Romanian territory.

Do You Want to Know More?

During 2013, the GEOIDEA.RO team wrote several reports that analysed the first issues encountered while moving forward with the first steps of the project. The two opening reports review and analyse the legislation acts at the national and european level pertaining to geodata production and dissemination in Romania as well as the existing open data strategies implemented by the few countries that are ahead in the process. Other reports target more specific issues such as the barriers and contradictions found in the legislation that prevent the opening of governmental data or the plan for the geoportla architecture and implementation. These reports can be consulted on the GEOIDEA.RO webpage.

GEOIDEA.RO project is funded by the Romanian-Swiss Research Programme Project n° IZERZ0-142129

IKG
Institute of Cartography
and Geoinformation

geo!DEA.ro



ETH
Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



PROGRAMUL DE COOPERARE ELVEȚIANO-ROMÂN
SWISS-ROMANIAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME

