

Dear colleagues,

Is pleased to present the new issue of the newsletter GEOBIZ. In this double issue, we provide an overview of the activities of the GEOBIZ project, which there are (you will agree) many.

The past period (apart from the new-normal and somewhat constant fight against the COVID-19 disease) in Croatia and the region was marked by three devastating earthquakes. The strongest one

was 6.3 on the Richter scale. Since our Faculty has engaged its capacities supporting the rescue and recovery activities, we bring an overview.

In the final part of this issue, you can find an overview of the activities ahead of us which is, of course, an invitation to join us.

Also, I kindly invite all partners and colleagues to share information about their activities. For all contributions feel free to send an e-mail to [info@geobiz.eu](mailto:info@geobiz.eu).  
Vesna Poslončec-Petrić

## GEOBIZ Project activities

### 1<sup>st</sup> GEOBIZ PAC meeting (2.12.2020.)

1<sup>st</sup> GEOBIZ Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held online on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. Four out of five PAC members attended the meeting: Klaudio Çollaku (ASIG, Albania), Slobodanka Ključanin (FGU FBiH, Bosnia and Herzegovina), Božidar Pavičević (UCG, Montenegro) and Maria Ovdii (ALRC, Moldova) together with project partners Branko Božić (UB), Danny Vandenbroucke (KU Leuven), Anders Östman (Novogit) and Vesna Poslončec-Petrić and Željko Bačić (GEOF). At the beginning of the meeting, project coordinator Prof. Željko Bačić, gave presentation about the Erasmus+ GEOBIZ project, its goals, organization and tasks and provided information about PAC relevance, purpose, tasks and organization of work.

Then PAC members elected among them Prof. Slobodanka Ključanin, coming from the Federal Geodetic Administration of Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the chairperson till the end of the year 2021. Finally, Project coordinator informed PAC members about the coming PAC

activities and tasks. There are two main PAC focuses: Evaluation of project deliverables and Participation in coming Business-Academia cooperation activities.



Photo of the PAC meeting participants

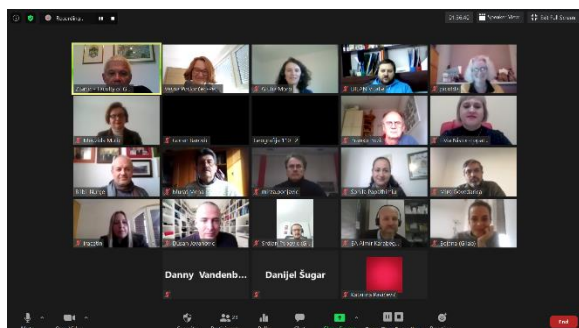
After the discussion in which PAC members asked for some clarifications, Chairperson, Prof. Slobodanka Ključanin summarized the meeting and defined plan for work on and delivery of the first PAC evaluation report, which is foreseen to be delivered by the end of January 2021.

*Slobodanka Ključanin, FGU FBiH*

---

## 6<sup>th</sup> PMB meeting (4.12.2020.)

The 6<sup>th</sup> Project Management Board (PMB) meeting was held on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in presence of 16 PMB members and leaving and coming EACEA Project officers, Ms. Giulia Moro and Ms. Danielle Picot. The meeting agenda focuses on finalization of equipment procurement specifications and launching of tenders and rearrangements related to training activities due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.



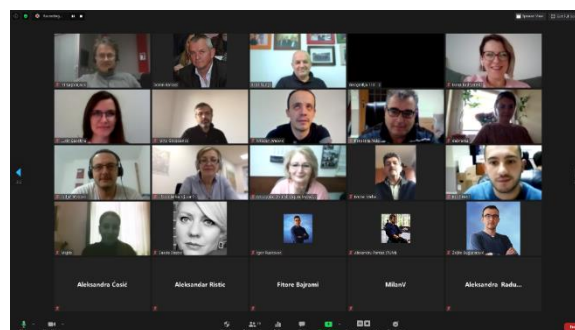
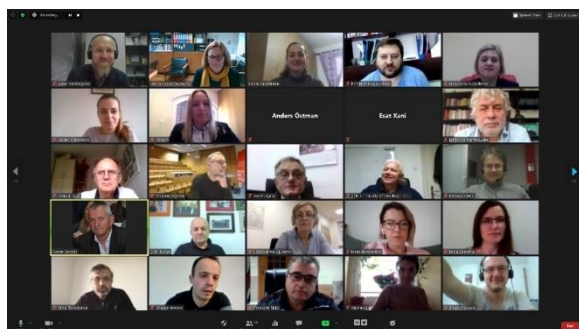
Regarding the procurement specifications additional week has been given to partners to review the need for digital teaching equipment after comprehensive discussion and on Ms. Moro to look for needs on digital teaching equipment additional week for finalization of specifications has been given and procedure defined.

Regarding training rearrangements, a broader discussion took place, in an effort to find the way how effectively to handle negative effects of Covid-19 pandemics. It has been decided that Project office should prepare a plan which will recognize risks and suggest actions for three possible scenario levels of Covid-19 pandemic impact in future. Dissemination & Exploitation Plan has been adopted and coming events reviewed.

*Željko Bačić, Zagreb*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Progress meeting (9.12.2020.)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Project Progress meeting was organized by KU Leuven in online form on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. It was attended by 46 project partners. Progress meeting agenda covered 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Status Report, presentation and discussion about D2.2 Developing Innovative Business Problem-based Cases Report as a starting point for Project curriculum design (T2.3).



Focus of the third session was on Business-Academia cooperation involving tasks from three Work packages delivering information on progress of three tasks: Task 2.1 Business-Academia cooperation model design, Task 3.1 Establishment of business-academia cooperation platform in geoinformatics and Task 5.5 Organization of Business-Academia workshops.

---

In following two sessions Quality assurance report has been presented as well as M12 Communication report and dissemination activities. In last session managerial issues have

been discussed and event wrap-up given. Meeting finished with the review of next project events.

*Željko Bačić, University of Zagreb*



## Week of GI-Education for the Future (25.-28.01.2021.)

The enhancement of digital skills and competences nowadays is high on the agenda of the European Commission and many member states. Among these digital skills also are the many skills required to work with geospatial data and technologies. Higher education institutions in Europe have been teaching and developing these geographic information (GI) skills for many decades, continuously updating their curricula and implementing innovative teaching methods. On the initiative of the KU Leuven, which is partner in four Erasmus+ projects (EO4GEO, GEOBIZ, SPIDER, SEED4NA) the **Week of GI-Education for the Future** has been organized aiming to bring together teachers, experts, practitioners and students to present and discuss recent advances in GI-education and think about GI-education for the future.

The Week of GI-Education was organized during four days with one session each day and has highlighted the challenges and opportunities of GI-education in preparing the workforce of the future. Actors and organizations involved or interested in GI-education have been invited to participate in this event to learn more about innovative practices, collaborative efforts and anticipating future skills needs, and to share

their own experiences and thoughts on GI-education for the future.

The GEOBIZ project was one of the co-organizers of the event responsible for the Day 2 session: **New and innovative forms of business-academia cooperation in GI-education: a problem-based learning approach**, focusing on Business-Academia (B-A) cooperation and Problem based learning (PBL) in GI-education. Beside introductory presentation given by the session moderator, Prof. Joep Crompovets (KU Leuven) five presentations have been given by:

- Branko Božić (UB): Problem based learning - link between the students learning and industry needs,
- Danny Vandenbroucke (KU Leuven): Problem based learning – the examples of Internships,
- Ander Östman (Novogit): Experiences of Business-Academia cooperation,
- Almir Karabegović and Mirza Ponjavić (GAUSS): Case based learning and collaboration academia-private sector in BiH and
- Andreas Wytzisk (HSBO): GI Education for the Future

---

The event had some 350 participants on all four days. The GEOBIZ session, visited by 91 participants, was very interesting, presenting many different examples of B-A cooperation and PBL examples and with interesting discussion after the presentations.

Also, in the introductory session on Day 1, Project coordinator, professor Željko Bačić gave presentation on GEOBIZ project. All GEOBIZ

## 2<sup>nd</sup> PAC meeting (2.02.2021.)

The second Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. It was focused on the finalization and submission of the 1st PAC Evaluation Report on selected project deliverables in year 1 of the project lifetime. After the discussion among the PAC members the text of the 1st Evaluation Report has been

## 7<sup>th</sup> PMB meeting (4.02.2021.)

The 7<sup>th</sup> Project Management Board (PMB) meeting was held on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in presence of 17 PMB members. The meeting agenda focuses on handling the Covid-19 caused situation what has been addressed in a prepared document Project Management Plan Supplement - Project execution measures addressing Covid-19 pandemic and adoption of training activities plan for 2021. Both, the Project Management Plan Supplement and training activities plan have been discussed thoroughly and adopted by the Management Boards. Also, further five deliverables have been adopted. Four of them already presented at the Progress meeting in December (D2.1 Developing Innovative Business Problem-Based Cases Report, D4.2.1.2 Monitoring Project Success Indicators Report for M12, D5.2-2 Communication Report for M12 and D6.2.2-2 Project Status Report for M12) and newly

presentations can be found on GEOBIZ webpage [www.geobiz.eu](http://www.geobiz.eu).

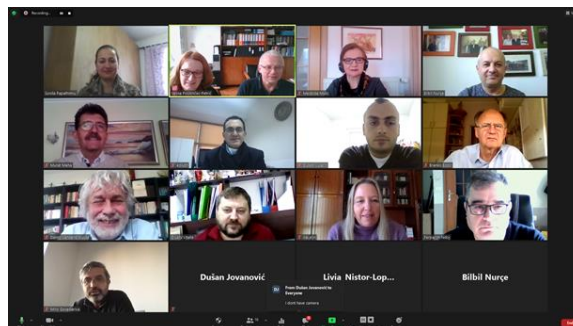
Beside presenters, all compliments are also going to organizers of the event, the KU Leuven team. More about the event as well as recordings of the sessions can be found on EO4GEO webpage [www.eo4geo.eu](http://www.eo4geo.eu).

*Željko Bačić, University of Zagreb*

agreed and the Chairperson Prof. Slobodanka Ključanin submitted it to the Project coordinator. It is now on Project consortia to analyse findings of the PAC and include them in the Project activities.

*Slobodanka Ključanin, FGU FBiH*

finished D2.1 Business-Academia Cooperation Model Design report.



Finally, the overview of the financial reporting for Y1 of the project lifetime (15.11.2019 - 14.11.2020) has been submitted. Regardless to the fact that not all information has been submitted by the partners, the financial figures are good and in correspondence to project progress.

*Željko Bačić, University of Zagreb*

---

## Partners activity

### Strong earthquakes in Croatia

Central Croatia has been hit with two strong earthquakes on December 28th (5.3 on Richter scale) and on December 29th (6.3 on Richter scale) creating massive destruction in towns of

Petrinja, Sisak and Glina, and even some damage in 50 km distant Zagreb. The second earthquake shaking was registered in surrounding countries and even 1.000 km distant towns in central Italy.



*The consequences of the devastating earthquake that hit central Croatia*

Faculty of Geodesy has engaged its capacities supporting the rescue and recovery activities. Already on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 internet platform has been established together with Croatian OpenStreetMap community based on OpenStreetMap enabling people in need and

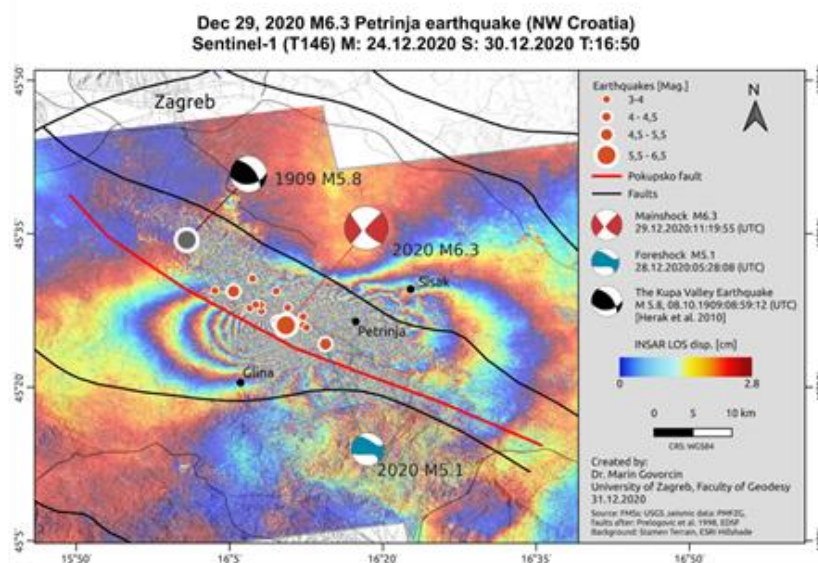
those ready to help to exchange information and communicate what is necessary for people who lost their homes and how to deliver the goods to them. Application is available via the links: <https://potres2020.openit.hr/views/map>.



*The consequences of the devastating earthquake that hit central Croatia*

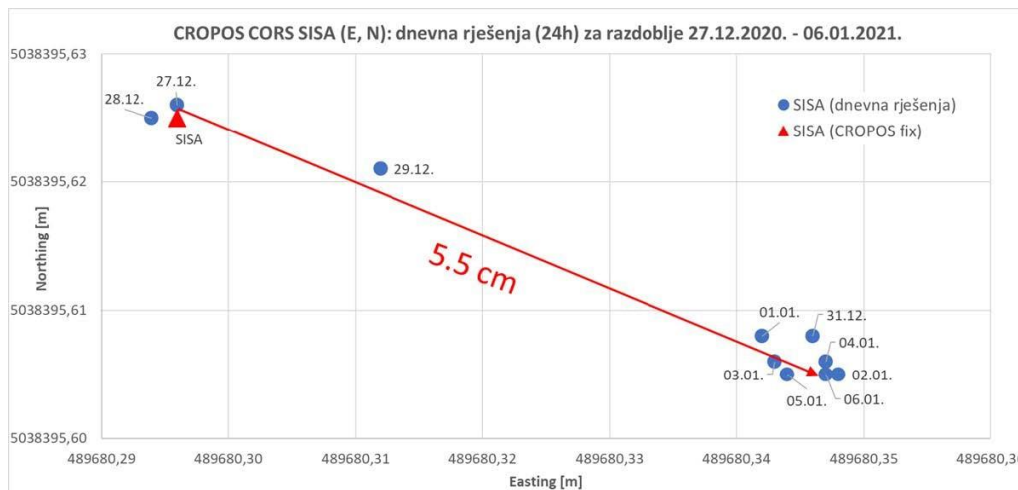
Also, on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020, preliminary computation results of surface displacement based on radar interferometry using earth

observation Copernicus Sentinel 1 satellite data have been presented indicating that surface on fault suffered shift which might be up to 30 cm.



*Map of surface displacements obtained by satellite radar interferometry for Petrinja earthquake of magnitude 6.3. (source: Faculty of Geodesy)*

Also, in order to contribute to the understanding of the consequences of the earthquake, Space Journal No. 79, brings preliminary results of processing GNSS data of permanent CROPOS station Sisak. The analysis was performed by Assist. Prof. Danijel Šugar and Prof. Željko Bačić from the Department of Satellite Geodesy, Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb.



*Preliminary results of processing GNSS data of permanent CROPOS station Sisak*

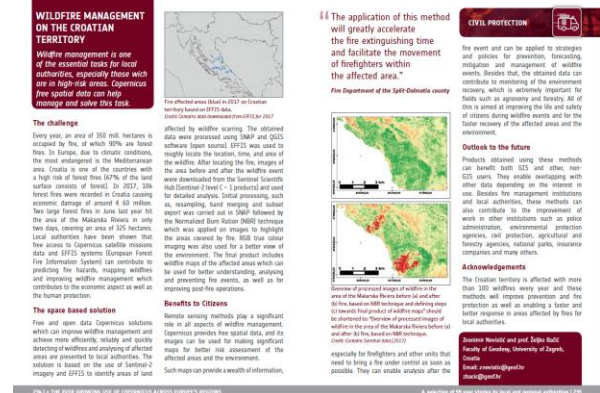
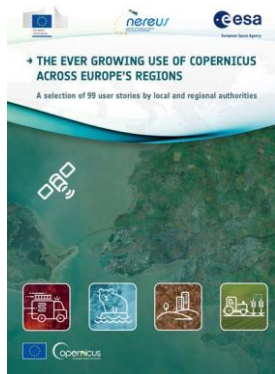
Overview of the following activities, you can follow [here](#) and in following issues of [Space Journal](#).

# Dissemination Diary

## The Ever Growing Use of Copernicus across Europe's Regions

NEREUS (Association of European Regions Using Space Technologies) in collaboration with the European Commission and the European Space Agency has published "The Ever Growing Use of Copernicus across Europe's Regions".

One of the published user stories is the article entitled "Wildfire Management on the Croatian Territory" (authors: Zvonimir Nevistić and Željko Bačić) which describes the use of Copernicus data in forest and other wildfires events.



The Ever Growing Use of Copernicus across Europe's Regions publication is the main deliverable from the Copernicus4regions initiative. It showcases 99 user stories that describe how public administrations across Europe are using Copernicus data and information to address their challenges and how this is positively impacting the lives of citizens.

By producing the current Copernicus4Regions edition, the NEREUS-community and its cooperation partners have compiled an outstanding inventory that reaches out to almost all Copernicus Contributing Countries and brings together a broad range of user-experiences.

*Vesna Poslončec-Petrić, University of Zagreb*

# Announcements

## Digital Communications training, February 23rd-24th, 2021

The 2<sup>nd</sup> GEOBIZ training will take place on February 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2021 with the focus on digital communication. Training is prepared by digital communication expert Ms. Barbara Slade Jagodić in order to enhance their online communications skills and engage potential business partners in these previously mentioned countries, it is necessary for project leaders to

communicate well benefits and outcomes of the project.

The aim of the digital communication workshop is to enable participants to define all digital communication points and create content that adds values and offers answers and solutions to potential partners' problems in order to make cooperation easier.

---

This highly intensive workshops provide a toolbox of skills for effectively and efficiently handling different types of communication problems. At the workshop's conclusion, participants should be able to:

- define their exact partners' needs and problems,

- define how to set up their communication channels online to effectively meet those needs and
- write effective content that turns business subjects into partners.

Registration link for the Digital Communication training will be available after the 4<sup>th</sup> Progress meeting next week.

## **Problem-based learning training, March 2021**

Following the successful “Week of GI-Education for Future held between January 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> the third GEOBIZ online training will be organized by University of Belgrade in March focusing on practical experiences of problem-based learning

and its implementation in GEOBIZ developed curriculum at partner institutions. The training will be delivered in online format and providing number of presentations and exercises delivered by program partners. More about this training to come soon.

## **8th International conference “Contemporary Achievements in Civil Engineering”, Subotica, Serbia, April 22nd-23rd, 2021**

Following the success of the 2014 Conference in honour of the Faculty of Civil Engineering Subotica 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was an inspiration for a new International Conference. The Conference should point out to the main scientific and professional developmental directions that would meet conditions and needs at this stage

civil engineering and related fields. Conference is expected to bring together engineering researchers and experts, respectable institutions and enterprise representatives, all of whom may be interested in the exchange of scientific and professional information and experience. You can access Conference webpage [here](#).

## **International Symposium on Innovative and Interdisciplinary Applications of Advanced Technologies – IAT 2021, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

In the frame of the 12th Annual Days of BHAAAS in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be held at the Gymnasium Mostar in Mostar, from 24 to 27 June 2021 the International Symposium on Innovative and Interdisciplinary Applications of Advanced Technologies – IAT 2021 will be organized. In frame of this Symposium 10 thematic symposiums will be held, among them

“Geodesy and Geoinformatics” and “Trends and Innovations in Geographic Information Systems”. GEOBIZ partners University of Sarajevo and Gauss Ltd are co-organizers of those two thematic symposiums, respectively.

The International Symposium on Innovative and Interdisciplinary Applications of Advanced Technologies is an international forum for



---

scientists, engineers, and students to present their latest research and development results in innovative and interdisciplinary applications of advanced technologies. The conference provides an opportunity for researchers, academics, scientists, and engineers to present their work,

publish their results, exchange ideas, and network for scientific and industrial collaborations. The emphasis will be on peer-reviewed papers with high scientific and technical quality. More info about the Symposiums is available [here](#).

## Impressum

*GEOBIZ news is an e-newsletter of “Business driven problem-based learning for academic excellence in geoinformatics” - GEOBIZ project. This newsletter is published by GEOBIZ Project office with the support of the Erasmus+ program: Higher Education – International Capacity Building (N° 610225-EPP-1-2019-1-HR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP)<sup>1</sup>.*

*Editor in chief: Assist. Prof. Vesna Poslončec-Petrić, PhD.; Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb. Your contributions please send to: [info@geobiz.eu](mailto:info@geobiz.eu) or [vesna.posloncec@geof.hr](mailto:vesna.posloncec@geof.hr).*

---

<sup>1</sup> *This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This e-newsletter reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.*