Open data from SME perspective
We create digital maps for our clients. We create those digital maps based on open data, commercial data and proprietary data. And then, we integrate those digital maps within our clients specific application, within any software they use (CRM, ERP, Document Management System, etc) or within their business processes. This integration results in better business decision-making, more efficient operations and brand new insights. In doing so we help our clients unlock the full potential of spatial information contributing to a smarter, safer and more eco-friendly world.
Geosparc: About us

**Team:**
- Our team consists of consummate professionals from software engineers, project managers, consultants, business developers, to finance & admin people. Everyone of us has specialist expertise that complements the team and a single-minded focus to serve our customers as best as we can.

**Philosophy:**
- Our Utmost priority is customer satisfaction
- Our core values are integrity, respect and sustainability
- Our beliefs: we believe in teamwork and win-win partnerships to benefit our customers
- Our approach: we have a penchant for open source technologies and believe in the power of sharing ideas and resources.

**Partners:**
- Our partners play a pivotal role in bringing Geosparc’s Web GIS solutions to market, by spreading the word about our world-class GIS solutions, and by implementing our solutions and complementing them with their own offerings and local support services. We believe in win-win when working with our partners and in fully leveraging each other’s strengths to accomplish great things. We are building a network of partners with system integrators, value added resellers, software developers and consultants. If you are interested in partnering with us, we’d like to hear from you!
• Geosparc ("Geospatial Architects") is the company commercially supporting the open source web GIS technology, Geomajas. As such Geosparc is coupling the innovative power of open source with the reliability of a true enterprise-class application framework. Geosparc has several years of experience and expertise in geospatial solutions, web GIS and enterprise integration. Its commercial services and offerings include Geomajas support contracts with service level agreements, Geomajas commercial licenses, consulting services, Proof of Concepts, training and support services for web GIS projects (architecture, design, implementation, deployment).

• Geosparc provides developers, industries and governments with the best products, services and ideas to create and integrate Web GIS solutions. We build pre-defined Web GIS solutions and services using the open source software framework Geomajas. In doing so we help our customers unlock the full potential of spatial information on the web, contributing to a smarter, safer and more eco-friendly world.

• Geosparc has customers in the private and public sector and is active in several international projects. With Geomajas, Geosparc focuses on delivering advanced GIS capabilities in standard web technology and integrate them with existing business applications like ERP, CRM, CMS, BI, BPM, etc. Geomajas showcases very robust security and scalability, while being open and extensible.

• Solutions such as Issuedoc and Sleevemonkey are based on the Geomajas technology.
Projects and customized solutions: some examples

Department of Agriculture
Every year, the Agriculture and Fisheries agency of the Flemish Government receives reports from over 30,000 Flemish farmers on the use and the location of their farmland. With our Web GIS solution, the Flemish Government has now developed a virtual counter which enables farmers to submit their reports online.

Digital Building Permit
This e-government application automates the process to request and handle building permits and is used by citizens, professionals and the public authorities. Geosparc professional services and web GIS technology are used for realising the powerful web front-end.

MAGDA GEO
Flanders has many small & medium sized businesses (SMBs). Until recent, there was no public map available with the exact location of all these SMBs. Our Web GIS technology has made it possible for the Flemish e-government unit to map and analyse all SMEs.

Soil Explorer
The Soil Explorer is an INSPIRE application for discovering soil and sub-soil data in the region of Flanders, Belgium. Learn more about the Soil Explorer on this public web site.
Ready-made solutions

ISSUEDOC

SLEEVENOKEY

SPOTBOOKING
Visionary GIS entrepreneur: passionate and talented entrepreneur and organizer who knows how to link a strong vision to specific results.

In his professional life, Dirk is founder and CEO of Geosparc. He has extensive software development experience as a developer, architect, project manager and has been involved with the development and implementation of numerous IT infrastructures using a variety of technologies on multiple platforms. In an IT career spanning more than 30 years, Dirk understands that leadership and team building are the keys to successful IT and development projects. His key skills are situated in the valorisation of specialised state of the art technology trough bringing technical experts into contact with the right commercial and marketing teams for a perfect fit. Dirk was project manager for several projects amongst them, the open source project “Generic GIS for e-Government” and the OSGeo project Geomajas. Dirk is is a member of the advisory board of the Industrial Research Fund (university of Ghent) and part of the "geospatial datainfrastructure" (GDI) advisory board of Flanders. Dirk is an OSGeo member since 2007, became a charter member in 2013 and is since January 2016 vice president of OSGeo.

In 2015 Dirk took the initiative, together with a team of enthusiastic open source adepts to found The Belgium OSGeo local chapter, and is actively involved in the organisation of the Belgian FOSS4GBE event.

In 2016-2017 Dirk took the initiative, together with an international team op OSGeo charter and board members to found the European OSGeo Local Chapter.
Empower everyone with open source geospatial

• OSGeo is a not-for-profit software foundation
  • Provides projects financial, organizational and legal support

• Outreach and advocacy
  • Promoting global adoption of open source geospatial technology
  • Partnerships on open approach to standards, data and education.

• OSGeo is a volunteer driven
  • Passionate membership of individuals from around the world.
OSGeo: some key data

- Started in 2006
- Community of communities of geo-OSS projects
- Growing every year
- Worldwide active - local presence
- > 26 500 subscriptions on the mailing list
- Google for “OSGeo” returns > 400 000 hits
- OSGeo.org > 30.000 unique visitors (May '15)
- > 600 members (registered)
- > 240 Charter members (elected)
- > 50 local chapters
- > 20 official projects
OSGeo: for Who?

• OSGeo is an organisation of people for people:

  Students, GIS users, developers, professors, researchers, entrepreneurs, civil servants, government officials, ...

• If you want to know more about

  ◦ GIS software solutions
  ◦ Open source software
  ◦ Open data
  ◦ Open standards
  ◦ How communities work

• If you want to

  ◦ share ideas
  ◦ commit to a project
  ◦ have fun in creating great software
  ◦ make friends all over the globe
  ◦ change and improve the world

• You should become a participant, or register as a member
OSGeo Europe is a fact!

Bylaws of OSGeo-Europe

The undersigned:
1. Dirk Frigne, Kleine Broelstraat 4, 9030 Gent, Belgium
2. Vasile Crăciunescu, Cuza Voda 33A, Campulung Moldovenesc, Suceava, Romania
3. Jiřím Čepický, Kresků 9, 50723 Liben, The Czech Republic
4. Stephan Meißl, Thunghasse 8/4, 1050 Wien, Austria
5. Till Adams, Angelisstrasse 48, 53119 Bonn, Germany
6. Marc Vloemans, Beethovenstraat 105-C, 1077 TX Amsterdam, The Netherlands
7. Markus Neteler, An der Obelischnühe 25, 53127 Bonn, Germany
8. Oliver May, Dummerrersraat 35, 9032 Wondelgem, Belgium
9. Angelos Tzatzos, Ioannou Theologou 30, Zografou 15772, Athens, Greece
10. Jeff McKenna, 1101 Blue Rocks Road, Lunenburg, NS, B3J 2C9, Canada
11. Ian Turton, 53 Clive Avenue, Worthing BN1 4SG, UK
12. Jorge Sanz, Párraco Francesco Revert, 2 2, 49600 Aida, Spain
13. Géraud Fenoy, 19 Bis Avenue de la Cadolle, 34540 Bal-Oc les Bains, France
14. Ari Jolma, Skinnarinnle 12 H 20, Vantaa, Finland
15. Milena Nowotarska, Pios Orta Biageo 7/6, 70-922 Szczawin, Poland
16. Luis Moreira de Sousa, Im Grund 6, 8800 Diessen, Switzerland
17. Martin Lands, Solary 89, Decany 411 15, Czech Republic
18. Dimitrios Kotzinos, 1 Place du Marché, 78600 Maisons Laffitte, France
19. Maria Arias de Reyna, Avda Alcala Juan Fernandez 29 49, 41025 Sevilla, Spain
20. Karl Salovaara, Malminkatu 28 C 61, 02230 Espoo, Finland
21. Codrina Ilie, Street Miorita, no. 23, ed D, apart. 15, Bacau, Romania

All have agreed to constitute a non-profit-making association in accordance with the law of June 27, 1921 whose statutes they have adopted as follows:

CHAPTER 1
Name and headquarters

Article 1
The association is called "Open Source Geospatial-Europe, vzw". In short, the association can be called "OSGeo-Europe, vzw".

Article 2
Its registered office is located at Rue de la Croix de Pierre 13 bte2 at 1060 Saint-Gilles, in the judicial district of Brussels.

Signed in Paris.
In two copies, the 20 July 2017

Signatures
1. Dirk Frigne
2. Vasile Crăciunescu
3. Jiřím Čepický
4. Stephan Meißl
5. Till Adams
6. Marc Vloemans
7. Markus Neteler
8. Oliver May
9. Angelos Tzatzos
10. Jeff McKenna
11. Ian Turton
12. Jorge Sanz
13. Géraud Fenoy
14. Ari Jolma
15. Milena Nowotarska
16. Luis Moreira de Sousa

CC BY 2.0 Dirk Frigne – 21 July 2017
OSGeo Europe is a fact!

Founding members:
Communities – working together

©geolab como Group Picture FOSS4G 2015 – 16 July 2015
Glad to be invited as a keynote speaker ...

Great to be at the final workshop!

Curious in the great results of the project:

• WP2: State of the art in R&D, projects & technologies
• WP5: Virtual Hubs: Architecture and Implementation
• WP6: Development of New Innovative Applications
• WP8: Proof of concept, exploitation, business plans and networking
Virtual Hub – Why?

To create a single point of access
The wet dream of a lot amongst us!
Should be easy:

– Integration
– Interoperability
– Harmonisation
Virtual Hub – Why?

The proof of the pudding is in the eating

- English saying
The proof of the pudding is in the eating

- English saying

- Proof: try to use the catalogs and search for data$^{[1]}$
  - Use following keywords: ‘open data bodem’
  - ENERGIC_OD Use the catalogs and search for data
  - Google Search
  - Bing Search

$^{[1]}$ test executed 1 September 2017 by Dirk Frigne
Virtual Hub – Why?
Virtual Hub – Why?

Catalogue of open GI platforms
Deliverable D3.3

The Open GI catalogue guide is available in PDF version for download here.
Virtual Hub – Why?
Virtual Hub – Why?
Virtual Hub – Why?
Virtual Hub – Why?
Virtual Hub – Why?
Lessons learned

- Risk: Become Single point of Failure
- Risk: High entry barrier, only one chance to succeed
- Risk: a community can not be build, a community is growing because it is fun and everyone wants to become part of it ...
- Risk: valorisation of this ambition is not necessary based on pure economic business principles. The right incentive to incubate is hard to find, but obligatory

Conclusions from this experiment:
- I am not so smart as I thought I was :-)
- Integration is not a simple challenge,
  ... and a lot of issues need to be handled
- We live in a world of complex software systems,
  ... and the systems become more and more complex
- ... and intelligent
Challenges for integration

Only one aspect out of many ...
Challenges for integration

- Sustainability
- Maintainability
- Manage Complexity
- Encourage Reuse
- Interoperability
- Quality
- Update latency (from months into tens of seconds)
Google

- Is working hard to get things right
- Is creating a better world to serve the individual users information (by knowing what they want sell this information to the businesses who can deliver a surrogate for that desire)
- Is asking help to her users to help to build a great AI environment (learning from FOSS initiatives)
- Is trying to deliver key tools in such a way that the data can be used to further improve this process. The clients are dependend on these tools.
- Owns their (meta-)data
- Interoperable with their own technology together with the willing, on their conditions
about Open Data – European Perspective:

- The directive on public access to environmental information
  - increased public access to environmental information and the dissemination of such information contribute to a greater awareness of environmental matters, a free exchange of views, more effective participation by the public in environmental decision-making and, eventually, to a better environment
  - ”
Open Data – Why?

about Open Data – European Perspective:

- The directive on public access to environmental information
- [i]increased public access to environmental information and the dissemination of such information contribute to a greater awareness of environmental matters, a free exchange of views, more effective participation by the public in environmental decision-making and, eventually, to a better environment
- ”

My vision on open data:

- “Open data is one of resources we need to create an open world, the only way to guarantee a future where people and machines can work together to meet the modern challenges and to improve the world we want to live in”
about Open Data – European Perspective:

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My vision on open data:

- “Open data is one of resources we need to create an open world, the only way to guarantee a future where people and machines can work together to meet the modern challenges and to improve the world we want to live in”

- Open data is only one of 3 necessary pillars to succeed in that mission.

Open Data

Interoperability

Open Standards

Open Source Software
Final workshop - Questions

• The idea of the project is great! But we should think how to “sell” this idea to create the right circumstances for a growing community?
• Can we learn something from the voluntariness approach of organisations like OSGeo or OSM?
• How can we stimulate users to share more? In the public interest: obligation for open data to fundamental research data
• What brings us together?
• What is the fun part? What are good incentives?
• Who benefits, who can help? What are the benefits when you help? (respect is an important driver in FOSS)
• How to create a community to support this project?

• If we don’t believe today the climate is changing due to the impact of man, Houston we have a problem
THANK YOU