

Mapping and the citizen sensor

Objectives

The overall aim of the Action is to enhance the role of citizen sensing in mapping, with key objectives including:

- To increase the value of volunteered geographic information (VGI) provided by citizen sensors for map production and up-dating.
- To increase the value of VGI provided by citizen sensors for map validation activities.
- To gain a better understanding of volunteers, including their motivations, and the potential to steer their activity in useful ways for mapping applications.
- To explore, amongst other things, the practical, social, ethical and legal issues associated with the use of volunteers in mapping applications.

Working Groups

- WG 1: Acquiring and managing volunteered geographic information.
- WG 2: Understanding and influencing contributors
- WG 3: Map production
- WG 4: Map validation

Main Achievements

- Held first post-kickoff event (University of Nottingham, UK; 10 & 11 April 2013) and through this (i) raised awareness of the interests and activities of participants and (ii) set in place a plan for future activity, initially focused on WG-led reviews.
- Grown from 15 parties at submission of full proposal to 17 at the kick-off meeting to 21 parties (with others wishing to join as well as several non-COST countries involved).
- Identified key communities to link to. Set in place plans to link to the cartographic, geographic information science and remote sensing communities through major international conferences (Germany, Spain and Italy). Other communities, including the volunteers, to be targeted too.

Gender Balance and Early Stage Researchers

- The Action is committed to an appropriate gender balance and the nurturing of early stage researchers (ESRs).
- Two of the Working Groups are led by female researchers and ~25% of the Action's team is female.
- The Action's MC has an ESR representative and currently ~19% of Action's team are ESRs.
- A proposal for an ESR event from the ESR representative is under consideration along with plans for an additional Action meeting, possibly linked to another COST Action.

Dissemination

- Initial activity is focused on reviewing the current status of citizen sensors within the scope of the four Working Groups. Each Working Group will briefly summarise the current status and direction of citizen sensing within mapping at an upcoming international conference, to which the next Action even is aligned, with the aim of disseminating key conclusions through the peer-review literature. Future plans include links to other major international conferences in relevant communities that offer dissemination routes.
- Web site, flyers etc. in-hand (planned for early summer 2013).



Participating countries: 21

AT, BG, CH, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GR, IE, IS, IT, MT, NL, NO, PT,
SI, SE, UK

Internat. Collaboration:

**Canada, India, Malaysia, Russia,
Taiwan, USA**

Contact details

Chair of the Action

Giles Foody, UK
giles.foody@nottingham.ac.uk

Domain Committee Rapporteur

Prof Janos Bito, HU
bito@mht.bme.hu

Dr Niels Larsen, DK
nl@dmi.dk

Prof Dr Michael Mente, DE
michael.mente@bgr.de

Science Officer (COST Office)

Ralph Stübner
Ralph.Stuebner@cost.eu

Website

Draft web site is at:
<http://cmswip01.nottingham.ac.uk/td1202/>



Image caption: Draft logo (courtesy
Prof Dr T Bandrova, BG)



COST is supported
by the EU RTD
Framework Programme



ESF provides the COST
Office through a European
Commission contract