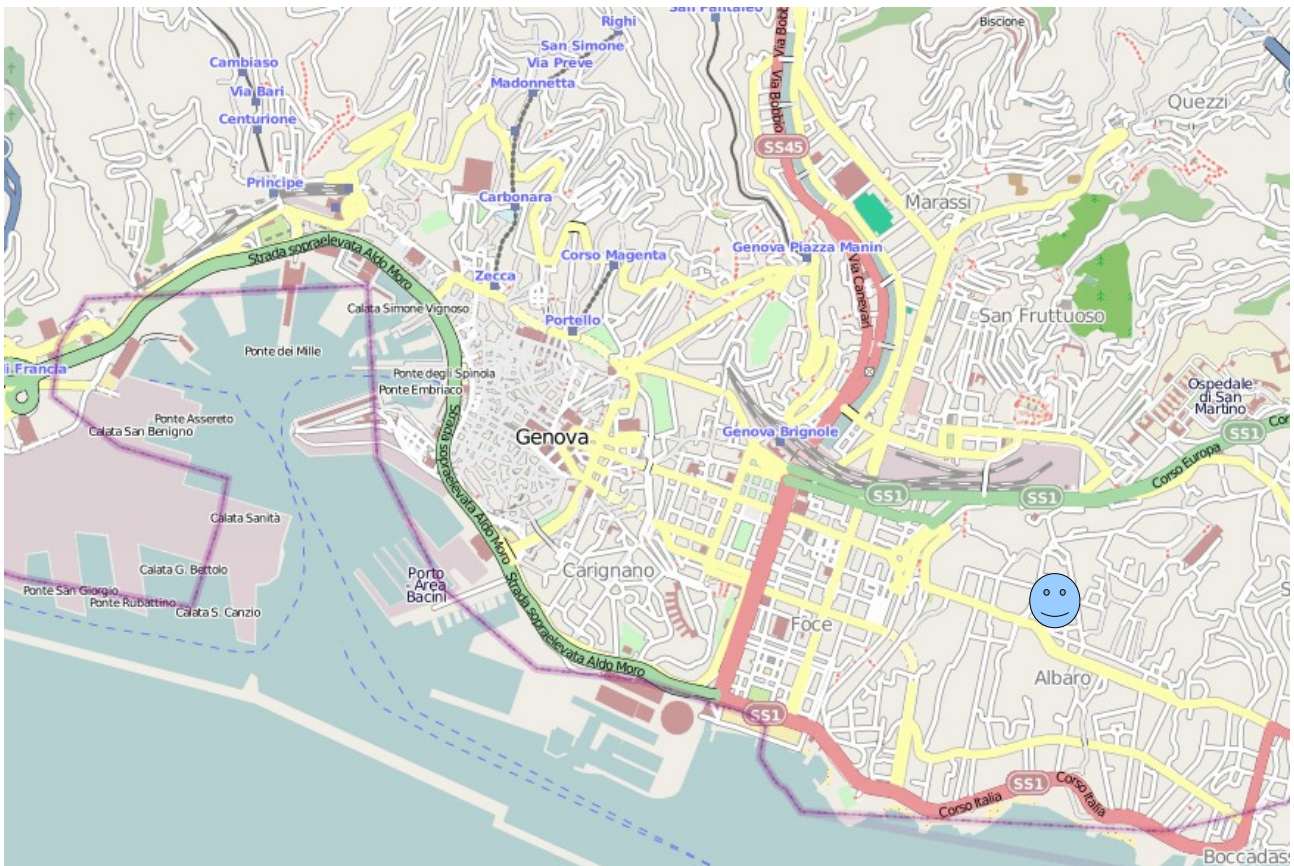# The State Of The Map 2010 in Genoa - Italy

The city of Genoa is proposed to host the next edition of The State Of The Map conference.

The meeting will be organized by:
- the Laboratory of Geodesy, Geomatics and GIS of the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering (DICAT), Engineering Faculty of the University of Genoa (Italy);
- the Italian community of OpenStreetMap.

The research of the Laboratory of Geodesy, Geomatics and GIS mainly concerns with the monitoring of territory, buildings and infrastructure, integrating GPS survey techniques and photogrammetry, and with the relative data analysis through GIS as a tool for territory management. Moreover, the laboratory poses particular attention to free and open source software, to interoperability for sharing data and services, and to free distribution of geographic data.

The conference venue will be the Engineering Faculty, Via Montallegro 1.

Genoa city center on OpenStreetMap

SIX REASONS TO CHOOSE THIS CANDIDATURE
1. Genoa holds the supremacy in geographic sciences that other city cannot boast, both in Italy and in Europe and perhaps even in the world: a record in the measure of space and time at disposal of astronomy, geodesy, topography and cartography. In fact, in a unique combination, the origins of both the planimetric and altimetric reference frame for the whole Italian nation were materialized in Genoa since national unity; the altimetric reference frame is still achieved through the tideguage station of the Italian Hydrographic Institute, continuously operating since 1884 at the port of Genoa. Moreover, for decades, the Italian Hydrographic Institute in Genoa had the responsibility to define and divulge the national time reference frame.
2. Genoa was one of the first major city to have a good check in OpenStreetMap in Italy.
3. The city is an interesting sample to test the acquisition of data of the OpenStreetMap Project: besides being one of the main nodes of the Italian network of transports, from the sea, the air, the rail and the road, the urban network is characterized by a particularly difficult road layout, with widespread urban canyons, not only in the historical center, and roads at more vertical levels.
4. The Laboratory of Geodesy, Geomatics and GIS is particularly interested in the problem of validation of geographic data in general, and in particular of the data generated by the OpenStreetMap Project, as well as the creation of metadata to improve quality and usability.
5. The Laboratory has been engaged in preparing a similar event in 2006 when it brought the VII Meeting Italian Users GRASS in the city; this meeting had an high presence, with over 150 members from both the academic institutions and territorial governments as well as from the specialized firms.
6. Connections with several territorial institutions particularly interested in OpenStreetMap have been developed, including the Natural Park of Portofino. Public agencies and private structures will be involved in organizing the event, so that the entry fee to the meeting could be free or of symbolic amount.

THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The organizing committee is composed by:
- Davide Caviglia: expert in design and implementation of Geographic Information Systems, with particular expertise in solutions for Public Administration. Ferries to the free technologies. Promoter of the project Open Source GisClient. Managing director and Project Manager, GIS & Web Srl – Genoa.
- Tiziano Cosso: PhD degree in Geodesy and Geomatics at the Polytechnic of Milan in April 2009. His research is focused on the management and monitoring of the territory through the use of Open Source GIS software and on issues related with the design and operation of a network of GNSS permanent stations, paying particular attention to the methods of determination of differential corrections for user positioning in real time.
- Luca Delucchi: GIS engineer at the Fondazione Edmund Mach, degree in Geography at the University of Genoa in 2008. Since September 2008 is working for development of a webGIS based on characterization and forecast for the harvest of grapes. Since 2007 is an active member of the OpenStreetMap project organizing many events, promote free and open source software (member of GFOSS.it, OSGeo's italian local chapter and ALID)
- Bianca Federici: researcher at the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering (DICAT), Engineering Faculty of the University of Genoa. Her research concerns the fields of monitoring, through survey techniques either traditional, photogrammetric and GNSS, and analysis of spatially distributed data with GIS and DBMS for the territory management. She is particularly sensitive to social issues (shareholder of

the nonprofit organization "Engineers Without Borders - Genoa) and promoter of free and open source software (member of GFOSS.it, OSGeo Italian local chapter); she was a member of the organizing committee of the seventh meeting of Italian GRASS Users, held in Genoa in 2006.

- Edoardo Marascalchi: passionate about technology, working as a Network Administrator at Domus Academy. Currently on break for removal and the birth of first child. One of the first mapper Italian assets; has spent actively to create a movement OSM in Italy. He's trying to repeat the experience in Israel. Member of Wikimedia and wild bookcrosser.

- Cristina Moretto: FBK-junior researcher (FreeIT, Free Information Technology unit); for FBK she is involved in the raising awareness of the Citizen and Public Administration in the collaborative commons production; OSM mapper for Trentino South Tyrol and Italy, OSM local and national supporter and evangelist; Italian Free Software Association deputy chairman (http://www.softwarelibero.it/)

- Markus Neteler: researcher at the Edmund Mach Foundation, geographer with more than ten years professional experience in open source GIS and remote sensing. He is GRASS GIS project lead and member of the OSGeo Foundation board of directors. During the 2006 FOSS4G meeting, the Sol Katz GFOSS Award was conferred on him. Member of OpenStreetMap community since 2006.

- Alessandro Palmas: Electronics and Informatics, passionately to issues of cartography since 1989, during his engagement at a company developing electronic charting systems for pleasure boats. In 2005 he designed a system for geolocalizing refrigerated containers using GPS and GPRS modem and monitoring the cold chain. Hiker and lover of the Ligurian territory, is approaching the OpenStreetMap project in late 2007, mapping many paths in Liguria.

- Niccolo Rigacci: System administrator and system integrator since 1994, using GNU/Linux and other Unix-like operating systems. Actually focused on deploying solutions entirely based on GNU/Linux and free software, with special insight into internet and intranet services, web mapping and GIS applications, GNU/Linux on small systems and desktop workstations. Collecting GPS traces and active member of the OpenStreetMap community since 2005.

- Domenico Sguerso: Associate Professor at the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering (DICAT), Engineering Faculty of the University of Genoa. His research activity has been developed principally in the fields of analytic and digital photogrammetry, of geodesy, of monitoring the territory by integrating GPS survey techniques with GIS analysis, with particular attention to free software and open source. Member of the organizing committee of the second and seventh Italian GRASS users meeting, held respectively in Trento in 2001 and Genoa in 2006.

ABOUT GENOA

Genoa is a very particular city, located, as the whole Liguria region, in a narrow coastal strip between the sea and the mountains that forms the watershed with the Po Valley. Genoa is rich in both historical events, dated back to the Roman period, and natural aspects; it attracts both national and international tourists.

Over the centuries Genoa has played an important role in navigation and commerce. The Genoa Republic had a major role in the whole Mediterranean and beyond from the XII and the XVI century. The discovery of America by the visionary spirit of Christopher Columbus was the peak of an upward parabola. Moreover, the cartographic production, especially related to the sea, has always been very extensive. In another field, the supremacy of this city in the birth of banks has also to be recognized.

The historical evidence of years of conquest and supremacy on the seas of the Superba (an old name of the Genoa Republic) is well hidden in the urban network of its historical center, the largest in Europe. You'll walk in so-called "carruggi" with the nose up or you will peep the interiors of the palaces behind high gates, from ramshackle shacks adjacent to residences worthy of Popes, as the Palazzi dei Rolli, Unesco World Heritage Site. At the same time you can enjoy the view from the many panoramic points of the city, often reached by public elevators and funicular railways.

In this city, languages and cultures have always mixed in the centuries, since the time of the Crusades, making it a melting pot "ante litteram". The influences, that range from Portuguese and Spanish into Turkish and Arabic, are recognizable in the spoken dialect. Just walking under the arcades of Sottoripa you can found some of the old smells from the shops that churn out "farinate" and fried fish served in paper, just as two centuries ago. With a few steps the visitor passes through historic places restored and arrives to modernity with major urban renewal made in the last decade: on one side Via San Lorenzo, Palazzo Ducale and the splendid Via Garibaldi, rich in museums, on the other one the Porto Antico with the Acquario (the largest exhibition of biodiversity in a European aquarium) and the many linked attractions.

The city seen from the harbour

Genoa and the whole region are peculiar either from the botanical and the geological point of view: because of the existence of several microclimates in the same territory, typical northern species coexist with typical subtropics ones; moreover, even non-specialists visitors may appreciate the colors and special shapes of rocks, subjected to erosion of sea and wind.

Anyone who loves trekking can choose between many different environments, the most famous ones are the Alta Via of the Ligurian Mountain, the Portofino Park and the Park of the Cinque Terre. Without leaving the city, you can visit the Parks of Nervi, with its monumental trees, or the Duchessa di Galliera Park, respectively in the extreme east and west of the city.

Last but not least, without moving too far from Genoa you can reach small beaches in sand, pebbles or rocks; instead, longer sandy beaches are reachable in one hour by car or train.

How to reach Genoa:

Airport: The airport is close to the city center, well connected by bus. Currently, the national routes are to/from Alghero, Cagliari, Catania, Naples, Olbia and Rome; the international routes are to/from London, Madrid, Monaco, Paris, Rotterdam and Tirana. Within a few months, an agreement with Ryanair should be ratified to open new routes.
In about one hour and a half, you can reach by train, bus or car the airports of Milan, Pisa and Nice.

Train: Genoa is a railway junction with lines towards Nice (France), Turin, Milan, Florence/Rome.

Car: A7, A10, A12 and A26 highways converge in Genoa.

Ferry-boat: from several harbour of the Mediterranean Sea you may travel by boat to Genoa; for example: Barcelona (Spain), Bastia (Corsica, France), Tanger (Morocco), Tunis (Tunisia), Valletta (Malta) and harbours on Sicily and Sardinia.

Links:
Genoa on OSM:
http://www.openstreetmap.org/?lat=44.4138622283936&lon=8.92107009887695&zoom=13
Historical center of Genoa: http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centro_storico_di_Genova
The arcades of Sottoripa: http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sottoripa
The Palaces of the Rolli: http://www.irolli.it/
The Porto Antico/Ancient Harbour: http://www.portoantico.it/
Museums in Genoa: http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Categoria:Musei_di_Genova
Parks in Genoa: http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parchi_di_Genova
Parks of Nervi: http://www.parchidinervi.it/
Duchessa di Galliera Park: http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Villa_Brignole_Sale_Duchessa_di_Galliera
Alta Via of the Ligurian Mountains: http://www.altaviadeimontiliguri.it/portale/
Portofino Park: http://www.parcoportofino.it/
Park of the Cinque Terre: http://www.cinqueterre.it/info.php
Tourism in Liguria: www.turismoinliguria.it

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