



First meeting of the Italian OpenStreetMap Community, Osmit 2009

Fondazione Bruno Kessler - FBK, Trento 5/ 6 June 2009

Statements

On June 5-6 2009, the Italian community of OpenStreetMap has gathered in Trento to survey the development of the project in Italy. The event, that was hosted by the Fondazione Bruno Kessler, enjoyed the presence of Steve Coast as special guest.

As the program unfolded, a variety of projects carried out by schools, public administrations, associations and citizens have been illustrated and discussed. Proposals were also set forth concerning the potential for new initiatives and the extension of the project to novel domains.

Four topics were singled out as of special interest for the community:

a) licenses; b) data quality and certification; c) import of data, eg from public administrations; d) establishment of a(n Italian) Local Chapter of the OSM Foundation.

A clear consensus emerged:

a1. On the viability of the "Open Database License Agreement" (ODbL) to substitute the current OSM license, according to the agenda that the international community shall deem appropriate (see <http://foundation.openstreetmap.org/the-openstreetmap-license/>);

a2. On the merits of the ODbL as a first attempt to address the problem of licensing database-integrated data in its full complexity. The virtues of the ODbL are especially evident in the effort to account for the variety of legal systems and laws in different countries;

a3. On positively responding to the invitation of the OSM Foundation to join Open Data Commons to contribute to the discussion and development of the new license;

b1. On the view that data reliability (quality of the process of construction and maintenance) and data usability (access; license) are complementary attributes to be properly considered and weighted for any application;

b2. On the fact that several community-driven, open projects (eg. Wikipedia) have already proved capable to meet high quality standards, exceeding in many instances those of comparable proprietary products;

b3. On the view that no unique quality criteria is good for all applications: Free access to metadata and ancillary information (eg, who built the data, when, under which circumstances) should therefore be supported and promoted, in such a way that anybody may tailor quality criteria on her/his specific needs (in many practical situations, this may also represent a solution to the problem of third-party data certification).

Cross-fertilization of methods and tools between the GIS community and the OpenStreetMap community is also strongly recommended;

c1. On the need to engage the public administrations to take responsibility in OSM. Awareness of PAs should be raised on the benefits of use (and reuse) of free geographic data. Joint projects should be promoted, aimed at releasing existing data owned by the PAs;

d1. On the view that the establishment of a new body (an autonomous association) acting as unique representative of the Italian OSM community at the OSM Foundation is not recommended at this time. GFOSSit and WikiMedia Italia (who had advanced the proposal to serve as the Italian representative) may continue, along with other associations, to connect the Italian community to the OSMF.

The community finally asks the OSMIT-2009 Organizing Committee to start and oversee the organization process of OSMIT 2010, collecting proposals and reporting to the community by September 30, 2009.