

Third European SCGIS (Society for Conservation GIS) conference "Geoinformation technologies to protect the natural and cultural heritage"

On 11 and 12 October 2016 was held the Third European SCGIS (Society for Conservation GIS) conference "Geoinformation technologies to protect the natural and cultural heritage" in city of Sofia, Bulgaria. The Third European SCGIS Conference is organized as a joint initiative of the Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS) Chapter Bulgaria, Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS) Chapter Slovenia, Space Research and Technology Institute – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Anton Melik Geographical Institute of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, ESRI Bulgaria and Bulgarian Geographical Society. The main idea of this event is to invite researchers and professionals from various scientific fields dealing with the conservation issues through geoinformation technologies, to promote the conservation idea and to popularize the Society for Conservation GIS (www.scgis.org).

Conference opening took place on 11th of October at the Great Hall of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, followed by the plenary and technical sessions. The conference was attended by scientists and specialists from different institutes and universities in Bulgaria and abroad, students from Faculty of Geology and Geomorphology of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "and pupils from the First English Language School, 19 High School" Elin Pelin "and National High School of Mathematics and Science "Acad. Chakalov."



The Great hall of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences



Conference attendees, students from Sofia University and pupils from First English Language School



Conference attendees and pupils from 19th High School "Elin Pelin" and National High School of Mathematics and Science

During the plenary session the Society for Conservation GIS, Space Research and Technology Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Geographical Institute of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, ESRI Bulgaria and the European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSeL), European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO) and professional social network GEONET were presented.

The Society for Conservation GIS was presented by Dr. Stefan Stamenov, leader of the SCGIS Chapter Bulgaria since 2014.

During the plenary session the "Space School" Initiative of the Institute for Space Research and Technology and Bulgarian Astronautic Society, aimed to promote the sciences related to space and Earth observation and modern achievements in the field of aerospace research and technology among pupils and students was presented.

The technical session, prepared by ESRI Bulgaria, presents the novelties in the software product ArcGIS 10.4, techniques and tools for spatial analysis of natural and cultural heritage using the capabilities of geographic information systems.



SCGIS presented by Dr. Stefan Stamenov, leader of SCGIS Chapter Bulgaria



The Scientific secretary of Space Research and Technology Institute – BAS (SRTI-BAS) welcomed the conference participants and attendees and presented the SRTI-BAS activities.



Geographical Institute of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts presented by Dr. Rok Ciglic, head of their GIS Department and leader of SCGIS Chapter Slovenia



Welcome speech from Serguey Shishov, ESRI Bulgaria Ltd



Presentation of the *Space School* Initiative by Dr. Vanya Stamenova, SRTI-BAS & SCGIS Chapter Bulgaria



Presentation of GEONET network by Dr. Stefan Stamenov, SRTI-BAS & SCGIS Chapter Bulgaria



European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSel) presented by Dr. Vanya Stamenova, Bulgarian national representative at EARSel



European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO) presented by Dr. Stelian Dimitrov



Technical Session of ESRI Bulgaria, presented by Dimitar Koritarov

THEMATIC SESSIONS

The thematic scientific sessions of the Third European SCGIS Conference “*Geoinformation technologies for natural and cultural heritage conservation*” were held at Park Hotel Moskva in Sofia, Bulgaria on 11th and 12th of October 2016. During the thematic sessions reports of scientists and professionals from Bulgaria, Slovenia, Romania, Macedonia, Poland, Russia, Czech Republic, Italy and Ukraine dealing with the conservation of natural and cultural heritage by applying geoinformation technologies were presented.

Some pictures from the conference sessions:



CONFERENCE DINNER

The conference ended with a dinner at the Restaurant “Panorama” of the park hotel Moskva, with the participants, who have stayed and wanted to come.





Panoramic view of Sofia city from restaurant *"Panorama"*



Sofia at nightfall



During the dinner



During the dinner

CULTURAL TOUR

The third day was planned for the cultural a tour of Sofia. The cultural tour started from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Monument to the Tsar Liberator, and continued with St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Saint Sofia Church, National Archaeological Museum, the Largo, Romanian church in Sofia, Holy Sunday Church, and Ivan Vazov National Theater and finished at St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University.



National theatre "Ivan Vazov"

