

FLASHBACK

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ACTIVITIES IN 1998

The Call for Opportunities in *Telematics Programme* issued by EC DG VII on GISCO dataset updates was received by HUNAGI via EUROGI. Decision was made by representatives of HUNAGI, FOMI and the ABDS Consortium to take part in the competition on January 8, 1998. Due to lack of submission partner, the proposal never reached the DG VII.

- *Summit of Presidents of the Austrian Society of Surveying and Geo-information (A.Hochwartner), the Hungarian Society for Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (Á.Detrekői) as well as the Hungarian Association for Geo-Information* was arranged to take place in Budapest in the offices of HUNAGI President *M.Havass* on 13 January, 1998. The Austrian delegation lead by President *A.Hochwartner*, also paid a visit also to *L.Jóhárt*, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and *G.Apagyi*, Director General of the Ministry's Department of Lands and Mapping, MoA as well as academician *Á.Detrekői*, Rector of the Budapest Technical University.
- International Advisory Board members met the modul developers for a strategic discussion on the possible follow-on actions of the *TEMPUS supported Distance learning programme* devoted to the Land Office personnel. The novel education programme is a joint development of the University of East London, the Leuven Catholic University, University of Veszprém, the GI Department of College of Surveying and Land Management of the University of Forestry at Székesfehérvár on Jan 17.
- Exams in English after the first 2 and a half years long *UNIGIS Course* at the College of Surveying and Land Management of the University of Forestry at Székesfehérvár were taken on 23rd January. Twelve students have received their certificate in presence of UNIGIS President *Prof. Jim Petch* (UK).
- Representatives of GISIG (Italy), FÖMI, the National Committee for Technological Development and HUNAGI have discussed their work plan related to *international GI project proposals* and concerted actions such as UNIPHORM, PANEL GI and WATER GIS in Budapest on 26th January.
- Working luncheon was arranged for HUNAGI by the Consul of the Canadian Embassy in Budapest on 4th February, 1998. The objective was to exchange of views on the possible ways, how to strengthen the *Canadian-Hungarian commercial and institutional connections in GI*.
- Early February, *the Institute for Systems, Informatics and Safety of the Joint Research Centre has officially informed HUNAGI on the venue and date of the 4th EC GIS Workshop to be hosted by HUNAGI* between June 24-26, 1998. According to agreement, all HUNAGI member representatives (including some potential new members and GIS-VIPs) have received formal invitation for this closed shop event of the European Commission.
- HUNAGI flyer was distributed at the Steering Committee *Meeting of the Officials of Land Administrations* under the auspice of the United Nations European Economic Commission hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre in Prague on February 14-17.

- HUNAGI was asked to give an introduction on recent activities on the *Meeting of Curators of HUNGIS Foundation* hosted by Geometria GIS System House on February 18.
- By request, *web editor of the White House submitted the text of Al Gore's cybertalk on the „Digital Earth”*, a vision of a high tech heaven for the year 2020. The text was distributed for HUNAGI members and for the GI media community for further dissemination. The text was received also via EUROGI.
- HUNAGI was introduced for participants of the *Preparatory Meeting of the World Bank International Conference on Property Rights hosted by World Bank's Hungarian Office* late March. The importance of geo-referencing (cadastre), property inventory (land registration) and time stamping was underline at the video conference held with the World Bank Washington based Headquarters. This promotion activity was also mentioned in the *GI2000 web discussion forum* moderated by *Roger Longhorn*.
- HUNAGI flyer was distributed at the *ISPRS Inter-commission Workshop on GIS, Aerial Remote Sensing and Spatial Data Clearinghouse*. The event organised by the Geological Institute of Hungary (member of HUNAGI) was held in Budapest between 19-20 February, 1998, with support of the National Committee for Technological Development. Based on the agreement between ISPRS Commission Presidents *Prof.Toni Schenk* and *G.Remetey-Fülöpp*, approved by the Council, the event was registered as *official inter-commission event of ISPRS*. *Dr. Beáta Csathó* of the Ohio State University and *dr. Erzsébet Merényi* of the University of Arizona in Tucson, both officers of the ISPRS Commission III, as well as experts from the USGS, Finland, UK, Germany and Austria were represented the international expert community. Sponsored by the US- Hungarian Science Technology Joint Fund, the event was hosted by the Geological Institute of Hungary, Hungarian Geological Survey (MÁFI). The workshop dealt with issues related to geospatial databases, state-of-the-art of tools and methods including photogrammetry, remote sensing, airborne geophysics, multispectral, hyperspectral sensors and methods, geophysical and geological interpretation methods as well as multiple sensor integration. *Dr. Péter Kardeván* principal project scientist has submitted an in-depth report on the workshop to ISPRS Highlights for publication
- HUNAGI was invited to the Workshop devoted to *On-line/off-line data services supporting regional/territorial developments* organised by the National Committee for Technological Development in cooperation with DG III, XIII and DG XVI of the European Commission held in Debrecen, 4th March.
- *Over 190 abstracts from nearly 40 countries have been registered to be presented on the ECO-BP'98*, the official mid-term Symposium of the Commission VII of the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing devoted to *'Resource and Environment Monitoring'* to be held in Budapest, 1-4 September 1998. The Symposium Director is *P.Winkler* of FÖMI, under the auspice of the Hungarian Society of Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing, both members of HUNAGI. The 3rd More information on the event and follow-on actions can be accessed via <http://www.hegyi.com/isprsc7>
- HUNAGI was invited to present its activities at the *Member's and Observer's Day of EUROGI General Board Meeting* held at EC DG XIII in Luxembourg-Gasperich, 16-17 March. As liaison officer between ISPRS and EUROGI *G.Remetey* held an introductory presentation also on the organisation and activities of ISPRS.

- **HUNAGI has been elected to be member in the Executive Committee of EUROGI for the next two years.** The Executive Committee consists of *Mike Brand*, President of EUROGI, *Jean-Claude Lummaux* President of AFIGEO, *Jarmo Ratia*, President of CERCO, *Klaus Schüller* of DDGI, *Antonio Fernandez Perez de Talens*, President of AM/FM-Italy, *Ian Masser* of AGI, *Kari Strande* of NKTF and *Gábor Remetey-Fülöpp* of HUNAGI. The new Executive Committee will held its first meeting in Marne-la-Vallée, 18 May.
- **HUNAGI was invited** by project manager *A.Fernandez Perez de Talens* to take part in the **BEGIN „Building the European Geo-information Interoperable Network”**, an ESPRIT program co-ordinated by EUROGI.
- □ HUNAGI was invited by EUROGI to lead a **Panel Discussion at the Meeting of the ESMI „European Spatial Metadata Infrastructure”** held in Lisbon, in May. The Aim of the ESMI project is to create an European spatial metadata infrastructure by providing mechanisms to link spatial data users with metadata services and providers using Internet. ESMI partners are GEODAN (co-ordinator, NL), CNIG (Portugal), EUROGI, MEGRIN, LISITT, University of Valencia (Spain). EUROGI's activities will be the organisation of panel discussions on the running ESMI (involving the secretariat of RAVI), promotion and awareness of ESMI and product marketing.
- HUNAGI completed the study contracted by RAVI on „Commercialisation of GI in Hungary”. The document (written by active co-operation of many HUNAGI members) was used by Prof.Bing of the Legal Advisory Board of EC DG XIII in a **Six country survey on Commercialisation of GI including UK, France, Germany, Norway, The Netherlands and Hungary.** The final discussion of the material was held in Marne-la-Vallée (at Headquarters of EUROGI) on 19 May.
- □ **The European Commission has accepted the project proposal PANEL-GI „Pan European Link for Geographic Information” for support.** Coordinated by GISIG of Italy and having participants from 5 EU member states and from 5 CE countries, the project proposal was submitted in frame of the INCO-COPERNICUS – concerted actions. By invitation, the kick-off meeting held at the DG III in Brussels was participated by *U.Boes* (DG III), *G.Saio* (overall coordinator, GISIG), *A.Annoni* (JRC SAI), *M.Konecny* (Masaryk University), *A.Frank* (TU Vienna), *Ch.Chenez* (EUROGI) and *G.Remetey* (scientific co-ordinator, HUNAGI).
- The **ABDS for the CEEC „Administrative Boundary Data Services for the Central and Eastern European Countries”** INCO-COPERNICUS project proposal was favourable evaluated by the European Commission in the 4th Framework Programme (4FP, 1994-98). The project co-ordinated by *Szabolcs Mihály*, director of FÖMI has collaborators from e.g. Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia and Hungary. In Hungary the following institutions, companies and associations are participating already the project co-ordinated by FÖMI: Prime Minister's Office, Mapping Agency of Hungarian Home Defence Forces, Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Hungarian Public Utility for Regional Development and Town Planning as well as HUNAGI.
- FÖMI and HUNAGI have actively participated the preparatory **R+TD discussion meeting** organised by Vice President *S. Bottka* and Senior Advisor *Vilmos Bogár* of the National Committee for Technological Development on 20th April with project managers having success in the 4th Framework Programme or with INCO-COPERNICUS project proposals. The views were also highlighted and discussed at the **ESPRIT Information Day** (Budapest, 8th May 1998) devoted to the last Call for Proposals in the 4FP. The present status of the 5FP (Fifth Framework Programme) was also introduced with special emphasis on the options for the Central and Eastern European countries. (<http://www.cordis.lu/esprit/src/eitcist.htm>)
- HUNAGI representative in the Executive Committee of the European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information was elected as **Treasurer of EUROGI.**
- □ **Budapest hosted the 4th EC GIS Workshop.** The event was organised and prepared by DG JRC ISIS of the European Commission in co-operation with HUNAGI. Among EC DG III funded GIS projects, lectures were delivered by representatives of the Open GI Consortium, EUROGI, AGILE, GISIG, GEIXS, DG III and DG XIII. The number of participants was over 120. The Hungarian presentations focused on ongoing large programmes such as the Information Society Technologies, National Geospatial Data Strategy related supporting actions, the IT development of the Land Offices, the GIS/RS impact of challenges related to the EU accession, applications in regional planning, standardisation, as well as exhibition reflecting the results in mapping (DTA-50), agricultural (CROPMON) and environmental monitoring (CORINE), land consolidation (TAMA) touch-screen and map- based Tourist Information System. A well attended press conference was also a highlight of the public relation actions.
- The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Initiative's Executive Committee has the following members from Europe:
 - Michael Brand*, President of **EUROGI**,
 - Prof.Ian Masser* AGI/ITC
 - Jean Poulit*, General Director, IGN France
- By invitation of GSDI Executive Committee Chair *Ms. Jane S.Patterson*, Europe is represented in the Advisory Board of the Steering Committee of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure as follows:
 - K.Barwinski* DDGI, Germany
 - A. Fernandez de Talens* AM/FM Italy
 - H. Graeff* Fraunhofer Institute Germany
 - B. Kok* RAVI, NL
 - M. Littlejohn* EC
 - R. McLaren* Know Edge, UK
 - O. Ostensen* ISO TC 211 Norway
 - J. Ratia* CERCO
 - G.Remetey-Fülöpp* **HUNAGI**
 - D.Rhind* UK
 - F. Salgé* IGN France
 - H. Weber* Germany
- Column on “European Connections” was published in the September Issue of *Térinformatika*
- The **kick-off meeting of the PANEL-GI** Pan-European project was held in Brno, Czech Republic on 29 June, 1998. Represented by *Pál Lévai* of FÖMI, HUNAGI was introduced via its home page using Internet access.
- Paper entitled *Hungary sets its National Spatial Data Strategy* (written by *Zs.Sikolya-G.Remetey*) was submitted for the OIS Newsletter Washington DC as invited paper.
- □ **The EC document entitled “A Strategic View of GIS Research and Technology Development for Europe”** edited by *Alison Munro* of JRC SAI's Environment and Geo-Information Unit, was published recently (having also some contributions made by *G.Remetey-Fülöpp* of HUNAGI). The vision statement of the document refers *Robin Waters*, extracting from his paper he contributed to the 4th European Commission GIS Workshop hosted by HUNAGI in Budapest between 24-26 June, 1998. *Robin Waters*, long time senior technical advisor of different Hungarian GI-related Phare programmes said: “GI infrastructure for Europe should enable public and private sector users to access appropriate levels of up-to-date topographic and thematic spatial information in an interoperable environment at a reasonable cost within a single, easily understood legal framework covering copyright and confidentiality. The data collected from synoptic systems (remote

sensing) may be centralised but the data collected in individual countries should be coordinated under the subsidiarity principle.

□ Study trip was arranged by HUNAGI in association with the **NC-NRW-HU sistership agreement** preparation on IT co-operation. A detailed programme was compiled for *Zsolt Nagy* of the State Planning Office of North Carolina (left on the picture) including visits at MTE SZ, HUNAGI, Director General of the Department of Lands and



Mapping, Ministry of Agriculture, Deputy managing President of the National Committee for Technological Development, VÁTI GI Lab, FÖMI Remote Sensing Centre, the Rector and the Centre of Informatics of the Budapest Technical University, the Institute of Electronics of the Ministry of Home Defence as well as the ISPRS Symposium held at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.



EARSeL President Vaughan, ISPRS Vice President Gottfried Konecny and Lawranec Fritz, President of ISPRS at the meeting hosted by Prof.Á.Detrekői in his Rector Office at the Budapest Technical University.

Below: ISPRS Council members and EARSeL President's visit at President of the Hungarian Society of Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing Prof.Ákos Detrekői (l.) Guests: (l. to r.) L.Fritz, T.Klug, Prof.J.Trinder, Prof.Waughan, G.Remetey-Fülöpp, G.Mélykúti, P.Winkler and Prof.G.Konecny.



• □ Sponsored also by HUNAGI, the **Symposium of the ISPRS Technical Commission VII**, referred also as ECO BP'98 was held in Budapest from 1-4 September 1998 devoted to **Resources and Environmental Monitoring**. The event attracted 196 registered participants from 33 countries of 5 continents (35 only from Hungary). Moreover 62 invited Hungarian senior decision makers and additional 59 professional visitors were attended the open day devoted to commercial exhibitions and presentations. From the scientific point of view ECO BP'98 was a great success. Major application areas where novel research and technology development methodology were applied include hyperspectral sensing, environmental risk and/or site analysis, global, regional and local monitoring as well as assessments related to sustainable developments.

Senior expert panel consisting P.Winkler ISPRS Commission VII Secretary, (FÖMI RSC), D.P.Rao (Director, NRSA), G.Apagyi (Head,

DLM MARD), G.Remetey-Fülöpp Commission VII President (DLM MARD), L.Fritz ISPRS President (Lockheed Martin), M.Tóth translator (FÖMI) and academician Prof.Á.Detrekői, President of HSSMRS



The synergetic integrated use of RS and GIS technologies was the case in the majority of applications. Major events of the symposium include UNISPACE III Preparatory Forum, EARSeL session, GI for All (the theme of the next ISPRS Congress will be held in Amsterdam, July 2000). The scientific research and application-oriented developments were presented and discussed in 26 parallel sessions (use of remote sensing e.g. in sustainable development, global monitoring, geotechnical applications).

- **GIS PLANET** 1998 Lisbon with PANEL-GI meeting. HUNAGI was represented by Pál Lévai of FÖMI September 7-9, 1998
- □ **ISPRS Council and Technical Presidents Meeting** Sept 7-9, 1998 immediately after the mid-term symposium of the ISPRS Commission IV (GIS) held in Stuttgart and Bad Wildbad, participated by G.Remetey
- □ **EUROGI Executive Committee Meeting** Marne-la-Vallée, September 21, 1998
- HUNAGI's contribution to the GSDI "Case study of NSDI's in Countries in Transition – Hungary" was accepted by the Organising Program Committee. Four invited panellists will lead the discussion, namely the general directors of ANZLIS, FGDC, NGDF and Geomatics Canada.
- **HUNAGI's Column** on "European Connections": was published in the October Issue of Térinformatika
- ESMI presentation (Zs.Sikolya-G.Remetey) at the VIII. **National GIS Conference in Szolnok** on 24 September, 1998
- □ **ESMI expert meeting** in Budapest September 28, 1998 hosted by the Prime Minister's Office in co-operation with HUNAGI inviting METATÉR pilot project team experts and members representing MÁFI, VÁTI and FÖMI as well as EUROGI, the National Committee for Technological Development and some relevant active partners in the private sector.
- Questionnaire was completed by the SG of HUNAGI for Harlan Onsrud (Univ of Maine) for a global survey on NSDI/ NSDS lead by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (USA).
- **MOLA Workshop on Land Market** was officially accepted and announced by the UN ECE in early September.
- The project concept related to the **GI segment of the Integrated Administration and Control System** was presented at the **National Water and Land Protection Conference** organised by the NGO KVIK (Environmental Protection Information Centre) on September 25, 1998
- □ HUNAGI was introduced by **GIM**, the Journal of Geomatics published by GITC circulated worldwide.
- □ **3rd GIS Workshop**, Cluj. October 8-9, 1998. Organised by Prof.Selinger of the Dennis Gabor Foundation, member of HUNAGI.

Dr.R.Berencei, Director of HUNGIS Foundation (L.) and Mr.M.Havass, Former President of the Hungarian Association for Geo-Information HUNAGI (r.) with the organiser of the GIS Workshop Prof.S.Selinger. of the Dennis Gabor Foundation,

Background information for participants of the Kick-off Meeting of the RCoE LandNet Project Budapest, January 30-February 1, 2003

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International participation includes experts and company representatives such as HUNGIS Foundation, MTESZ and HUNAGI as well as Rudas & Karig (Tourist Information Systems and GI on Internet),

Bekes(Erdas) and Landinfo(MapInfo). The event was organised third times by the Dennis Gabor Foundation with the main objectives to make promotion for the application of IT and IT based technologies with special emphasis on spatial data handling and analysis.

- Report prepared on HUNAGI's activities was distributed to participants of the **Meeting of Curators of HUNGIS Foundation** held in Szeged, 19 October 1998
- The **Annual Space Day** was held in Budapest on October 20, 1998 in presence of *Dr. Gerhard Haerendel*, President of COSPAR, Director of the Max Planck Institut für Extraterrestrische Physik. Based on the presentation material compiled by the Technical Commission President, *Peter Winkler* of FÖMI presented the results of the ISPRS Symposium as prepared by *G. Remetey*, *P. Winkler* and *G. Büttner*. The event was hosted by the Hungarian Space Research Office (member of HUNAGI) directed by *dr. Előd Both*, and the Hungarian Astronautical Society under the presidency of *dr. Iván Almár*. It should be mentioned, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) celebrated its 40th year in 1998.
- HUNAGI's hard core member *Zsolt Sikolya* of Prime Minister's Office attended the **32nd ICA (International Council for Information Technology in Government Administration) Conference** at Helsinki and delivered a lecture on the use of GIS technology in the government level decision making process. ICA is an international association promoting and facilitating the informal exchange of ideas, knowledge and experiences on the management, organisational impact and use of information technology in national governments. It is an international forum for the support of senior management in the formulation of IT policy to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government administration. Mr. *Sikolya* read his paper in the session „Applied Speciality Applications”. The scope of this session was to attract the attention of the experts to the recent IT trends having ever increasing role in the government administration.
- **GIS and Remote sensing content in applications related to the European integration** The special session of the Annual Conference of the Database Service Providers held in Budapest on November 12, 1998 shown more high-level GI applications having remote sensing content as follow:
 - *Cross-border applications in soil science (Prof. Dr. G. Várallyay et al)*
 - *Administrative data boundary database service for the CEE countries (Dr. S. Mihály)*
 - *CORINE land cover database for Hungary (G. Büttner)*
 - *GEIXS European Geological Information Exchange System and its Hungarian module (Dr. G. Erdélyi)*
 - *UNDP project on the applicability of DAIS for hyperspectral survey in Hungary (Dr. P. Kardeván et al)*
 - *European and Hungarian Spatial Metadata Infrastructure (Z. Sikolya – G. Remetey-Fülöpp)*
 - *PARCELLA – multipurpose parcel based information system (Á. Podolcsák – G. Remetey-Fülöpp)*
 - *Geospatial knowledge base development – experiences of European projects (Dr. B. Márkus)*

Background information for participants of the Kick-off Meeting of the RCoE LandNet Project Budapest, January 30-February 1, 2003

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- **The preparation of the ISPRS Congress in Amsterdam.** The ISPRS Commission VII having Hungarian secretariat received the opportunity to organise 7 Technical Sessions related to the activities of the Working Groups. Moreover, a Commission VII Session dedicated to the Congress Theme “Geoinformation for All” was also accepted. Additional Workshops and Tutorials as well as Inter-Commission



Technical Session themes have been elaborated by the WGs and were submitted to the Scientific Program Committee lead by *Prof. Martien Molenaar* of ITC for approval.

Left image: *John Moeller*, Director of FGDC in talks with HUNAGI Secretary General at the Reception given by the Australian Government in the Parliament in Canberra during the GSDI Conference

- □ **3rd Conference on the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure.** Having high level supports from top level politicians on behalf of the European Commission and the Department of Interior (USA), as well as international organisation such as the Statistical Division of the United Nations, the 3rd Conference on the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure was held in Canberra between 17-19 November. Hosted by the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group, the conference was attended by almost 100 invited experts from over 20 countries. Paved the way by *Ms. Jane S. Patterson* of North Carolina, *Mike Brand* of EUROGI and *Peter Holland* of AUSLIG, the event was dedicated to institutional issues related to the need for for multi-national, multi-lateral cooperation. Among the 20 presenters was HUNAGI Secretary General *G. Remetey-Fülöpp* who delivered a lecture entitled “Case study of NSDI in countries in transition – Hungary”. The GSDI Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of *Peter Holland*, Director General of AUSLIG had already made public the findings, recommendations and resolutions. The recommendation 1 says: “The organisational model recommended for the GSDI in the long run is the umbrella organisation, which brings together regional committees, national committees, and other relevant international institutions e.g. ISO, OGC, ISCGM, ISPRS, ICA, etc. in the context of action-oriented principles of flexibility, inclusivity and simplicity.”
- □ **UN ECE MOLA Workshop on Land Market in Budapest.** Over 120 registered participants of 20 countries have attended the first workshop of the Meetings of Officials of Land Administrations hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development of the Republic of Hungary under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Council for Europe. Held in Budapest November 30 and December 1998 and co-organised by ISPRS member affiliation Hungarian Society for Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing, the Workshop discussed also the technological aspects. The use of photogrammetry, remote sensing and GIS as important tool and data acquisition component have been outlined and demonstrated among others especially by Dutch, Danish, Czech, Romanian and Hungarian lecturers.
- Participation of the **Information Society Technologies (IST) Conference.** Vienna. November 30- December 2, 1998. HUNAGI was represented by *Pál Lévai* of FÖMI
- Participation of the **PANEL-GI Executive Committee Meeting** Vienna, November 30- December 2, 1998. HUNAGI will be represented by *Pál Lévai* of FÖMI

