



**Earth
Bridge**

Report of the EarthBridge Conference in Bologna, Italy, 26- 29th June 2023

June 2023

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Authors: Emilie Trakalova, CZU, Czech Republic

Editors: all participants

Contact: Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

Vitezslav Moudry

moudry@fzp.czu.cz

Kamycka 129

165 00 Prague

www.fzp.czu.cz

Website: www.EarthBridge.eu



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Executive summary

This document brings an overview of the EarthBridge Conference, which took place in Bologna, Italy, between 26th – 29th June 2023, under the umbrella of the project partner **Alma Mater Studiorum Universita di Bologna**. Special thanks go to the colleagues from UNIBO, especially Prof. Duccio Rocchini and Prof. Roberto Cazzolla Gatti, for the excellent organisation of the stay in Bologna.

The EarthBridge Conference in Bologna was composed of these activities:

- 1) **Course “Analyzing spatially autocorrelated data” (WP3) – 26th June 23**
- 2) **EarthBridge project meeting – 27th June 2023**
- 3) **Management committee meeting – 28th June 2023**
- 4) **EarthBridge workshop for ECRs – 27 – 28th June 2023**

The detailed agenda of the activities is in Annex 1 to this Minutes.



FIGURE 1 WELCOME SPEECH OF DUCCIO ROCCHINI (UNIBO)

1. Training Course – DAY 1

During the day 1 (26th June 2023) Dr. Vojtech Bartak provided a special training course related to “Analyzing spatially autocorrelated data.” This highly specialized and interactive lecture aimed to show spatial autocorrelation and how to measure and model it. During the practical exercises, the participants learned how to open the data, measure, and visualize spatial autocorrelation in R, Moran's I, Correlogram, variogram, and covariogram, and work with multiple datasets. The presentation and the background documents will be in the MS TEAMS folder. In total, 30 participants attended the Course, while the majority created the ERCs.



FIGURE 2 PARTICIPANTS OF TRAINING COURSE

2. EarthBridge project meeting – DAY 2

On the second day – 27th June 2023, the afternoon section was dedicated to the EarthBridge meeting and the evaluation of the WP progress.

1.1. Research project – Breakout group on a perspective paper (WP 1)

Anna Cord and Ruben Remelgado (TUD) informed participants about the outcomes of the online activities related to the research content of the project. Participants further discussed the aim of the Perspective paper/Review, which is scheduled in 2023. The regular online meetings under WP1 will be organized to further facilitate the work and enable the reach of the WP 1 objectives.



FIGURE 3 RUBEN REMELGADO (TUD) - RESEARCH PROJECT UNDER WP1

1.2. SCIENTIFIC AND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE OF CZU

Task 2.1. EarthBridge workshops and TASK 2.2. Scientific training

Participants discussed the forthcoming workshops and training related to EarthBridge. The specific training will take place in Dresden in July, led by Christopher Marrs. Another one will be organized under the TUD umbrella in Dresden in October/November 2023. Such a workshop will focus more on discussion around the EarthBridge research project and the activities of ECRs.

TASK 2.3. Management training

At the same time as the autumn workshop in Dresden, the CZU project managers will be provided the management training by (European Project Center - EPC TUD.). Some parts of the workshop will focus on funding opportunities and proposal writing.

TASK 2.4. Staff exchanges

The table with scheduled exchanges was presented and shared in MS TEAMS to enable better planning and coordination of the stays. The table includes both, senior as well as ECRs. The participants were asked to indicate their time and place interests. (LINK). After the exchange, a short report is required to evaluate the impact of the stay. So far, one exchange has occurred in the project's first six months (Petra Simova) (picture 2).



FIGURE 4 VISIT OF PETRA SIMOVA (CZU) IN UNIBO WITH DUCCIO ROCCHINI (FEBRUARY - MARCH 2023)

1.3. JUNIOR RESEARCHERS (WP3)

TASK 3.1. Junior Synthesis project

The first part of the Synthesis project is scheduled for 2024 in the Czech Republic. Anna Cord (TUD) presented its main objective and opened the discussion for the possible topic of the Synthesis project. The place in the Czech Republic will be decided by the end of 2023, along with the identification of possible participants and joint research topics.



FIGURE 5 ANNA CORD PRESENTING SYNTHESIS PROJECT

TASK 3.2. Mentoring

To facilitate joint mentoring, a shared table will be created. Currently, mentoring works more on a non-structured basis. The list of possible mentoring activities will be prepared soon.

TASK 3.3. Junior staff exchanges

The same procedure is required as for *Task 2.4*. So far, the two exchanges took place in the first six months of the project (David Moravec, and Eric Koszczor (picture 4)).



FIGURE 6 VISIT OF DAVID MORAVEC (CZU) IN TU DRESDEN TEAM (MAY 2023)

Task 3.4. Joint study program

Vitezslav Moudry presented possible funding opportunities for the creation of the joint study program via Erasmus Mundus. The main discussion point was the number of project partners in the programme. Possible partners are CZU, Poland, TU Dresden, UNIBO, and the University of Bonn. During the last five months, the partners worked together on possible modules online through Padlet (LINK: <https://bit.ly/3kA6icu>).

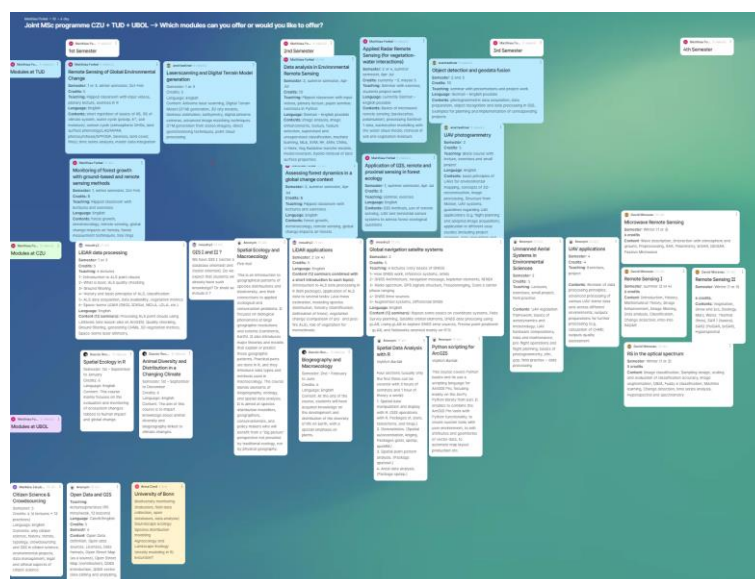


FIGURE 7 SHARED WORKSPACE PADLET FOR JOINT MSc. PROGRAMME

1.4. COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION (WP 4)

Katerina Hajkova (WP 4 leader) presented briefly about the communication and dissemination activities. During the last six months, the logo manual, leaflets, poster, and other dissemination materials have been created and shared via MS TEAMS. The participants are encouraged to use the templates and other materials as much as possible to further promote the project. The partners distributed three rollups for use during the conferences, etc. All information is included in the "Initial Plan for the communication, dissemination, and exploitation," submitted on 30th June 2023 and distributed to the EarthBridge members in early July.



FIGURE 8 EXAMPLES OF DISSEMINATION MATERIALS - EARTHBRIDGE ROLL UP, LEAFLETS

To effectively monitor the dissemination activities of EarthBridge, the regular monthly Task under the MS Teams were created and linked to all EarthBridge participants. The presentation of WP 4 is available in MS TEAMS. Considering social media as a powerful dissemination, we created the following accounts:

Means of D&C	Account/Url	Responsible
Web Site	https://EarthBridge.eu/	CZU
Twitter	https://twitter.com/EarthBridgeEU	CZU/TUD/UNIBO
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/fzp.czu.cz	CZU
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/fzp_czu/	CZU

FIGURE 9 EARHTBRIDGE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS