

## FORM EC6: PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

### Title of Research

***Building a comparison matrix of Geographical Information System frameworks focused on their suitability to develop spatial data geo-processing models.***

### Introduction

*You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether to do so, it is important that you understand the research that is being done and what your involvement will include. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Do not hesitate to ask me anything that is not clear or for any further information you would like to help you make your decision. Please do take your time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for reading this.*

### What is the purpose of this study?

*My MSc project has covered the implementation in a software tool of an algorithm to foresee landslides. Due to time limits, complexity of the algorithm and available knowledge, the development was carried on within a single open-source Geographical Information System (GIS) framework.*

*In attempt to extend the relevance of the project, the actual development has also been used to gather information about strengths and weaknesses of the adopted framework.*

*This insight was elaborated into a multi criteria evaluation grid I would like to submit to other developers that use different open-source frameworks from the one adopted by me, This with the explicit intent of gathering indirect information about such alternative GIS environments through their expert opinions.*

*The final goal is creating a reference chart to help other developers in choosing the most suitable open-source GIS framework to develop their geographical data processing models.*

### Do I have to take part?

*It is completely up to you whether or not you decide to take part in this study. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to. Agreeing to join the study does not mean that you have to complete it. You are free to withdraw at any stage without giving a reason. A decision to withdraw at any time, or a decision not to take part at all, will not lead to any consequences for you.*

NOTE 1.) Please note that, to further improve privacy and to avoid cluttering of involved mailing lists, just a LINK to an online questionnaire will be posted.  
Consequently all replies will not be pushed back to mailing list in the form of answers to the original message inviting to the survey.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

*On the developer mailing list you are already subscribed, a post will be issued presenting the questionnaire. You may read it and eventually reply publicly. Just in that case you are actually taking part in the study.*

### **What are the possible disadvantages, risks or side effects of taking part?**

*As you may already know, mailing lists keep archives of posts. This means that the opinion you may express will be associated with the mail address you are using as a mailing list subscriber and, eventually, your real name in the case you are using it in your mailing list profile.*

NOTE 2.) As a consequence of Note 1., your participation will remain confidential and no record will be available publicly.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

*No individual direct benefits are expected.*

### **How will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

*Your participation to the study will be public.*

NOTE 3.) As a consequence of Note 1 the replies will be collected in a totally anonymous way.

### **What will happen to the results of the research study?**

*The results will first be elaborated and become part of my MSc thesis. Secondly, under the permission of the University of Hertfordshire, they will be made public in the form of an open-access paper and/or web page. A message on the mailing list will notify about the availability of the results.*

### **Who has reviewed this study?**

*This research has been reviewed by Dr. Giseli de Sousa.*

### **Who can I contact if I have any questions?**

*If you would like further information or would like to discuss any details personally, please get in touch with me by email: foimarco@gmail.com*

**Although we hope it is not the case, if you have any complaints or concerns about any aspect of the way you have been approached or treated during the course of this study, please write to the University Secretary and Registrar.**

**Thank you very much for reading this information and giving consideration to taking part in this study.**