



Road Shows as opportunities for dissemination and promotion of Ground Penetrating Radar use in Inclusiveness Target Countries - COST Action TU1208

Simona Fontul (1), Lara Pajewski (2), Aleksandar Ristic (3), and Milan Vrtunski (3)

(1) LNEC, National Laboratory for Civil Engineering, Lisbon, Portugal (simona@lnec.pt), (2) Department of Information Engineering, Electronics and Telecommunications, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy (lara.pajewski@uniroma1.it), (3) University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Technical Sciences, Novi Sad, Serbia (milanv@uns.ac.rs)

Engaging researchers from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) in international research and networking activities, increasing their access to funding and infrastructures, and fostering a technological development of ITCs are among the main objectives of COST Actions.

COST Action TU1208 “Civil Engineering Applications of Ground Penetrating Radar” promoted the organization of a series of dissemination events (“TU1208 GPR Road Shows) in different ITCs. The purposes of those events were to promote a stronger interaction between academia and stakeholders, to reach new potential GPR end-users, and to explain GPR to interested citizens. During the Road Shows, participants could discover what is GPR and how this technique can be effectively used in civil engineering as well as in different fields.

This abstract presents the successful cases of Road Shows organized in Lisbon, Portugal, and Novi Sad, Serbia.

The first Road Show edition was entitled “GPR application for Civil Engineering” and was held in Lisbon, Portugal, at the National Laboratory of Civil Engineering (LNEC), on 2 March 2016. This Road Show represented our ‘pioneeristic experiment’ and was basically organized as a technical workshop, mostly held in native language and with a few lectures in English given by experts from abroad. Based on the success of this workshop, we decided to continue with further editions of the Road Show to be held in other countries. In total 104 persons attended the Lisbon event, with a high prevalence of local Attendees from Universities and Research Institutes, Public Agencies and a high number of participants from Industry.

The fifth Road Show edition was held on 10 March 2017 at the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Novi Sad, Serbia. The event, entitled ‘GPR Workshop – European experiences, standards and recommendations in application of Ground Penetrating Radar’ was organized by the Laboratory for geoinformatics of the Computing and control department. This Road Show included a technical workshop, mostly held in native language, a round table, a practical demonstration of GPR instruments, and a poster session; it was attended by 105 people, majority of them from Serbia. Attendees were mainly from public agencies and private companies, but also from universities and other research institutions.

After the events, feedback was collected from the participants.

More information concerning this initiative is found at: <http://gpradar.eu/events-dissemination/technicalseminars.html>

The TU1208 Road Show can represent an inspiring example for other COST Actions, mainly those that aim at implementing and applying new technologies.

The authors thank COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) for funding the Action TU1208 “Civil Engineering Applications of Ground Penetrating Radar”.