

Report 2023 – Wikimedia Italia

(Italian Local Chapter OpenStreetMap)

In this report it is possible to find a summary of some of the activities organized, financed or supported by Wikimedia Italia during 2023 as the OpenStreetMap Local Chapter.

Wikimedia Italia supports the volunteer communities that contribute to Wikimedia and OpenStreetMap projects within the Italian territory. It does so by offering funding opportunities, training opportunities or meeting moments. Everyone can join and collaborate in the production of shared knowledge. Wikimedia Italia supports projects to strengthen communities in their activities both online and offline, to make them grow in the number of members and in skills and ensure generational continuity.

You can find most of the activities mentioned below, in detail (in Italian language), archived in the associations wiki: <https://wiki.wikimedia.it/wiki/OpenStreetMap/Attivit%C3%A0/Archivio>

Grants for volunteers' projects 2023

The grants for volunteers' projects aims to support the implementation of projects, proposed by volunteers, Wikimedia Italy members and non-members, active in Wikimedia and OpenStreetMap projects with budgets from €1,000 up to €10,000.

The volunteer selection committee, composed of 6 people, received 7 proposals and decided to fund 3 of them, of which 1 was related to OpenStreetMap. The total budget approved for the implementation of 3 projects was 15,205 € of which 7,930 € for the OpenStreetMap proposal that can be found below:

BikingImprover <https://bikingimproverday.it/>

The objective of the project was to develop a web application to provide an effective and alternative tool, based on a gamification approach, for improving and enriching the OpenStreetMap database and for organizing events focused on the topic of urban

cycling. These events are useful for collecting data such as dedicated cycling lanes and cycling-related points of interest (drinking water sources, etc.).

Microgrant program

The microgrant program aims to support the implementation of projects, proposed by volunteers, Wikimedia Italia members and non-members active in the Wikimedia and OpenStreetMap projects, up to an amount of €1,000.

The program funded a total of 31 projects submitted by 20 different volunteers.

Activities funded through the microgrant program involved 6 proposals related to OpenStreetMap for a total of €4041 spent.

Coordinators

Coordinators are volunteer roles among Wikimedia Italia's members who promote and support Wikimedia and OpenStreetMap initiatives. They are the association's point of contact in different regions in Italy. Each coordinator has a pre-approved fund of 500 euros available for expenses that can be used for any kind of activities related to their coordinator role or activities related to Wikimedia and OpenStreetMap.

In 2023 Wikimedia Italia had a total of 18 coordinators, 5 of them were OpenStreetMap coordinators.

GEOdaysIT 2023

Also known as FOSS4G-IT/OSM-IT from its previous editions, is the national gathering of Free Geospatial data enthusiast and OpenStreetMap contributors in Italy.

In 2023 a new event was organized and it included FOSS4G-IT, OSM-IT and AIT convention, it was nominated GEOdaysIT, was held in Bari from June 12 to 17 and was co-organized by AIT (Associazione Italiana di Telerilevamento), GFOSS.it, Wikimedia Italia, University of Bari and Bari Polytechnic University.

About 300 people attended the event and there was a much more balanced gender gap than previous years. Seven workshops were held and 30 lecturers were involved in organizing the workshops, which were attended by more than 50 people. The event had the support and sponsorship of 9 organizations and 8 sponsors.

Wikimedia Italia organized and participated through staff, coordinators, and volunteers in various sessions: an opening panel on the future of FOSS4G-it and OSMit national events; several presentations related to OpenStreetMap and Wikimedia Italia; an OSM roundtable with community members; the OSM community day, in which the community was given free space to present various individual projects; and a mapathon organized entirely by 8 women mappers from the cOSMopolIT group (3 of whom participated thanks to Wikimedia Italia grants).

Wikimedia Italia provided a budget of €8,000 for the overall realization of the event.

GEOdaysIT 2023: event participation grants

10 participation grants of EUR 500 each were provided for GEOdaysIT 2023, and the applications received were evaluated by a committee of OSMers, including coordinators (2 men and 3 women). Ten applications were received and 10 people were awarded the scholarships, 2 of whom forfeited their scholarships for personal reasons. Four women and four men participated in GEOdaysIT with presentations, or by helping to organize activities. The budget spent was €3,700.

Participation grants for State of the Map Europe

From November 17-19, 2023, the international event of the European OpenStreetMap community was held in Antwerp, Belgium. Five participation grants were awarded for a total expenditure of approximately €2,920.

IT tools for the Italian OpenStreetMap community

Wikimedia Italia wants to facilitate the Italian OpenStreetMap community in their mapping activities, that is why the association has developed and maintains different tools and services such as the Italian OpenStreetMap website, the Italian Tasking Manager and the OpenStreetMap Extraxts, that are available for the whole community to use freely. The budget spent for these services in 2023 was €17,355.

- Italian OpenStreetMap website

A website has been created that aims to support the Italian mapping community with some essential services such as a base map and some different styles of data visualization. The site is a container of some of the tools already present and available to the Italian OpenStreetMap community. The website had 13,434 visits in 2023 and it is currently an ongoing work, for the implementation of two different display styles for maps, "Italian" and "hiking."

- Tasking Manager and OpenStreetMap Extracts

Tasking Manager is an interface through which individual contributors can work in teams to produce mappings that feed into the OpenStreetMap project.

OSM extracts: are files that contain OpenStreetMap data for individual continents, countries, and metropolitan areas. It is possible to download the data from all over Italy, by region, province or municipality in various formats (GPKG - OGC GeoPackage, PBF - Protocolbuffer Binary Format, OSMAND OBF - OsmAnd Binary Maps Format) depending on the scale.

It has an average of 100 visits per week and is constantly updated and maintained by Wikimedia Italia.

Turkey and Syria Earthquake Mapathon

Following the earthquake of February 5 and 6, 2023, an event was organized to support humanitarian mapping through the projects already open in the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team Tasking Manager. Approximately 20 people attended the event, but the community was also active on its own afterwards to help with post-earthquake mapping.

OpenStreetMap mapping party at MERGE-it 2023

On May 14, after the MERGE-it event, organized in Verona by various free software volunteer communities. Wikimedia Italia organized an OpenStreetMap mapping party where 10 people actively participated in the mapping and about 20 people in the meeting since other members of the various communities who were participating in the parallel session (hackathon) also joined. The organization expenses were covered by the microgrant program.

Agency mobility environment territory (AMAT) agreement

An agreement between AMAT and Wikimedia Italia is in place to identify an effective tagging methodology and the inclusion on OpenStreetMap of available data related to mobility infrastructure such as road network graph, cycling infrastructure, sidewalks, and architectural barriers. There will then be a focus on studying the tagging of routes within subway stations, a topic that is little addressed throughout cities. In 2023, the national OpenStreetMap coordinator organized several activities with AMAT and on a few occasions with TomTom and Meta to map and improve data in OpenStreetMap. During the events, correction and improvement of the pedestrian network previously entered into OSM by AMAT was carried out.

Bologna Women's Center

This is the documentation, research and initiative center for women in the city of Bologna; it includes the Italian Women's Library and the Women's History Archive. In 2023 it hosted 4 events, organized and run by regional volunteers and aimed at integrating documentation related to the women of Bologna on Wikimedia and OpenStreetMap projects.

Wiki-imparare 2022-2023 (school grants)

Thanks to Wikimedia Italia's financial support during the 2022/2023 school year, four projects in as many schools were funded for a total of 12,000 euros. In Trentino-Alto Adige, Abruzzo, Puglia, and Lombardy, teachers and project volunteers brought the Wikimedia, Wikidia, and OpenStreetMap projects into classrooms to make learning more interactive and fun and to engage students in the production of free knowledge. Two of the projects involved OpenStreetMap:

***at Istituto Comprensivo Morosini Manara in Milan**, students and students virtually set out to discover Darwin's journey, mapping its stages on OpenStreetMap and recreating its itinerary on Wikivoyage. The nature theme was also deepened by mapping the school's trees and describing their species on Wikidia.

***at Don Lorenzo Milani High School in Acquaviva delle Fonti**, consistent with the needs expressed by the municipality itself, the historic center of Acquaviva delle Fonti was mapped through the use of field papers and StreetComplete. Specific attention was paid to the mapping of dry stone walls and wells, an integral part of the cultural heritage not yet documented on online maps.