

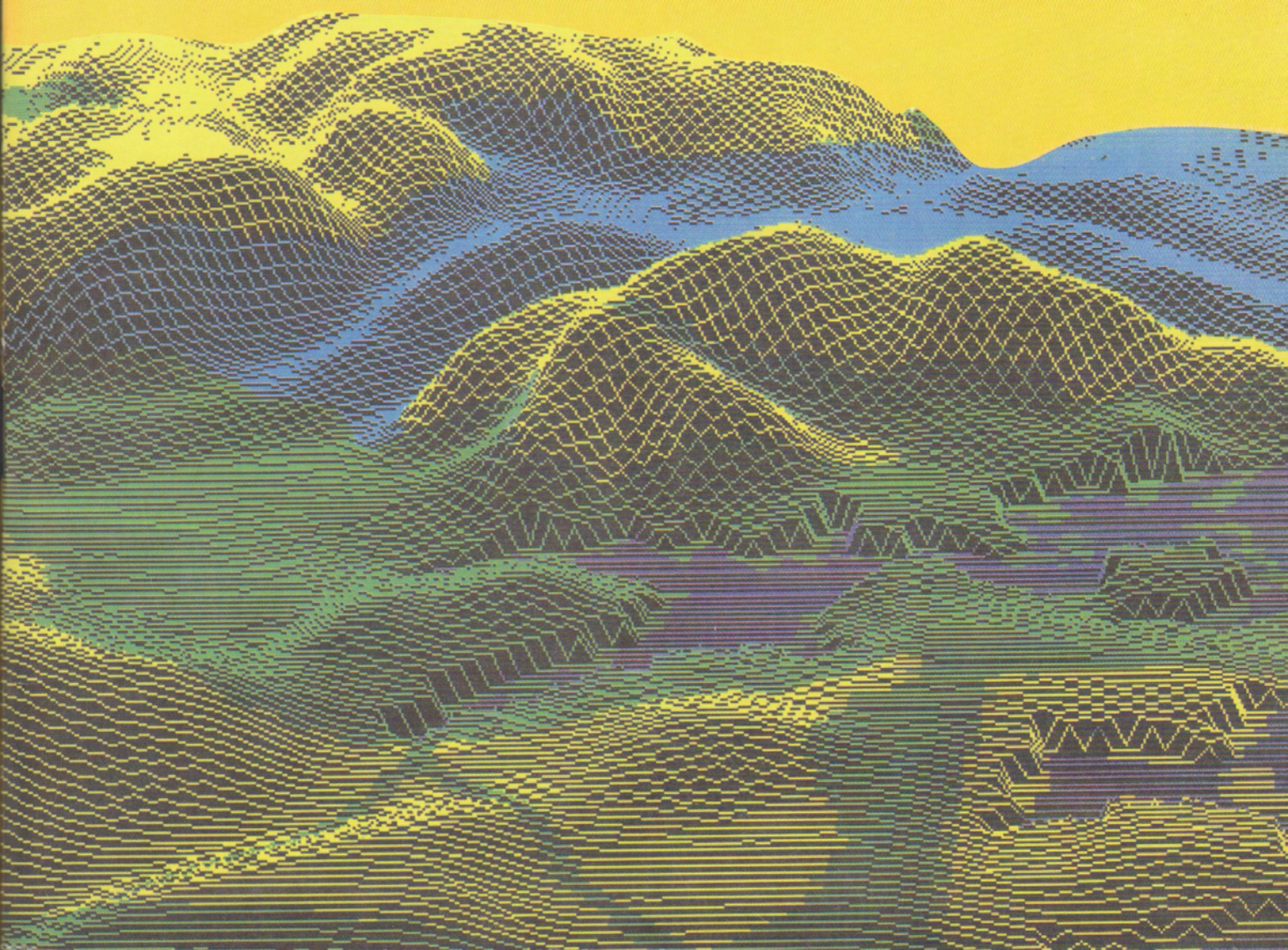
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EUROPE IN MOTION in the context of geographical information systems. Conference held in Brno, 28 - 31 August 1994

Milan KONEČNÝ

In the end of August, the Moravian metropolis witnessed another of traditional conferences so very much typical of Brno, which was devoted to geographical information systems (GIS). Compared with previously organized conferences Euro Carto VI and Brno-GIS-1991 the last one (under the work name of Brno-GIS-1994) was a confirmation to the ever growing interest in GIS both at home and in abroad. The event in Brno was held as a part of festivals commemorating the 75th anniversary of Masaryk University and was one of the greatest international events organized during the celebrations. From the international point of view, it linked up with the Regional Geographical Conference IGU held in Prague.

Conference activities consisted of the scientific conference itself, technical exhibition, workshops and a novelty - the so called technical workshops. Ceremonial and scientifically valuably fulfilled opening took place on 28 August under the auspices and in the presence of prof.dr. Eduard SCHMIDT, President of the University, Ing. Stanislav ŽALUD-Deputy to the Minister of Economy, and prof. Ing. Emanuel ONDRÁČEK-Deputy to the Minister of Education, Ing. Jiří HORÁK-Mayor of Brno, Ing. Jiří ŠÍMA-Chairman of ČÚ-ZAK, and other prominent guests. Key speeches at this ceremonial opening were presented by Ing. ŽALUD, Ing. ŠÍMA, prof. Sachio KUBO-Chairman of GIS IGU Committee, and Ian MASSER-Co-Chairman and Manager of GISDATA ESF Programme. Other key presentations were made by dr. Joel MORRISON-former president of Int. Cartographic Association /ICA/ from the U.S.A., prof. Francois BOUILLÉ from Paris, and prof. Henk SCHOLTEN from the Netherlands in the course of next days of the event. All the mentioned contributions were of high scientific standard. They focused results achieved so far as well as pre-requisites for further development of GIS in the Czech Republic within international organizations and at the world-wide scale, namely as related to programmes similar to NorthAmerican 'information superhighway'. Other papers of which there were over eighty informed the participants of present development and latest scientific knowledge in the area of GIS and digital cartography, GIS business applications, activities of private, national and cooperative organizations, about GIS applications in areas where they have not yet been used too much such as transportation and medical care, educational issues, and finally also about problems relating to GIS integration and remote sensing of Earth.

The conference programme included three workshops as follows: Meta-data: Basics and quality of information systems (H. KREMERS, Germany), Object orientation and GIS (W. KUHN, Austria), and Introduction into Automated Geographical Analysis (K. MARTIN, USA), and firm workshops of four companies: FORESTA a.s., Intergraph ČR, Arcdata Prague, and Help Service Group Prague.

Thanks to sponsors Foresbank a.s. Zlín, Česká pojišťovna a.s. Brno, Intergraph ČR Prague, ŽS Brno a.s., Foresta a.s. Velké Karlovice, and Brewery Černá Hora, the organizers could apply an extensive grant programme namely for participants from countries of the former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and developing countries.

Significant and attractive part of the Conference was a technical exhibition which was attended by some 30 exhibitors both from home and from foreign countries. The participating Bohemian and Moravian companies represented all that can be considered

important in our country in the field of GIS systems at present. The majority of our companies are representatives of renowned foreign firms.

Both the Conference and the exhibition were widely publicized in mass media, which significantly contributed not only to popularization of the present GIS possibilities but also to that of scientific branches of geography and cartography to the public.

The Conference was attended by altogether 329 participants from 25 countries, a.o. Albany, Austria, Belorussia, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Hong Kong, India, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, South Africa, The Netherlands, Great Britain, etc.

Abstracts of the presented papers and Conference Proceedings 1 and 2 have been published in English and can be obtained at the price of 300.00 CZK from the Department of Geography, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Masaryk University Brno, Kotlářská 2, 611 37 BRNO. The next GIS conference will be held in Brno end April 1996.

