

Curriculum Vitae

Lorant CZARAN

E-mail: czaran@gmail.com

Present address: 47 Jane Street, Hartsdale, NY - 10530, USA

Tel: +1 646 354 9249

HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING:

- 2003 **Training: USGS (PCI Geomatica for ASTER Imagery processing, DEM extraction) – New York, USA**
- 2003 **Training: Leica Geosystems (Erdas Imagine Advanced) – New York, USA**
- 1995 **Training: Trimble Navigation/Kerti's Ltd. (GPS Utilization) – Budapest, Hungary**
- 1994 **Training: College of Surveying and Mapping (GIS and Spatial Thinking) – Szekesfehvar, Hungary**
- 1994-2002 **PhD Program (enrolled, not completed) - Babes-Bolyai University Cluj, Romania**
Social Sciences – Territorial Planning
- 1988-1993 **Master Degree equivalent (MSc.) - Babes-Bolyai University Cluj, Romania**
Social Sciences – Geography (Human) and Russian Language

WORK EXPERIENCE:

December 2018 - Present **Senior Technical Advisor and Lead, GRID3 Project Secretariat**
UNITED NATIONS Population Fund (UNFPA), Technical division, Population and Development Branch – New York, U.S.A.

- Leading the office of the Secretariat for the GRID3 project within UNFPA, serving as the technical advisor and assuming supervisory and management responsibilities for the overall project mission and deliverables, which include building national capacity for the production and use of geo-referenced census data, extracting geospatial reference layers from the census data and estimating national and sub-national population in highly stressed countries, fragile countries, and countries without recent census data;
- Overseeing staff assigned to the project both at Headquarters and in Regional or Country Offices, ensuring the delivery of the mandated activities
- Supporting other areas of work of the Branch with regard to geospatial data and satellite imagery application in the census related processes and in the deployment of the new Population Data Platform

*December 2011 -
December 2018*

**Programme Officer – Focal Point on Geospatial matters
UNITED NATIONS Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Space
Applications Section – Vienna, Austria**

- Worked on various Knowledge Management tasks for the Office, focal point for workshops covering use of geospatial information for sustainable development
- Focal point on geospatial matters, responsible for developing a geospatial strategy for the Office
- Responsible for technical advisory support to African States through the UN-SPIDER Platform (Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response), and for liaison with Regional Support Offices in Europe
- Organizing and chairing the Industry Symposium during the U.N. Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

*June 2013 -
April 2014*

**GIS and Cartographic Officer – Cameroon-Nigeria Boundary Demarcation
UNITED NATIONS Office for West Africa (UNOWA) – New York-based, USA**

- Managed the final mapping project for the Cameroon - Nigeria boundary demarcation, by preparing a set of satellite image maps and other geographic data representing the boundary lines (over 1,700km) and surrounding environment for the two countries to sign off on, thus formalizing it as their Boundary Treaty.
- Use of GIS tools and satellite imagery processing was envisaged, as well as ortho-rectification with procured digital elevation models and ground control points, in frequent consultation and coordination with the mapping agencies and officials of the two countries and with UN staff at UNOWA (Senegal).
- Assisted the Cartographic Section with other work, Security Council support, Satellite Imagery systems contract development, UNMap spatial database review and development.

*October 2008 -
December 2011*

**Head of Office – Bonn
UNITED NATIONS Office for Outer Space Affairs, Platform for Space-based
Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) -
Bonn, Germany**

- Managed the Bonn UN-SPIDER office (an out-posted office of UNOOSA) Supervised administrative tasks, recruitment, petty cash, procurement, and other administrative functions
- Coordinated SpaceAid (the UN-SPIDER Emergency Response support mechanism for major disasters), specifically during high-profile responses to disasters such as the Haiti and Chile earthquakes
- Directed activities related to Communications and Horizontal Cooperation and Knowledge Management (including the Knowledge Portal operations) under the umbrella of the UN-SPIDER Programme (with a U.N. General Assembly mandate to ensure that all countries and organizations have access to all types of space technologies in support of the full disaster management cycle)
- Managed UN-SPIDER fundraising initiatives and efforts focusing on U.N., Germany and EU funding sources mainly;
- Oversaw the installation of modern IT technology and computing hardware and

software (including web mapping) in the Bonn office, ensuring the proper discharge of its functions;

- Helped co-lead with UNECA the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG), as Deputy Co-chair for 2009-2010. Pursued renewed liaison roles between the U.N. and various international bodies, such as CEOS, ISO, OGC or GSDI

*July 2006 -
October 2008*

**ReliefWeb Map Centre Manager
UNITED NATIONS - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs –
New York, USA**

- Managed the production and publication of maps to the ReliefWeb site, with the purpose of providing relevant and timely information for ReliefWeb's users
- Identified priority humanitarian mapping needs including through gap analysis and maintaining comprehensive oversight of emergencies and natural disasters in developing countries
- Managed the creation of situation maps to complement related information on the ReliefWeb site, especially with the onset of natural disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies.
- Supervised Map Centre staff and managed workload in map production and online publications
- Directed the improvement of current ReliefWeb geographic information products and services to meet the changing mapping needs of the humanitarian community
- Managed the acquisition of geographic and related data and software necessary for ReliefWeb and OCHA operations and participated in data sharing initiatives to support humanitarian assistance in developing countries; coordinated the setup of ArcSDE and ArcGIS Enterprise Server for OCHA, and organized training courses for data loading procedures
- Developed and contributed to organizational policy and strategy, as well as editorial guidelines on map- related issues in alignment with OCHA and its Advocacy and Information Management Branch objectives
- Acted as the primary liaison with OCHA Field Offices to determine mapping needs and ensure the timely provision of services
- Established and maintained partnerships with humanitarian and other external organizations engaged in mapping services, geographical data acquisition and management (such as the partnership with Google Earth Division, co-chairing the UNGIWG Remote Sensing Task Group)
- Represented the ReliefWeb project at meetings, conferences, and workshops to facilitate exchange of professional expertise and technical cooperation
- Maintained at all times awareness of current humanitarian affairs and related issues, including transition from relief to development

*September 2005 -
July 2006*

**Geographic Information Systems Officer / Cartographer
UNITED NATIONS - Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF, Golan Heights)-
New York, USA and Damascus/Golan, Syria**

- Implemented the Golan Heights large scale mapping project (first of its kind in U.N.) as initiated by UNDOF
- Continued to provide support to the UNDOF and indirectly the UNIFIL (Southern Lebanon) Peacekeeping Missions through the mapping project initiated in 2004 at the UNHQ based on the concrete field requests and evaluation missions

- Assisted the newly-hired project manager with all aspects of the work for the production of a large-scale map set, based on very high resolution satellite imagery processing and analysis, field surveys, cooperation with other organizations such as the EU Satellite Centre or the US State Department, and in close cooperation with the military and civilian Mission staff on the ground
- Provided the data transfer- and other training for UNDOF, UNTSO and UNIFIL military and civilian staff during a 5-week field mission in Syria
- Supported when needed as backup staff and as needed the UN Security Council meetings in New York (cartographic and other presentation in consultations)
- Supported the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission with satellite imagery related issues for the boundary demarcation work
- Helped Section staff with the development of the DPKO satellite imagery database, and of the 3D visualization services for the UNHQ based on GoogleEarth Fusion technology
- Remained an active member in the UNGIWG task groups on Remote Sensing and Global Navigation Satellite Systems
- Supported the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Maintenance Project with data processing, imagery interpretation and other advice

*February 2002 -
September 2005*

**Associate Geographic Information Systems Officer
UNITED NATIONS – Department of Public Information (DPI) / Peacekeeping
Operations (DPKO) - New York, USA**

- Supported the coordination and Secretariat work of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) and organized the UNGIWG Plenaries
- Supported as needed the UN Security Council meetings (with cartographic presentations in the Consultation Room)
- Worked on developing a UN Geographic Information Database
- Offered GIS support to other UN Departments upon request (DESA, SSS, OCHA)
- Temporarily supported the DPKO Situation Centre daily reporting with quick mapping during five months in 2004, designing and/or editing event maps as needed with Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop
- Represented DPKO at the UN OOSA-led Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities Coordination
- Represented UNGIWG in ISO Technical Committee 211 on Geographic Information, in the Open Geospatial Consortium and in the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS), as well as other fora, in liaison positions
- Managed technical development and coordination initiatives to build a remote sensing database and presentation (3D visualization tools such as Keyhole) at UNHQ
- Represented the U.N. as a first-time Principal Member in the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Technical (TC) and Planning Committee (PC) Meetings; organized two OGC TC/PC Plenaries in the 2004-05 period on UNHQ premises
- Updated regularly the UN Cartographic web site, until March 2005
- Supported the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission with satellite image mapping and some project management for the boundary demarcation work
- Initiated support to the UNDOF and UNIFIL Peacekeeping Missions by developing a plan for a large-scale mapping project based on very high resolution satellite imagery and field surveys, in close cooperation with the military staff on

the ground and other partners such as the US State Department

- Volunteered and served as weekend Duty Officer at the Office of the Spokesman of the Secretary General (SG) (news monitoring, preparing reports, faxing news summaries to SG's residence, responding to press calls during such service)

*March 1996 -
February 2002*

Specialist / Project Manager

UNITED NATIONS Environment Programme/GRID Arendal - Arendal, Norway

- Worked as intern for six months to support the search for and collection of GIS data for Eastern Europe, aiding East/Central Eastern European projects
- Helped develop web pages and maps for the Eastern Europe projects
- Hired after internship period for overall project management work
- Supported GIS projects in the Arctic and covering Central and Eastern Europe
- Managed the Arctic Wilderness Assessment mapping project funded by WWF
- Supported the NASA Global Change Master Directory with a project for geographic metadata development, and the related UNEP strategy on geospatial metadata
- Since 2000 acted as liaison between CEOS and ISO/TC211, active in editing committees for geospatial metadata development and standardization, Location Based Services, Geographic Information Services (later ISO 19115 and 19119)
- Represented UNEP officially at the 5th Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Conference and related Steering Committee meetings in Colombia, and at the International Steering Committee on Global Mapping
- Acted as technical representative from UNEP to the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Working Group on Information Systems and Services WGISS (Access and Data subgroups, International Directory Network activities, web mapping standardization work)
- Supported and contributed to case studies for the joint UNEP and CGIAR centers' project on cooperation for the "Use of GIS in Agricultural Research"
- Participated in the joint "Geodata Centre" project work with the Norwegian Mapping Authority, supporting satellite imagery processing and GIS integration
- Involved in the environmental information network applications development, data, software, GIS training and technical support for the 12 developing countries in the UNEPnet environmental satellite communications network
- Worked in China (Beijing) for three weeks at the State Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) on UNEPnet implementation (1997)
- Traveled to Cuba, Costa Rica, Mozambique, Niger, Thailand, Nepal, and Colombia to implement GIS and information systems support, other technical support work and offer training sessions
- Organized the web streaming of the UNEP Governing Council at the UNEP Nairobi HQ
- Managed a UNEPnet project to equip and operate a video-conferencing network and bridge for UNEP via satellite and ISDN links, as well as an IP telephony system
- Participated in intensive on-the-job training in map design and production using Macromedia Freehand

*September 1995 -
March 1996*

Spatial Planning and Environmental Consultant

CIVITAS Foundation for a Civil Society – Cluj, Romania

- Prepared environmental impact studies for Local Governments of different cities,

- towns or villages in Transylvania, Romania
- Organized training sessions for local government officials
- Lectured spatial and territorial planning as well as sustainable development aspects at local level

*September 1994 -
September 1995*

Junior Fellow (PhD Researcher)
Collegium Budapest – Institute for Advanced Studies – Budapest, Hungary

- Pursued individual research on the selected "GIS and Spatial Planning" PhD topic
- Prepared weekly seminars with other Fellows for periodic presentations of work progress
- Took relevant training classes with various government institutions and companies in Hungary
- Received hands-on training at the Hungarian Lands Survey Institute, satellite image processing basics with PCI EASI/PACE; training in ESRI ArcInfo

*July 1993 -
September 1994*

Office Manager
CIVITAS Foundation for a Civil Society – Cluj, Romania

- Performed regular office managerial duties in a young NGO supporting local governments' skills development
- Acted as an environmental advisor for several local government projects, addressing sustainable development policies development
- Prepared EU and PHARE project proposals
- Secured funding and stabilized resource levels for the goals set by the Foundation Board
- Organized training sessions for the local government of different cities and townships

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, WRITTEN:

Review: Global trends in satellite-based emergency mapping
Science Magazine, 15/07/2016

The 4C-Challenge: Communication - Coordination - Cooperation - Capacity Development.
Proceedings Online, 17/05/2011

Support from Space: The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management GI4DM JBGIS Booklet, 01/07/2010

Geographically Visualizing Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) Information
6th ISCRAM Proceedings, 01/08/2009

25 Largest Un-fragmented Arctic Wilderness Areas
WWF Arctic Report, 01/03/2002

Use of GIS in Agriculture, Awareness Package (CGIAR)
UNEP/DEIA Technical, 01/10/1997

A Possible Strategy for GIS Education in Romania

Proceedings:2nd EGIS 01/05/1996

GIS Development in Romania; Possible Applications
Geoinformatics Hong Kong, 01/09/1995

Tourism and Environment in Oriental Carpathians
V. EGEA Proceedings, 01/05/1994

Computer interpolation of (climatic) time series
European Geographer Magazine, 01/06/1994

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES:

Open Geospatial Consortium
ISO/TC211
GSDI

LANGUAGES

- **Hungarian:** Native
- **Romanian:** Native level
- **English:** Excellent knowledge
- **Spanish:** Very good knowledge
- **German:** Good knowledge
- **Russian:** Good knowledge (less in spoken)
- **Norwegian:** Good knowledge

COMPUTER SKILLS

- ArcGIS, Idrisi (Very good knowledge)
- ERDAS Imagine (Very good knowledge, satellite image processing tasks)
- PCI Geomatica (Good knowledge)
- Adobe CS4: InDesign and Photoshop,
- SPSS/ NVivo (Quantitative and Qualitative Research)
- CiviCRM and Drupal Content Management System Experience
- Microsoft Office – Word/ Power point/ Access/ Excel/ FrontPage/ Outlook
- Lotus Notes
- HTML
- Web mapping, standards-based services and Clients, Google Earth, Google Earth Fusion etc. experience

OTHER INFORMATION, ACTIVITIES:

- Active in the Hungarian Student Association of Cluj in Romania in 1990-1993 period
- As a member of the Student Union management team, helped plan, organize and supervise the 1992 and 1993 Summer Student Camps, and acted as Program Manager for the foreign students programs during the camp (150 participants from 3,500 total), and monitored the Tours programme during the 1993 Camp, with 5-7 busloads leaving daily on day-trips; financial management including foreign currency exchanges during the Camp
- Founding member of the GSDI Association
- Participated in an intensive U.N. Management Development Programme
- Various U.N. administrative, financial and security courses taken
- Managed and mentored over 50 interns, 15 consultants and various staff throughout the full U.N. career alone
- Served the mandatory 9-month **military service** in Survey/Reconnaissance Battalion in Romania; trained as reserve officer

REFERENCES:

Helga Leifsdottir
Chief, Knowledge Solutions and Design
United Nations, DPI
UN Secretariat
New York, NY - 10017
United States
leifsdottir@un.org

Dr. Alexandru Imbroane
Professor, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj
str. Clinicilor 5-7, Cluj 3400
Romania
alex@geografie.ubbcluj.ro

Other references from the geospatial community also available.