



PRESS RELEASE

QGIS User Conference 2026 brings open source to new heights in the Swiss Alps

Laax, Switzerland, 10 October 2026. More than 420 people from over 30 countries and five continents gathered in Laax from 4 to 9 October for the QGIS User Conference 2026, the largest event ever held on Crap Sogn Gion at 2222 metres above sea level.

Two conference days at the Galaaxy venue carried around 90 talks and six keynote. Swiss MP Gerhard Andrey opened with Switzerland's turn towards open source, ETH Zurich cartography professor Lorenz Hurni spoke on maps as instruments of power, Anita Graser on AI in the QGIS ecosystem, and Johannes Kanonier on fifteen years of QGIS at the State of Vorarlberg. Ivan Minčík, Lova Andriarimalala and Tim Sutton made the case for sustaining the infrastructure the whole project depends on. Twelve short hands-on workshops ran alongside the talks across those two days.

Wednesday brought ten full-day workshops in the valley with 120 participants, ranging from point clouds and data processing to plugin development, workflow automation, team collaboration and field data infrastructure with QFieldCloud and Mergin Maps, alongside the QField Day, where 71 participants mapped the area around Laax in guided groups using QField, the mobile companion app born a few kilometres away in Sagogn. From Wednesday to Friday the 29th QGIS Contributor Meeting put developers, documenters and translators around the same tables to work on the software itself.

The recurring theme of the week was what happens when decision makers and developers share a room. Procurement officers, cantonal GIS leads, researchers and core developers spent three days in the same corridors, and the conversations that followed are the kind that rarely happen over a mailing list.

"Digital sovereignty is not a slogan, it is what you get when the people who fund the software and the people who build it actually meet. That is what this week was for." Marco Bernasocchi, Chair, QGIS.org Association

OPENGIS.ch was the lead organiser of the conference, together with QGIS.org and QGIS Switzerland. The week was made possible by its sponsors, whose support kept ticket prices within reach of public bodies and students alike: Happy Survey on platinum, EBP and Lutra Consulting on gold, Arx iT, Ocean Winds and the Province of South Holland on silver, together with the bronze sponsors and supporters.

About QGIS

QGIS is a free and open source geographic information system for creating, editing, analysing and publishing spatial data. It runs on desktop, server, web and mobile, is released under the GNU General Public License, and is used worldwide by public administrations, companies, universities and NGOs. It is built by an international community of volunteers and companies and governed by the QGIS.org Association. qgis.org



About the QGIS.org Association

QGIS.org is the legal and financial home of the QGIS project. It manages donations and membership contributions, coordinates development and organises the annual User Conference.

About QField

QField is a mobile companion to QGIS for field data capture. Open source and available for Android, iOS and Windows, it is developed in Laax and Sagogn, Switzerland. QFieldCloud keeps projects in sync between office and field, including offline. QField holds a Best of Swiss Apps award. qfield.org

About OPENGIS.ch

Founded in 2011 and based in Laax, Switzerland, OPENGIS.ch develops open source geospatial software. The company builds QField and QFieldCloud, is among the main contributors to the QGIS core, and supports administrations and companies across Europe in moving to open geospatial infrastructure. opengis.ch

Media contact

Marco Bernasocchi, Chair, QGIS.org Association and CEO, OPENGIS.ch. Phone +41 79 467 24 70, marco@qgis.org. Available for interviews in English, German, Italian, French or Spanish, and to a limited extent in Romansh.

Images

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