

+++ Mail-Briefkopf BKG (falls vorhanden) +++

Subject: Invitation to a Virtual Meeting on OpenStreetMap Long-Term Archiving

Dear colleagues,

We apologise for the long silence since our last correspondence in 2025 — we are aware that quite some time has passed since the Call for Action reached you.

Your first positive responses to our Call for Action confirmed that the archiving gap we identified is widely recognised as a real and pressing concern. We are now writing to invite you to a virtual meeting to move from these initial expressions of interest towards coordinated action.

Since the Call for Action was issued, several concrete steps have been taken:

- The topic was presented at the 19th ICA Conference on Digital Approaches to Cartographic Heritage (September 2025).
- A working group (FOSSGIS-AG OSM-LZA) was established within the FOSSGIS community to drive the initiative forward.
- The Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin developed a proposal for a feasibility study on archiving models, which (unfortunately not funded in its current form) provides a strong basis for future applications.
- The topic was further discussed at the FOSSGIS 2026 Conference, including a dedicated Birds-of-a-Feather session: the OSM-community supports the idea.

It has also become clearer what would actually need to be archived: not just the raw data (Planet Files and full change history), but the entire OSM ecosystem: software infrastructure (renderers, routers), cartographic styles, and community knowledge such as the OSM Wiki and tagging conventions.

We would like to use this virtual meeting to:

- Briefly summarise the current state of the initiative.
- Learn about the strengths, mandates, and existing activities of each participating institution regarding OSM archiving.
- Discuss a possible division of roles and responsibilities for a future collaborative framework.

In this context, we are particularly interested in the already existing collaboration models within the UK libraries, which we see as a potential best practice also for structuring international cooperation. Still, we are looking for participation around the globe as the OSM project itself is not constricted to national boundaries.

Please note that our esteemed colleague Prof. Dr. Paul Becker retired end of February 2026. I have the pleasure to assume the role of president of the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy. We at BKG look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue.

Please find a scheduling poll attached. If the site is displayed in German you can switch to another language under the “Sprachen”-tab in the top right corner. The meeting will be held in English and is expected to last approximately two hours, with a short break if needed:

<https://terminplaner6.dfn.de/p/02bb78c1dcce52001f16c8f32ab20116-1813741>

Going forward, Peter Löwe from FOSSGIS (peter.loewe@gmx.de) will be responsible for coordinating any further correspondence. He will be your main point of contact. So please get in touch with him with your responses.

We very much look forward to working with you on this important initiative and are grateful for your continued engagement.

With kind regards,

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