

## **SUCCESS AT THE FIFTH SUMMER SCHOOL IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**

The Institute for Sustainable Development, University of Malta in collaboration with the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, University College London (UCL) and the Department of Geography of the University of Portsmouth has once again successfully completed the Summer School on Geographic Information Systems which was held between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 at the University Msida Campus.

The Summer School attracted a group of delegates who were interested in creating and analysing spatial data. The delegates had the opportunity to apply GIS using spatial statistical techniques available in GIS software and investigate aspects of data quality. This year students experienced hands on sessions on the creation of spatial data from digitizing to the use of GPS (Global Positioning Systems). The use of GPS equipment during the summer school allowed for students to appreciate how spatial data is created and how GPS interface with GIS. A first “mapping party” was organised where students collected information about the University and updated the OpenStreetMap data online. The method used in the delivery of the summer school was a mix of lectures and hands-on sessions. The delegates included research students, technical staff from utility companies and government agencies as well as foreign students.

The summer school participants also received a one year student licence of ESRI's ArcGIS 10, kindly donated by GEOSYS Ltd, local distributors of ESRI software products.

The teaching faculty consisted of Dr Maria Attard (UOM), Dr Kate Jones (Portsmouth), Dr Claire Ellul (UCL) and Ms Thérèse Bajada (UOM). Mr Raphael Mizzi, a graduate trainee from the Institute for Sustainable Development assisted the faculty with the running of the summer school.

The success of the summer school in this growing area of study is very encouraging and will certainly ensure that the Institute continues to further develop study programmes in this area and continue the collaboration and research with leading institutions abroad.



More information is available at [www.um.edu.mt/isd](http://www.um.edu.mt/isd)

Group photo of the participants and part of the teaching faculty at the University Msida Campus.