

The GITTA Open Educational Resources Approach

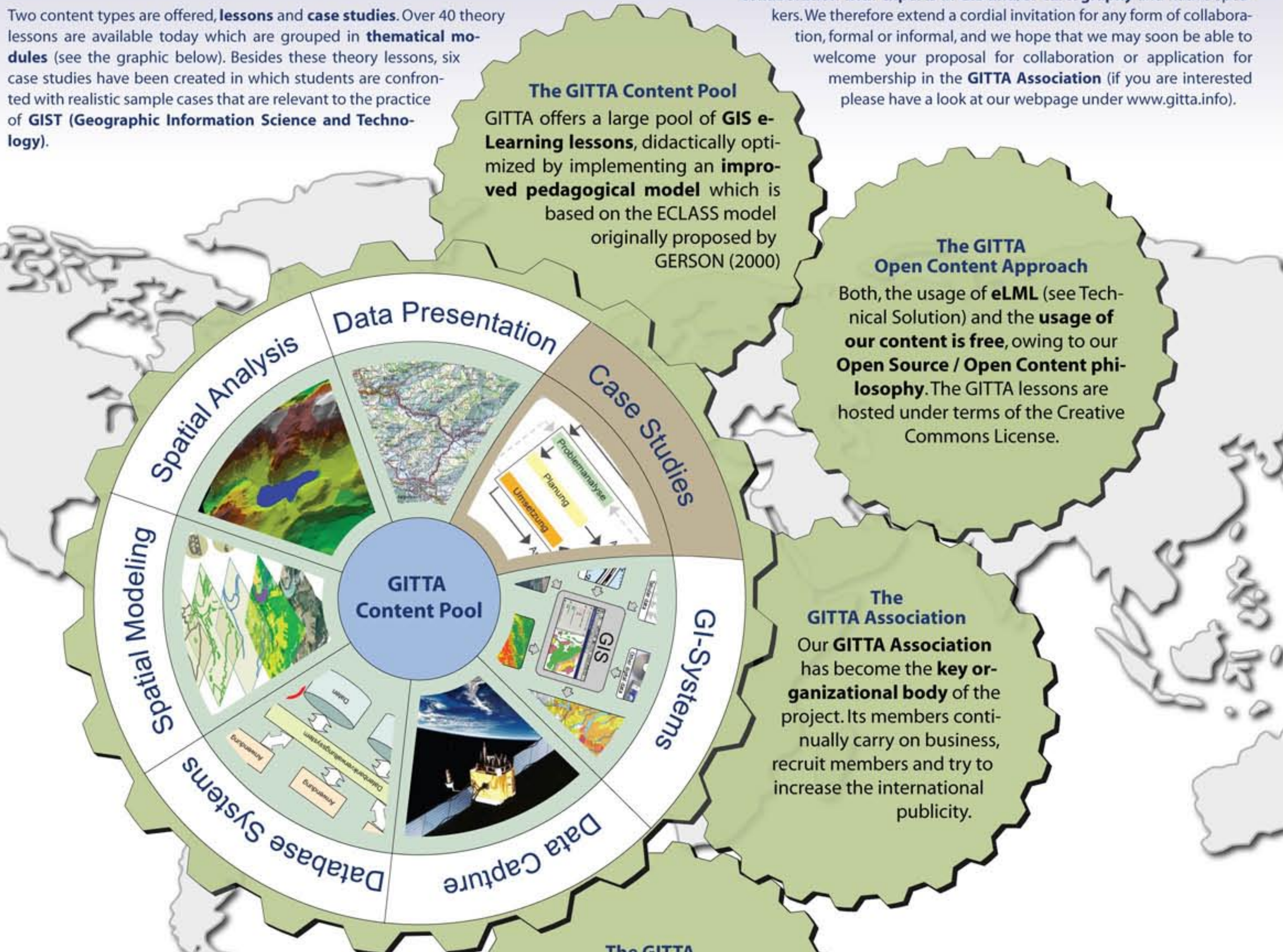
Background and Overall Structure

GITTA (**Geographic Information Technology Training Alliance**) is a project that offers e-learning content as **Open Educational Resources (OER)** through the **Creative Commons license**. Since it was developed by a consortium of ten institutes at seven Swiss universities in three language areas, the content is in large parts multi-lingual, with **English, German, and French materials**.

Two content types are offered, **lessons** and **case studies**. Over 40 theory lessons are available today which are grouped in **thematical modules** (see the graphic below). Besides these theory lessons, six case studies have been created in which students are confronted with realistic sample cases that are relevant to the practice of **GIST (Geographic Information Science and Technology)**.

Be a Part of the Success

In 2008 GITTA was among the winners of the **Medida Prix**, the most important award for new media didactics in German-speaking countries. The prize money helps us extending the GITTA network, in particular by sponsoring the translation of lessons and case studies to additional commonly spoken languages, such as Spanish and Portuguese. To facilitate such translation projects, however, **we would welcome the collaboration with experts in GIS and/or cartography** and native speakers. We therefore extend a cordial invitation for any form of collaboration, formal or informal, and we hope that we may soon be able to welcome your proposal for collaboration or application for membership in the **GITTA Association** (if you are interested please have a look at our webpage under www.gitta.info).



The GITTA Content Pool

GITTA offers a large pool of **GIS e-Learning lessons**, didactically optimized by implementing an **improved pedagogical model** which is based on the ECLASS model originally proposed by GERSON (2000)

The GITTA Open Content Approach

Both, the usage of **eLML** (see Technical Solution) and the **usage of our content is free**, owing to our **Open Source / Open Content philosophy**. The GITTA lessons are hosted under terms of the Creative Commons License.

The GITTA Association

Our **GITTA Association** has become the **key organizational body** of the project. Its members continually carry on business, recruit members and try to increase the international publicity.

The GITTA Technical Approach

The **e-Lesson Markup language (eLML)** implements our pedagogical model and provides great flexibility in terms of the presentation format(s) you need for your content.

GITTA Content Usage

GITTA content can be used in two different ways. First, students and teachers can **access the content for free** simply by subscribing to the **GITTA newsletter**. Second, individuals or institutions who like to **edit or modify the content** of particular lessons according to their specific needs or who want to create new lessons are allowed to do so as long as they become, for a nominal fee, **full active members of the GITTA Association**. The GITTA Association was founded in 2006 as an instrument to coordinate the GITTA project and as a platform to integrate new authors.

Technical Solution

GITTA content is based on an **XML framework** named **eLML (e-Lesson Markup Language, www.elml.org)**. eLML was developed in the GITTA project and implements a coherent pedagogical model and provides **transformation to standardized output formats**. It is possible to create content packages such as IMS or SCORM, for easy import into modern Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as OLAT, Moodle or Blackboard. Alternatively, GITTA content can be accessed by linking directly to the HTML version through the GITTA homepage (www.gitta.info). Hence, **platform independence** is truly granted, so that GITTA content is accessible to a large, worldwide community.