

## SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Name: **Andrea Hohnová**  
Home institution: **Palacky University Olomouc**  
Host institution: **University of Salzburg**  
Host department: **Interfaculty Department of Geoinformatics – Z\_GIS**  
Period of stay: **winter term 2018 (Oktober bis Dezember)**

My name is Andrea Hohnova and I study geoinformatics with the focus on digital cartography. I am interested in the field of cartography since I started my studies at Palacky University in Olomouc. I am almost done with my master's degree. Currently, I am finishing my master thesis entitled „Innovative Forms of Graduated Symbols and Its Design“. In the Czech republic, my supervisor is dr. Alena Vondráková.

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to OEAD, DZS and AKTION Programme for enabling me to spend three months in a really beautiful city of Salzburg at the University of Salzburg. I was here during the winter semester 2018, since October until the end of December. My stay here at this university was very beneficial for me and especially for my master thesis.

During my stay in Austria, dr. Barbara Hofer was my supervisor. I met her already in March 2018 during the summer school at Nanjing Normal University in China. Besides meeting her, I also met a great number of students from the department of geoinformatics of Salzburg University there and it was the reason why I decided to spend three months at this university. I saw the quality of students' knowledge. And now I can say it was really helpful for me to stay here. I would like to thank dr. Barbara Hofer for being my supervisor in Salzburg. It was beneficial for me to discuss my thesis with another cartographer to see it from the other site. She recommended me some literature I could use and other experts in the field of cartography in Salzburg.

I spent most of the time in the library at the Faculty of Science during these months. There are plenty of useful books I made use of and utilised for my research (f.e. Kartographie, Peter Kohlstock, GIS Cartography – A Guide to Effective Map Design, Peterson, Thematic Cartography, Slocum et al., etc.). Thanks to this library, I expanded my theoretical part of the research about the method called “proportional map symbol”. This method is very often used in cartography. However, a lot of cartographers struggle to use the method correctly. If the cartographer or another map maker applies the method incorrectly, problems with the right understanding of the map might arise. Map users will understand the map differently than it was originally intended.

At first, I worked on the theoretical part of my thesis and I finished it. At the same time, I was collecting pictures or maps with many different types of proportional map symbols which already exist. Before my stay here, I already did a questionnaire to get to know cartographers' point of view. In the course of my stay here, I evaluated the questionnaire and I implemented the gained data to create a user friendly step by step manual for map makers which was one of my main goals. There are a lot of information sheets for each type of proportional map symbol inside this manual, and they help

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cartographers to use the method of proportional map symbol correctly in the maps. Thanks to this stay in Salzburg, I almost finished the manual.

When I was completing the manual, I finished my unified classification of proportional map symbols. Nowadays, lots of different types of graduated map symbols exist, but we have no unified classification. I think this unified classification will be really helpful for cartographers, students and their audience to understand each other. This unified classification is already used in the manual where each type of proportional symbol is explained. Inside each of information sheet with some proportional map symbol, there is a definition of the proportional map symbol, some examples of the symbol, a general example of a scale, which has to be used for comparison between the symbols used in the map and then a step by step manual, how to construct the symbol and how to use them correctly in the map. Besides these, there is an illustration in which it is demonstrated how difficult using of this proportional map symbol is and which software was used (just some geoinformation software or geoinformation software + graphic software or some others).

I already prepared the website, where my master thesis will be published. There is already the theoretical part of my thesis and when I check my practical part and my poster with my supervisor in Czechia, I will upload it there as well. But the webpage will be available only in May 2019, through the webpage of our department <http://www.geoinformatics.upol.cz/>.

During my stay here I attended the GIScience Symposium on 25th of October 2018 in Salzburg. It was organised by University of Salzburg, Department of Geoinformatics – Z\_GIS. It was my pleasure to attend this conference and to hear the presentations of many experts in geoinformation, geography and cartography, e.g. from Georg Gartner from Vienna University of Technology, Klaus Greve from University of Bonn, John Wilson from University of Southern California, Mariana Belgiu from University of Twente and others. But particularly the presentation of Michael Frank Goodchild from the University of California was unforgettable. He talked about GIScience and Geography: An evolving relationship. He is one of my idols in the field of geography and geoinformatics together with Jack Dangermond (a founder of esri company) and Cynthia A. Brewer (a famous cartographer from Pennsylvania State University). So I am really thankful I could attend this Symposium.

Thanks to this stay, I acquired a lot of new knowledge and I am really thankful I could improve my language skills in German and English as well. This stay is probably one of the last ones before I finish my study and undoubtedly, it will have a huge influence on my future career.

As I already mentioned, my thanks go to everyone who enabled me this stay in Austria.