Vespucci Initiative: history, goals, spirit

Michael Gould
(for the Vespucci Initiative founders)
Vespucci

• May 2002: Palma de Mallorca
  – Craglia, Kuhn, Gould
  – Concentrate best parts of conference atmosphere
    • Ambiance, ambiance, ambiance
  – Seeds planted: permanent academy
  – Comfortable place to take sabbaticals
  – Mix senior + junior researchers

• Initiative Founders: Goodchild, Masser, Capineri, Scholten, Camara, Webber, Craglia, Kuhn, Gould

• July 2003: two summer school sessions in Pratolino (Tuscany). 100F heat


• Over 250 students from > 20 nations

• December 2007: Vespucci goes to America (again)
The “Vespucci Spirit”

• Learn by questioning
• Challenge status quo
• Ask for the theory behind
  – Thinking not tinkering
• Small group dynamics
• Learning not limited to class time
  – Breaks, meals, hikes, grappa club
Vespucci Spirit 2

- Medici effect
- Slow food, slow teaching
- Affect, steer early career researchers
- Make a difference, while enjoying life
Vespucci sponsors

- US National Science Foundation (IGERT grants)
- EC-Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- ESRI
- Intergraph
- Geoide (Canada GI network)
- Ordnance Survey GB
- others
Summer 2008

- 9-13 June. “Geo-Sensor Web”
- 15+16 June. Specialist Meeting
- 17-20 June. “GIScience supporting Virtual Globes” (Game over or Research challenges?)
2009?

- Possible event in Brazil
- Others around the world