

Empowering the Next Generation: ISPRS Student Consortium's Global Initiatives in Education, Networking, and Capacity Building

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Abstract

The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Student Consortium (ISPRS SC) serves as the official representation of students and young professionals within ISPRS, connecting a global network of more than 900 active members from 64 countries as of November 2025. This paper presents a comprehensive overview of ISPRS SC activities during the 2022-2025 Board of Directors tenure, highlighting significant expansion in educational outreach and capacity building initiatives. Key achievements include facilitating 15 summer schools across seven countries, providing hands-on training in emerging geospatial technologies, and organizing more than 40 webinars through partnerships with the ten International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Student Consortium (ISPRS) Working Groups, demonstrating substantial growth from 2 webinars in 2022 to 24 in 2025. The consortium successfully launched 11 Student Chapters worldwide, establishing localized networks that promote inclusive access to geospatial education across diverse regions. Through quarterly publication of the *SpeCtrum* newsletter, maintenance of active social media presence across four platforms reaching over 10,000 followers, and organization of networking events at major ISPRS symposia, the consortium has strengthened its communication, networking and professional development opportunities. The paper also discusses operational challenges including funding constraints, geographic representation gaps, and Board capacity limitations, while outlining future initiatives including a mentorship program, virtual symposium, and comprehensive Congress 2026 activities. These efforts underscore ISPRS SC's evolving role in developing the next generation of geospatial professionals equipped to address global sustainability challenges.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Student Consortium (ISPRS SC) is the official representation of the students and the youth to ISPRS. The consortium was established in 2004 during the XX ISPRS Congress in Istanbul, Türkiye (Yadav et al., 2024). The ISPRS Student Consortium (SC) primarily aims to connect students, young researchers, and professionals globally who share interests in photogrammetry, remote sensing, and spatial information sciences. Additionally, it seeks to facilitate information exchange and organize events tailored to students, enhancing their involvement in ISPRS activities (ISPRS Student Consortium, 2025).

The ISPRS Student Consortium values promoting the society and profession, integrating students and youth into the structure, and providing opportunities for professional development. The consortium organises scientific and social events, offers affordable access to ISPRS events, and seeks financial support for students and young professionals. The consortium publishes a quarterly newsletter, organises educational activities such as summer schools and webinars and provides networking opportunities through events such as networking sessions and virtual breakout sessions. It has been maintaining a dedicated website and social media handles to inform its followers about its activities. We also collaborate with relevant organizations to strengthen student learnings and professional practices.

Members of the ISPRS SC are students of any age and young professionals/researchers under the age of 35, with shared

interests in photogrammetry, remote sensing, and spatial information sciences. It has 917 active members from 64 different countries from all the continents as of 18 November 2025 and is shown in Figure 1.

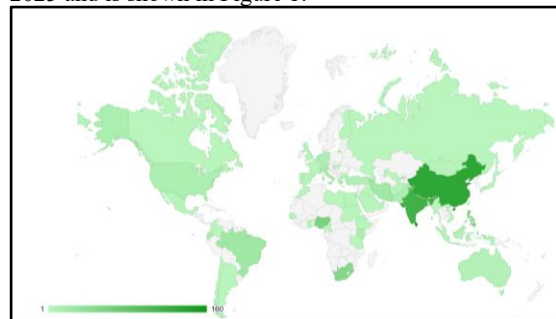


Figure 1: Map showing worldwide coverage of the ISPRS SC membership.

1.2 Current Board of Directors

The ISPRS SC is led by six elective officers including a President, Vice President, and four Board Members at large, which constitute the Board of Directors (BODs). The current Board of Directors for the period 2022 - 2026 are:

- Ms Laxmi Thapa (President)
- Dr Nicolas Pucino (Vice President)
- Dr Saicharan Vasala (Website Administrator)
- Mr Efthymios Georgiou (Newsletter Editor-in-Chief)
- Mr Miguel Lagahit (Social Media Coordinator), and

- Dr Chukwuma Okolie (Board member)

The Board of Directors meet on a monthly basis, to plan, organise and prepare for ISPRS SC activities. At the end of each year, the Board holds annual strategic meetings to develop an agenda for the next year. Likewise, the BODs activities, particularly Newsletter design works are supported by three volunteers, namely Daryl Ann B. Cabuyadao, Asunbiaro Charles and Mallika Bhuyan.

1.3 Community Outreach/Communication Platforms

ISPRS SC maintains an active presence across multiple social media platforms to promote organizational activities and disseminate information about collaborative events with partner organizations. Building upon our established presence on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/isprssc/>) and X (formerly Twitter, @ISPRS_SC), we expanded our digital footprint by creating accounts on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/isprssc/>) and LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/ISPRS-Student-Consortium-4510838>). As of 16 November 2025, Facebook remains our largest platform with 7,600 followers, followed by X with 1,857 followers, LinkedIn with 797 followers, and Instagram with 562 followers.

Our YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/@ISPRSSC>) serves as a valuable repository of educational content, hosting 145 publicly available videos. These recordings comprise webinar sessions, tutorials, and virtual events organized by ISPRS Working Groups (WGs) or ISPRS SC over various periods. We have provided technical support to ISPRS Working Groups by recording and uploading their webinar based on their preferences.

The ISPRS SC website (<https://sc.isprs.org/>) functions as the central hub for consortium information, providing comprehensive details of all activities, including free access to newsletters, activity reports, and educational materials from various summer school organizers. These digital platforms serve as our primary communication channels for reaching the broader geospatial community, while direct email communications are reserved for active members who renew their membership annually.

2. LIST OF ACTIVITIES

2.1 Summer School

ISPRS SC Summer Schools are important initiatives jointly organised with interested institutions to advance education outreach and capacity building in photogrammetry, remote sensing, and geospatial information sciences. The ISPRS SC facilitated about 15 summer schools in several countries including Indonesia, China, Italy, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Brazil from July 2022 to November 2025. The Summer Schools have been a cornerstone of geospatial education, providing a platform for students and young professionals to develop technical skills, collaborate with peers, and engage with leading experts.

These summer schools have had a profound impact on participants, offering both the theoretical and hands-on learning experiences, cultural exchange, and networking opportunities. The programs have successfully connected young researchers and students worldwide, fostering a sense of global community and cooperation. The ISPRS SC Summer Schools have also provided opportunities for participants to engage with emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning,

and to develop problem-solving skills through collaborative projects and ideathons. The programs have been successful in promoting cultural understanding, teamwork, and innovation, equipping participants with the skills and knowledge needed to address global challenges.

Usually, organizations interested in organizing and hosting a Summer School submit their applications to the ISPRS SC Chair with a copy to the ISPRS VP. The applications are reviewed to confirm they align with the stated objectives of the summer school. This assessment by the BODs includes an evaluation of the potential impact, and alignment with ISPRS' interest at large. If approved, the proposal is forwarded to the ISPRS SC Advisory Committee consisting of the ISPRS Vice President and the Secretary General for official approval. Preference is given to underrepresented or economically disadvantaged regions, and self-funding is encouraged, with partial financial assistance available upon request. Approved organisers can promote events through ISPRS channels and use the ISPRS SC name and logo and must submit both the technical and financial reports for the reimbursement. Also, representatives of the consortium deliver presentation about consortium's activities in such summer schools. Figure 2 is an example of such representation.

Feedback from participants in the Summer Schools has been overwhelmingly positive. They have praised the strong academic content, practical learning experiences, and meaningful cultural and professional exchanges. The programs have been successfully connecting young researchers and students worldwide, offering advanced technical training and opportunities for collaboration, networking, and personal growth. Participants appreciated the hands-on learning, exposure to emerging technologies, and engagement with local and international experts. The summer schools have been strengthening the technical knowledge, collaborative spirit, and global perspective, inspiring a shared vision of using geospatial technologies to address global challenges and promote sustainable development.

Challenges remain, particularly in terms of geographical representation, accessibility and financial constraints. Future proposals should consider the incorporation of virtual or hybrid summer school formats and seeking external sponsorships to support participants. Further details of the Summer School are presented in Thapa et al. (2025).



Figure 2: Laxmi Thapa, President of the ISPRS SC taking pictures with the participants of the ISPRS SC Summer School in Sri Lanka after presenting about the activities of the ISPRS SC.

2.2 Webinars

From July 2022 to November 2025, ISPRS SC has hosted or provided technical support to host more than 45 webinars across 10 Working Groups, including major series in hydrosphere-

cryosphere monitoring (8 sessions, WG III/7), SAR and active microwave sensing (8 sessions, WG III/3, Figure 3), geospatial health analytics (6 sessions, WG III/9) and disaster-risk management (6 sessions, WG V/4) (ISPRS Student Consortium, 2025a). Table 1 consists of the summarised version of the major webinars that we have organised or provided support. This quantitative expansion significantly strengthens global geospatial capacity, fostering advanced skills and research collaboration across all the continents. Activity expanded significantly from 2 webinars in 2022 to 5 in 2023, surging to 15 in 2024 and 24 in 2025 as of now (Table 2). This growth highlights increasing global virtual engagement, stronger collaboration within working groups, and an evolving push toward education and awareness in learning remote sensing, photogrammetry and spatial information science.

Working group/category	2022	2023	2024	2025 (to 14 Nov)
ISPRS SC (general/non-WG)	2	3	2	0
WG III/3 (Active microwave)	0	0	0	8
WG III/9 (Geospatial environment & health)	0	0	3	3
WG III/7 (Hydrosphere & cryosphere)	0	0	8	0
WG III/4 / TC WG III/4 (LULC / photogrammetry)	0	0	2	1
WG IV/2 (Pollution / urban sensing)	0	0	1	1
WG IV/5 (Visualization / HCI / XR)	0	1	1	0
WG V/4 (TC V) webinar series	0	0	0	6
ICWG III/IVa (joint event)	0	0	1	0
ICWG II/Ib	0	1	0	2

Table 1. Webinar counts by ISPRS Working Groups (WGs) (July 2022 to 14 November 2025)

ISPRS SC has its own flagship webinar called ISPRS SC Webinar Series that in the past had aimed to organise 4 webinars in a year. However, we have partnered with different ISPRS WGs to organise webinars in large numbers in the year 2024-2025, thereby pausing our webinar series for some time. The WGs webinars are mostly influenced by the speakers within the WGs whereas, we had been inviting speakers from diverse backgrounds during our webinar series in the past and used to deliver a short presentation about our activities too. Realising the need for diverseness and our direct presence, we are planning to resume our webinar series soon.

Year	Total webinars hosted
2022 (Jul–Dec)	2
2023 (full year)	5
2024 (full year)	15
2025 (Jan 1 to 14 Nov)	24

Table 2. Webinar hosted by ISPRS SC by year counts.

2.3 Newsletters

In the rapidly evolving domain of spatial data acquisition, analytics, and dissemination, the ISPRS Student Consortium’s (ISPRS SC) official newsletter, SpeCtrum, serves as a vital communication platform for students and early-career researchers. Designed as a comprehensive resource for the geospatial community, SpeCtrum offers an essential package of content that benefits every remote sensing and geospatial researcher. The SpeCtrum typically follows a structured layout that includes feature sections such as Backsight (reviews of past events), IFOV (expert insights or interviews), and Spotlights for thematic articles or member highlights. It also includes Upcoming Events and Opportunities with announcements on conferences, scholarships, and calls. This serves as our standard framework, but we have been flexible and often add more content such as photo stories, showcasing emerging scholars work depending on relevance and contributions. Since its inception in 2007, SpeCtrum has published 17 volumes and approximately 68 issues, offering a continuous venue for disseminating advancements in remote sensing and GIS. During the current Board of Directors (BoD) tenure from 2022 to 2025, the newsletter has released Volumes 16 (2023) and 17 (2024–2025), each comprising four issues (ISPRS Student Consortium, 2025b). The sustained regular publication cadence reflects our commitment to strengthening the global remote sensing community. Table 3 lists the newsletters published in the last three years.

Title (theme)	Volume	Issue No.	Date of Publication
Twinning in the Digital Realm: Exploring the Potential of Digital Twins	17	1	April 2024.
Decentralized Mapping: Revolutionizing Geospatial Data with Blockchain	17	2	August 2024.
Mobile Mapping for Automated Driving	17	3	December 2024
Mapping on the Web — Interactive solutions for	17	4	August 2025

a spatially connected world			
Application of Close-Range Remote Sensing for Forestry	16	1	April 2023
Use of Social media data in Geospatial Analysis	16	2	Aug, 2023
Applications of Underwater Remote Sensing	16	3	December 2023

Table 3: SpeCtrum issues during the current BoD (Jul 2022 - till date).

SpeCtrum provides a critical conduit for knowledge exchange by enabling early-career scientists to share innovative applications, methodological developments, and community experiences. The newsletter consistently covers a diverse range of contemporary research themes, including digital twins, blockchain-enabled decentralised mapping, autonomous driving mobile mapping, underwater and coastal sensing, synthetic aperture radar (SAR), UAS-based environmental monitoring, and geospatial analytics supporting sustainable development. These evolving topics highlight the discipline’s transition toward real-time, AI-driven, cloud-integrated, and automation-focused geospatial workflows.

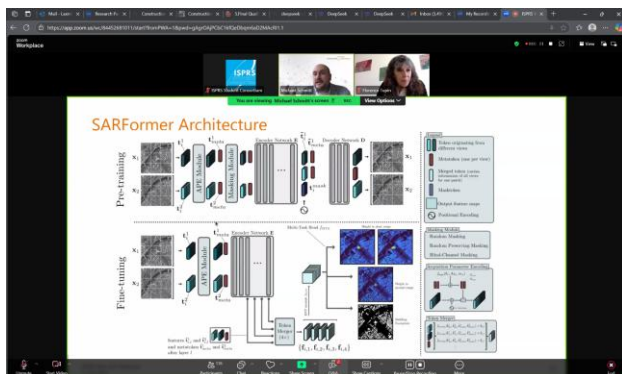


Figure 3: Picture taken during one of the Webinar organised by the ISPRS III/3 on second Wednesday of every month.

The newsletter also reflects emerging trends that are reshaping the geospatial landscape, such as 3D GIS, interactive web mapping, and remote-sensing-supported climate resilience. Collectively, these themes highlight the shift toward scalable and computationally advanced solutions with significant societal impact. By fostering collaboration between novice researchers and seasoned professionals, SpeCtrum enhances methodological rigour, promotes cross-pollination across sensing platforms, and accelerates innovation within the geospatial community.

2.4 Student Chapters

The current board launched a new initiative called ISPRS SC Student Chapter last year, the concept of which was formulated by the past BODs during their tenure (2016-2022). The Student Chapters network strengthens its global footprint by bringing

local university students or young professionals’ groups from all over the world into a shared remote-sensing community. These chapters champion diversity by engaging students from diverse regions and backgrounds and fostering inclusive access to geospatial technologies. Our importance is clear: accelerate remote-sensing skill-building and motivate emerging researchers in international networks. There are currently 11 student chapters worldwide, and three more applications are under review (Table 4). The inaugural batch of four ISPRS Student Chapters was formally launched on 7 November 2024 during the ISPRS SC Networking Event at the ISPRS TC III Mid-term Symposium in Belém, Brazil (ISPRS ebulletin, 2024). Figure 4 was taken during the same event in Brazil. As a part of this program, we conducted a total of seven virtual breakout sessions, all moderated by Ms Laxmi Thapa, President of the ISPRS SC, till date to make all chapters virtually connected; Figure 6 shows one of such events. Most recently, on October 2, 2025, we organized a virtual breakout session titled “*Inside the Journey: What It Feels Like to Be a PhD Researcher!*”. The event included a first-hand experience sharing session where two recently graduated PhD scholars from our BODs: Dr. Nicolas Pucino and Dr. Chukwuma Okolie delivered a talk based upon their PhDs and career journey (ISPRS ebulletin, 2025). The event aimed to motivate and guide aspiring young researchers who are considering or preparing to pursue doctoral studies, providing practical insights into the PhD journey, challenges, and strategies for success.



Figure 4: (a) ISPRS SC Advisory Committee approving the ISPRS SC Student Chapter application for the first time and (b) Announcement of the newly established chapter by the ISPRS President Lena Halanova in front of the ISPRS SC Council and the attendees of the ISPRS SC Youth Networking Session organised in during the ISPRS TC III Mid-Term Symposium in Belem, Brazil.

Country	Student Chapter Name	Host Institution
China	ISPRS SC China – BUCEA Student Chapter	Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture (BUCEA), China
Iran	ISPRS SC Iran – University of Tehran Student Chapter	University of Tehran, Iran

Nepal	ISPRS SC Nepal – GESAN Student Chapter	Geomatics Engineering Students Association of Nepal (GESAN), Nepal
China	ISPRS SC China – Wuhan Student Chapter	Wuhan University, China
Bangladesh	ISPRS SC Bangladesh – Dhaka University Student Chapter	Dhaka University, Bangladesh
Brazil	ISPRS SC – Brazil UDESC Chapter	Universidade do Estado de Santa Catarina (UDESC), Brazil
Sri Lanka	ISPRS SC Sri Lanka – Sabaragamuwa University Student Chapter	Sabaragamuwa University, Sri Lanka
Nepal	ISPRS SC Nepal – NKUGES Student Chapter	NKUGES, Nepal
South Africa	ISPRS SC South Africa – Tshwane Student Chapter	Located in Pretoria, South Africa
Nigeria	ISPRS SC Nigeria - University of Lagos Student Chapter	University of Lagos, Nigeria
India	ISPRS SC India - ITM Gwalior Student Chapter	Institute of Technology and Management (ITM), Gwalior, India

Table 4: List of current student chapters and their host institution (In chronological order of establishment).

The consortium accepts applications for the student chapters throughout the year, and the form mainly requires 12 founding members with a faculty member as an advisor and is to be submitted along with an annual plan for the next 1-2 years.

Participation in ISPRS Events:

With the generous support from ISPRS and The ISPRS Foundation (TIF), the ISPRS Student Consortium (SC) have had successful participation in many physical events. In addition to

the ones presented by Yadav et al. (2024), at least one BODs participated in the ISPRS Mid-Term Symposia 2024 and Geospatial Week 2025, with board members maintaining the exhibition stall in most of the events and presenting about the consortium in different sessions such as plenary session or council meetings or student events. Table 5 contains brief details of the events that the BODs attended in person.

Event	Theme	Location	Date	ISPRS SC BOD Representation
ISPRS Geospatial Week 2025	Remote Sensing for Better Future	Cairo, Egypt	2-7 September, 2023	Laxmi Thapa, Nicolas Pucino, Miguel Lagahit, Sunny Kushwaha, Yogender Yadav
ISPRS TC I	Intelligent Sensing and Remote Sensing Application	Changsha, China	May 13–17, 2024	Nicolas Pucino
ISPRS TC II	The Role of Photogrammetry for a Sustainable World	Nevada, USA	June 11–14, 2024	Chukwuma Okolie
ISPRS TC III	Beyond the canopy: technologies and applications of remote sensing	Belem, Brazil	November 4-7, 2024	Laxmi Thapa, Yogender Yadav
ISPRS TC IV	Spatial Information to Empower the Metaverse	Perth, Australia	October 22-25, 2024	Miguel Lagahit

ISPRS TC V	Insight to Foresight via Geospatial Technologies	Pasay City, Philippines	6-8 August, 2024	Laxmi Thapa and Miguel Lagahit
ISPRS Geospatial Week 2025	Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing for a Better Tomorrow	Dubai, UAE	6-11, April, 2025	Laxmi Thapa and Nicolas Pucino

Table 5: List of ISPRS events that ISPRS SC participated.

We also showcased ISPRS SC's initiatives, and organized successful networking events, including a hybrid networking session at the TC III symposium, where members could connect with peers, learn about ISPRS SC activities, and share experiences. The event included announcements of new student chapters, established by universities in Iran, Nepal, and China.



Figure 5: (a) ISPRS SC BODs: Laxmi (President) and Nicolas (Vice President) together with the ISPRS Council. (b) Emeritus Prof Armin Gruen, President of White Elephant Club and © our volunteer Bhavna visiting our stall at the Geospatial Week 2025 in Dubai.

2.5 Forums/Networking Events

We have organised and facilitated several forums and networking events for students and young professionals, some of which are summarised in Table 6 below:

Event	Date
Student Chapters Virtual Breakout Session	2 October, 2025
4th ISPRS SC Student Chapter Virtual Session	29 July, 2025
2nd ISPRS SC Student Chapters Virtual Session	4 March, 2025
1st ISPRS SC Student Chapters Virtual Session	15 January, 2025
ISPRS SC Networking Event during the ISPRS SC Summer School in the Philippines	9 August, 2024
ISPRS SC Networking Hour (ISPRS TC IV Midterm Symposium)	23 October, 2024
Youth Forum Presentation (ISPRS GeospatialWeek 2023)	4 September, 2023
Forum on "Women in Remote Sensing, Photogrammetry and Spatial Information Science" (ISPRS Congress 2022)	6 June, 2022

Table 6: List of Networking events and forums that the ISPRS SC has organised during 2022-2025.

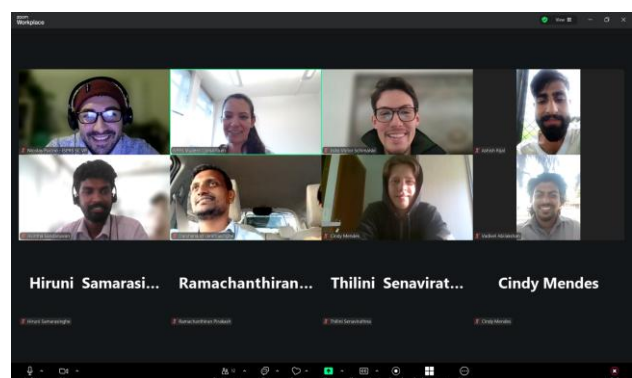


Figure 6: Picture taken during the ISPRS SC Virtual Breakout Session.

2.6 Participation in Other Activities/non-ISPRS Events

ISPRS SC has been collaborating with various organizations beyond the ISPRS framework to jointly organize events and promote youth involvement in scientific activities. Yadav et al. (2024) presents some of the activities and organisations we have

partnered with in the past. Exemplifying our sustained international cooperation, ISPRS SC partnered with the Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS) and the local organizing team of the Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS) to conduct a summer school in Makassar, Indonesia in November 2025 (Table 3). This collaboration continues the long-standing tradition of organizing capacity-building events in conjunction with major regional conferences, thereby maximizing participation and knowledge exchange opportunities for students across Asia. We were also involved in designing young scholar and student events during the ACRS in 2024 and 2025.

Similarly, continuing our successful collaboration with BUCEA, ISPRS SC organized another summer school in July 2025 (Table 3), focusing on contemporary challenges in smart cities and resilient urban environments. This partnership has proven instrumental in providing students and young professionals with hands-on training and exposure to cutting-edge geospatial technologies in the Asian region.

Beyond these structured summer schools, ISPRS SC Board members have actively represented the consortium at various international forums and events. Notable engagements include a virtual presentation at Politecnico di Milano on 27 February 2025, which facilitated knowledge sharing with the European geospatial community. Another presentation was delivered on youth voices in designing the GeoAI curriculum at the UN/ITU AI for Good Summit on 29 May 2024 in Geneva, where ISPRS SC contributed to discussions on standardizing GeoAI curricula and applications.

Furthermore, ISPRS SC delivered a keynote presentation at the EnviLink Conference in Poland on 15 May 2024, highlighting the role of young professionals in environmental monitoring and sustainable development. The consortium has also served as co-organizer for several competitive events designed to engage students in practical applications, including the Smart Cities Innovation Competition 2022/23 and the GeoLeague Contest held in Iran on 9 May 2024.

Recognizing the importance of diversity and inclusion in the geospatial community, ISPRS SC also presented in the ASPRS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) session at the 2023 ASPRS Technical Symposium in June 2023. These diverse engagements underscore ISPRS SC's commitment to fostering international collaboration, promoting knowledge exchange across borders, and ensuring that students and young professionals remain at the forefront of networking and collaboration in the field of photogrammetry, remote sensing, and spatial information sciences.

3. DISCUSSION AND FUTURE PLAN

Since establishment in 2004 and official structuring in 2008, ISPRS SC has demonstrated capacity to adapt while maintaining its core mission of supporting students and young professionals. From launching the Spectrum newsletter in 2007 to organizing summer schools and in-person forums before COVID-19, then adopting digital platforms for events like Geomixer and webinars during the pandemic (Reyes et al., 2022), ISPRS SC has maintained a legacy of member engagement through both physical and virtual platforms.

The current Board of Directors began tenure in July 2022 when in-person events were slowly resuming post-COVID, inheriting 517 members from 72 countries (Reyes et al., 2022). Feedback from the previous team highlighted low event participation,

particularly for virtual events (Reyes et al., 2022). We committed to increasing active membership and succeeded in maintaining an average of 900 active members with annual renewals. While 2022 focused on membership growth and planning, we have reflected on activities' strengths and weaknesses during annual virtual BOD meetings each December/January. We have focused on both in-person and virtual events, continuing webinars, mentorship programs, and forums from the past BODs while launching new initiatives to create more engaging platforms.

The Youth Networking Session launched at the Mid-Term Symposium III in Belém, Brazil (hybrid format) and continued at subsequent symposiums provided opportunities for local/national student associations to present their activities while getting connected with the consortium. Collaborations with organizers of events like Geospatial Week for full-day young professional activities and Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS) for student activities and Young Scholar Nights exemplified formal and informal interaction opportunities among the youth participants.

The Student Chapter concept, under development by the former Board, was executed during our tenure with its first announcement at the Belém Networking Session in 2024. We have established 11 chapters globally across different continents with three more under review within one year of launch. We targeted at least 15 chapters during our tenure, which appears promising with eight months remaining. Bi-monthly Virtual Breakout Sessions invite ISPRS scholars for talks and Q&A followed by small-group discussions (3-4 persons), enabling direct interaction among students from different chapters. Feedback surveys showed mixed preferences: some chapters preferred monthly sessions while others favoured the current bi-monthly format with unchanged content. Chapter activities are diversified based on local contexts; while some chapters are proactive and even partnering together for joint activities, others are developing their skills by learning from others. Virtual Breakout Sessions provide platforms for sharing activities and inspiring the network. We recognize the need to partner with different organizations for financial support and contextually relevant activities.

We have directly supported summer school organizers through event promotion, resource person provision, and partial funding. Beyond the existing five-day structure of lectures involving hands-on sessions, cultural activities, and technical tours, we have introduced ideathon where participants form groups of 3-6 members and present ideas based on their learning. This has been appreciated by both organizers and participants as valuable brainstorming opportunities. While the informal networking environment across different host countries receives strong appreciation, feedback shows the need to have more international participants and resource persons, requiring travel grants and sponsor collaboration. Organizers and collaborators, particularly those affiliated with academia have expressed interests to organise the summer school yearly with funding support. However, our funding mechanism promotes global outreach to diverse countries and regions, but not on the same country always. We have been advising them to find alternative funding opportunities but our affiliations as co-sponsor. Recently, we have received requests to have hybrid summer schools or summer schools similar to the tutorial formats, but these are yet to be discussed properly before taking any action.

In addition to these activities, we plan to organize the following programs during our remaining nine-month tenure.

3.1 Mentorship Program

Building on the former Board's year-long Leadership and Service Mentoring Programme launched in February 2022, we are resuming this initiative in January 2026 with a revised six-month duration. Four current Board members participated in the original program, which proved highly effective in understanding ISPRS SC operations. Each Board member will mentor up to three participants (maximum 18 total) on Board roles and consortium functioning. This program aims to engage students and young professionals in professional associations while ensuring smooth transition for the newly elected Board (2026-2030). Newly elected members will join the program following elections in April/May.

3.2 Virtual Symposium

ISPRS SC is organising a 1-day virtual symposium. The symposium which will take place in 2026 will provide a platform for the ISPRS SC Student Chapters to showcase their research and share knowledge, innovations, and applications. The target audience are the hundreds of ISPRS SC members, the ISPRS community and other interested professionals. Conference registration and abstract submission dates will be announced.

3.3 Election for the new Board of Directors (2026-2030)

As the current Board of Directors' tenure concludes in July 2026, we will hand over our roles to the newly elected Board. Elections will be conducted in April/May following clearly defined selection criteria. The process involves a call for nominations, preliminary candidate selection based on established criteria, interviews with shortlisted candidates, and final endorsement of successful candidates for election. Elected members will participate in the mentorship program described in Section 3.1, and their tenure will officially begin at the General Assembly during ISPRS Congress 2026.

3.4 Activities during the ISPRS Congress 2026

We are planning to organise diverse activities to bring together students and young professionals. We have been collaborating with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the Congress to organise the ISPRS SC Summer School as a pre-Congress event from 29 June to 3 July 2026. ISPRS SC has led the proposal submission to the ISPRS Education and Capacity Building Initiatives by partnering with the Congress LOC. Additionally, we will be organising a Youth Forum, essentially a panel discussion on the need for professional student societies such as ISPRS SC for young professionals. We are also planning to organise a speed dating event by partnering with the Congress industrial partners/exhibitors and interested professors to provide an interactive platform for seeking jobs and PhD/postdoc positions. Furthermore, we are planning to host a Youth Networking Session similar to the mid-term symposiums in the past. We are also partnering with ISPRS Working Group III/9 to organise a Forum titled 'Entrepreneurship in the Industry 4.0 Geospatial Landscape'.

3.5 Challenges and Recommendations

ISPRS SC currently operates with funding exclusively from ISPRS and the ISPRS Foundation (TIF), limiting capacity to organize in-person events that have proven crucial for impactful events and members engagement. Likewise, geographic and

economic barriers result in underrepresentation from developing nations in our events due to travel costs and limited digital infrastructure, which targeted partnerships and grant programs could directly address. Therefore, strategic partnerships with different funding agencies and geospatial industry partners may add additional funding opportunities to enable travel grants and expanded in-person events.

Organizational capacity remains constrained with only six Board of Directors and three volunteers handling the design works. All Board positions are voluntary yet demanding, requiring dedicated time commitment. With increasing activities, we recommend provision of regional coordinators to divide tasks geographically and enhance local engagement. Also, we experienced board turnover due to various performance-related and professional reasons, disrupting continuity. The statute lacks clear statements regarding the rewards and punishment. We strongly recommend establishing clear terms of reference and task distribution from the beginning to ensure Board commitment. Implementing biennial Board performance evaluations is recommended to keep members committed toward their terms of reference throughout tenure.

Virtual events attract strong participant numbers but suffer from inadequate interaction and engagement throughout event duration. Investing in advanced digital tools, interactive platforms, and innovative engagement techniques offers significant opportunities to enhance virtual experience quality while maintaining broad accessibility.

4. CONCLUSION

The ISPRS Student Consortium has established a strong foundation over two decades of operation. Through expanded digital engagement, diversified capacity building and educational programmes, and strengthened professional development pathways, ISPRS SC aims to empower the next generation of geospatial leaders. Its sustainable activities require commitment and collaboration from all stakeholders including ISPRS Council members, Student Chapter leaders, academic advisors, industry partners, and the broader ISPRS community. The Board of Directors calls upon all stakeholders to contribute their expertise, resources, and enthusiasm to building a vibrant, inclusive community that will shape the future of photogrammetry, remote sensing, and spatial information sciences. As the geospatial profession confronts unprecedented challenges and opportunities, ISPRS SC is positioned to play a catalytic role in developing the talent, knowledge, and networks among young generations required to harness the full potential of spatial information science, photogrammetry and remote sensing in service of science, society, and sustainability.

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