

Geographic Information Systems 2023-2024

Exercise 1 - QGIS Desktop 3.28 (or newer) - Install and get familiar with the interface

Introduction

In this exercise, you will set up your system to have a fully functional QGIS ver. 3.28 installation. You will also learn to identify the different components of the interface of the software and the workflow to manage data and perform analysis.

1. Install and configure QGIS ver 3.28

QGIS is a free and open source software. It is available for Windows, MacOS and Linux operating systems. The latest version is 3.34, but the latest Long Term Release (LTR) version is 2.28, which we will formally support in this course. This ensures updates for a longer period, and a more robust (bug-free) and secure environment. However, it is not expected big changes from the user point of view between the two versions.

Step 1: Download and install QGIS

To download, go to <https://www.qgis.org/en/site/forusers/download.html> and select QGIS 3.28 LTR for your operating system

Step 2: Set up the interface to english

To use standard terms for QGIS operations in english, it is better to configure the interface to be in English. Make the change as follows:

- Go to Settings → Options → General (or Configurações → Opções → Geral)
- Check **Override System Locale** (or **Substituir locale do sistema**)
- Select Translation (or Tradução) to **American English**
- Click OK
- Close and restart QGIS so the changes take effect

2. Documentation

The full documentation of QGIS will be a resource you will need to use often. The documentation is online, but can be accessed from the menu Help → Help Contents

3. Get familiar with QGIS 3.28 (tutorial)

3.1. Learn about the QGIS interface

- Create a new project. Understand the interface, including menus, toolbars, map canvas, layer list, browse panel, status bar.

Support material: https://docs.qgis.org/3.28/en/docs/training_manual/basic_map/overview.html#basic-ty-the-basics

3.2. Create a map and add data

- Learn how to create a new project, a new map, and add data to the map.
- Understand the concepts and differences between projects, maps, (geo)databases, geopackages, data and features

Support material:

- https://docs.qgis.org/3.28/en/docs/training_manual/basic_map/preparation.html