Development of Modern Education in Geoinformatics for Enabling Sustainable Development in Uzbekistan.

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SUMMARY

This article is intended to give information about a new TEMPUS project that is underway in Uzbekistan. The aim of the project is to ensure that partner universities in Uzbekistan have the capacity to offer a Master programme in Geoinformatics that meet Bologna process, international academic quality standards, job market needs, make GI science attractive for young generation and support Uzbekistan in sustainable development. The project is supported by TEMPUS programme of the EU the aim of which is to strengthen the cooperation between the EU countries and peripheral countries in the field of education. Uzbekistan is a young independent country facing several challenges including environmental pollution, severe drought, inadequate land and water usage etc. Land degradation processes are widespread due to deteriorating irrigation and drainage infrastructure causing water logging and soil salinity. Addressing this requires speeding up environmentally sustainable rural development by supporting: improved land and water use management, and land administration reform; rural infrastructure and services etc. These issues would be manageable more efficiently by the applying GIS technology. In Uzbekistan the curriculum and the educational infrastructure in Geoinformatics are also needed to be modernized therefore it is a key point to enhance academic capacity and supply the partner universities with the necessary equipment. All in all, Uzbekistan needs to be developed regarding Geoinformatics in order to manage properly the challenges. The project propose in its outline an approach for supporting spatial decision making in the different fields where GIS are used and by extension to ensure sustainability in Uzbekistan. The qualified academic who will attend the course will understand the spatial dimension of the different problems, learn how to collect relevant data, how to store, how to analyze it and how to visualize results. The project consortium in total consists of 11 academic and non-academic institutions. The project is coordinated by University of West Hungary and on national level by Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration. Project partners are Paris-Lodron Universität Salzburg (Salzburg, AT), Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm, SE), University of Greenwich (London, UK), National University of Uzbekistan (Tashkent, UZ), Karakalpak State University (Nukus, UZ), Tashkent Architecture Building Institute (Tashkent, UZ), and 3 non-academic partners Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education (Tashkent, UZ), State Unitary Enterprise "Geoinformkadastr" (Tashkent, UZ), National Center of Geodesy and Cartography (Tashkent, UZ).

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