



# The **GE-UZ**

Geoinformatics: enabling sustainable development in **Uz**zbekistan

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### At a glance

This newsletter is intended to give you information about a new TEMPUS project that is underway in Uzbekistan. The aim of the project is to ensure that UZ partner universities have the capacity to offer a Master programme in Geoinformatics that conform to the Bologna process, meet international academic quality standards, address job market needs and support Uzbekistan in sustainable regional development. The project is supported by the EU TEMPUS programme with the aim of strengthening the cooperation between EU and Central Asian countries in the field of education.

### Background

The EU considers ways to cooperate with non-EU countries around the world in terms of education systems. It is a priority for the EU to promote and modernize the education system of these countries in line with international standards and according to the Bologna process. Uzbekistan is a post-communist country suffering from numerous problems including environmental pollution, severe droughts, inadequate land use etc. These issues would be manageable very efficiently with support from GIS technologies. In Uzbekistan curricula and the educational infrastructure also need to be modernized; therefore it is a key point to supply partner universities with the necessary equipment. All in all, Uzbekistan needs to enhance Geoinformatics education and infrastructure in order to properly manage the challenges.

### Aims and objectives

GE-UZ is a project devoted to ensure that Uzbek partner universities have the capacity to offer a Master programme in Geoinformatics meeting Bologna guidelines, international academic quality standards, job market needs and support Uzbekistan in sustainable development.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- to develop a successful MSc in Geoinformatics,
- to ensure that there will be qualified staff available for course delivery by organizing train-the-teachers
- to ensure the universities are adequately equipped for GIS teaching by buying surveying equipment and develop GIS laboratories
- to ensure the sustainability of the educational environment by building an educational network.

### Our activities

At the beginning of the project needs-analyses will be accomplished and the further curriculum development will be based on the results of these analyses.

The overall programme definition is discussed by all partners, and general rules and templates will be set for an elaborate description. The curriculum and syllabus development is followed by development of the learning materials by the Uzbek partners. The testing and reviewing of the modules will ensure that it will meet the standards and needs of stakeholders.

Meanwhile a teacher training process guarantees the quality and sustainability of the master program. In the partner institutions the installation of GIS laboratories and the acquisition of surveying and GIS equipment will provide the Uzbek partners with up to date teaching environments. Part of the equipment will be jointly used in order to build the foundations of networking among students and faculty. After its accreditation the master programme will start which will represent one third of the project time period. During the project time several meetings and trainings will be organized to discuss the key points of the project. A Project Advisory Board has also been set up to give advice and to promote the project throughout its 3 years.

### Our partners

The University of West Hungary (UWH) is responsible for project management and administration. Other partners from the EU are the Paris-Lodron Universität Salzburg (AT), the Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm (SE) and the University of Greenwich London (UK).



The partners from the target country (Uzbekistan) including the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulug'bek (NUU), Tashkent, the Karakalpak State University (KSU) Nukus, the Tashkent Architecture Building Institute (TABI) Tashkent, the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration (TIIM) Tashkent, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education (MHSSE) Tashkent, the National Center of Geodesy and Cartography (NCGC) Tashkent and the State Unitary Enterprise (Geoinform-Kadastr) Tashkent.

### Outcomes

GE-UZ will have plenty of outcomes. First of all, an *as is analyses report* will be made after the evaluation of the questionnaires of needs analysis. Based on this survey and cooperation with Uzbek partners a *new modernized MSc curriculum and syllabus* will be compiled in Geoinformatics. *Teaching materials* will be developed and published in line with international standards and the Bologna Treaty. The project also includes *updating the bachelor program in Geodesy,*

*Cartography and Cadastre depending on the scope of the partners. New master courses (10 modules and summer school)* will be launched in the field of Geoinformatics by *retrained staff*. Modern established learning centres will be created including 4 GIS labs, current software, GIS/surveying equipment and website/network portal. Due to the launching of new MSc courses in Geoinformatics, qualified graduates will be placed on the labour market with the most up-to-date skills in line with company's needs. The dissemination activity brings results of the project much closer to other institutions. The business plan will ensure the sustainability of the project in the long run.

### What are we working on now?

To better understand the needs of partners and GIS companies in Uzbekistan two questionnaires have already been created for needs analysis.

We are making arrangements for the kick-off meeting to be held in Tashkent on 17-19th January 2013.

Two websites are being created presenting the project as a whole, its progress, and important news in connection with the main phases of the GE-UZ project. The English language website is available now at [www.ge-uz.eu](http://www.ge-uz.eu), and the Uzbek language website will also be released soon.

### How can you help us?

We are very keen to ensure that GE-UZ meets the needs of GI society in Uzbekistan. We will keep you updated on the project by regular newsletters like this one.

But, we would like to know your views about the GE-UZ project. If there are any comments you would like to make, or more information about the project then we would welcome any views from you.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and we look forward to hearing from you and to providing more information.

For more information please visit [www.ge-uz.eu](http://www.ge-uz.eu) or contact:

#### Prof Béla Márkus

GE-UZ TEMPUS Project Coordinator  
Faculty of Geoinformatics, UWH (GEO)  
Pirosalma u 1-3  
Székesfehérvár H-8000  
Email: [ge-uz@geo.info.hu](mailto:ge-uz@geo.info.hu)  
or

#### Odil Akbarov

GE-UZ TEMPUS National Coordinator  
The Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and  
Melioration (TIIM)  
Qorl Nryozly 39  
Tashkent UZ-100000  
Email: [odilxon@yahoo.com](mailto:odilxon@yahoo.com)