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**ERASMUS+: Higher Education – International Capacity Building**

## **Environmental Protection in Central Asia (EPCA): Disaster Risk Management with spatial methods**

Online/Zoom, 20 November 2020

**Participants:** Muzaffar, Damira, Gulshan, Sattar, Saluat, eimuntas, Justyna, Marius, Darius, Marinos, Eleni, Loukas, Jorge, Antonio, Ruslan, Mayra, Petter, Micael, David, Ali

- Ali Opened the meeting
- Ali reported the communications with EU
  - o The project has been extended for one year. It will not be extended any more.
  - o For the cancelled trips, due to COVID-19, if the travel agencies do not refund money, it can be claimed from the project. You need to have a document showing that the agency does not refund your money.
- Trip to Kyrgyzstan on May 2020 was cancelled. Yet, we don't know if we can travel during 2021, due to COVID-19. So we decided:
  - o To hold two online meeting for dissemination and ToT in Kyrgyzstan on January 26th and 27th.
    - Ali with the help of Muzaffar, Damira and Gulshan will prepare the programme for the meeting.
    - Damira will make required arrangements to invite participants from Bishkek to the meeting.
    - Gulshan and Abdurashit will make required arrangements to invite participants from Osh.
    - The purpose should be to receive participants from university staff, students and stakeholders to the meetings.
  - o In late January/early February 2021, the steering committee will investigate if a physical meeting in Kyrgyzstan is possible/safe and plans the meeting, if the situation is safe enough in relation to COVID-19
- Courses have been evaluated by pilot students, course evaluation forms have been submitted and a summary of the reports have been prepared by course coordinators. Following actions need to be taken to improve the course contents:
  - o GIS & SDI for Environmental Protection
    - The students are happy with the course. We have not received any negative impact. The only considerable comment is that the workload for Week 4 is high.



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- The consortium discussed two solutions, either to cut the workload or keep it as it is and consider some exercises as optional. The Central Asian partners are in favour of the latter solution.
- UrSU has developed more video lectures and further instructions to make some modules easier for the students to understand and follow. These materials are in Uzbek language. Muzaffar will share the materials in Moodle so that the Kyrgyz partners can also use them.
- Decision: The course is fine, minor edits will be applied to improve the readability and the flow of the course materials
- GIS & SDI for Disaster Management
  - The evaluations do not show any negative aspect in the course. Some students think that the workload of the project is high. However, the consortium, including CA partners, believe that the workload is fine and according to Eu standards. Since CA students are not used to European methodology, which is Active and Students Centred, they find it difficult. Teaching method in Central Asia should shift to Student Centre and students should get use to new methods.
  - UrSU has developed more video lectures and further instructions to make some modules easier for the students to understand and follow. These materials are in Uzbek language. Muzaffar will share the materials in Moodle so that the Kyrgyz partners can also use them.
  - Decision: the course is fine, minor edits will be applied to improve the readability and the flow of the course materials.
- SDI for Ep and DRM
  - Students are happy with the course in general. However, there are some issues that should be solved.
  - The Geographical Database module has been reported as a difficult and complicated one by the students. This is mainly because installing PostGIS is time consuming and learning Geographical Databases is time consuming (it requires an independent course). It was decided that Muzaffar will develop an exercise based on iMSEP. Jorge will simplify the current exercise, which will be used as an optional task; and can also be used later in a Geographical Database course that will be developed by CA partner universities.
  - Web services, geoportals and publishing vector data exercises have also been reported complicated. That's mainly because installing GeoNode and making it work is not straight forward. It was decided that Jorge and Muzaffar rewrite these exercises, based on iMSEP.
  - SLD exercise is not clear. Jorge will improve it.
  - Web Tile Service: Jorge will improve the exercise and makes it easy and understandable. It will be used as an optional exercise.
  - Decisions: Roger and Muzaffar will communicate to improve the content of this course. Complicated exercises will be rewritten to make the maximum use of iMSEP. The above-mentioned improvements will be applied.
- Deadline
  - Deadline to implement the above-mentioned tasks is January 15th, 2021.



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- Admin and reports
  - Irma gave a general report about submission of time sheet and travel expenses:
    - There is not any problem related to the admin issues.
    - So far only half of the working-days have been reported to Irma. Partners must report them as soon as possible. The budgets which have not been used should be returned to EU.
    - There are some missing prof documents (e.g. missing boarding card, etc.). Irma has send individual emails to each partners, informing them about the missing documents.
    - Muzaffar will help the Kyrgyz partners to fix the issues and submit complete reports to Irma.
  - Lund University is going to start “Overall project evaluation by external expert”. The contract will be signed with an expert soon.