



GEO4D Newsletter 2018-1

Highlights

- Newsletter introduction
- Project consortium
- Project kick-off in Jordan
- Curricular workshop in Ponferrada, Spain
- Training on GIS & applications in Italy
- Training on remote sensing and image processing
- First PMB meeting in Stockholm

• Newsletter introduction

The GEO4D project is a joint project on capacity building in higher education, funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The project consortium consists of 8 partners, with Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Sweden as grant holder and coordinating institution.

The main objective of the project is to modernize geodesy and geoinformatics education in Jordan to support sustainable socio-economic development. The project aims to establish three new laboratories in 2018, develop and start three new master programmes in geodesy and geoinformatics in 2019, provide staff training and introduce new pedagogy and quality assurance.

This newsletter is published to inform staff and students at Jordanian partners, as well as stakeholders and the general public on GEO4D project activities, special events, progress and achieved results. It will be published twice a year.

More information can be found at the project's web site:
<http://gidec.abe.kth.se/GEO4D/>.

• Project consortium

GEO4D project consortium has 8 project partners which are listed below, including the *local coordinator* at each partner organization.

Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm, Sweden
Huaan Fan

University of Leon (ULE), Ponferrada, Spain
Flor Alvarez Taboada

Polytechnic University of Milan (POLIMI), Milan, Italy
Marco Scaioni

Yarmouk University (YU), Irbid, Jordan
Rana Jawarneh

Al-Balqa Applied University (BAU), Al-Salt, Jordan
Nawras Shatnawi

Hashemite University (HU), Zarqa, Jordan
Nezar Hammouri

Modern Survey Office (MSO), Amman, Jordan
Lutfe Al-Sheikh

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR), Amman, Jordan
Renad Nofal

• Project kick-off at Yarmouk University

The kick-off meeting took place on November 20-23, 2017 at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan. Representatives from all 8 GEO4D project partners have sent attended this important event.

The Project opening ceremony was attended by Professor Ziad Alsaad, Vice-President of Yarmouk University; Professor Sa'ad Abo Qdais, Vice-rector of Al-Balqa Applied University; National Erasmus+ Officer in Jordan, GEO4D project members and industry representatives (Leica, ESRI).



At the kick-off meeting, all partners presented their organizations and main activities. The project plan has been reviewed and activities for 2018 discussed and planned. Financial reporting rules have also been discussed.

• Curricular workshop in Ponferrada, Spain

This workshop was hosted by University of Leon in Ponferrada, Spain, on February 19-23, 2018. 14 GEO4D staff members attended the one-week workshop.

At the beginning of the workshop, preliminary results of questionnaire survey among students and stakeholders Jordanian national regulations on programme accreditation have been discussed.

The focus of the workshop was to develop three master curricula with syllabus for three Jordanian universities:

- Master programme in *Geomatics*, Al-Balqa Applied University
- Master programme in *Applied Geoinformatics*, Yarmouk University
- Master programme in *GIS for Natural Resource Management*, Hashmite University

• Staff retraining course on GIS & applications

This training course was held from 18th to 29th of June 2018 at Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI) in the Lecco Campus. The course was aimed primarily at trainee experts in geospatial information (at different levels) and therefore it was an advanced GIS course.

The course consisted of theoretical lessons and a series of practical, computer-based sessions covering the most recent topics of geoinformation, providing the attendees the knowledge of the technologies with actual case studies.



During the training period, three study visits have been organized to: Scientific and Technological Park ComoNEXT; Como Subsidence and Cultural Heritage Monitoring Network and the European Joint Research Center ISPRA.

• Staff retraining course on remote sensing

This training course was organized by University of León (Spain) from 10th to 21st September 2018 at both the Ponferrada Campus and León Campus. 8 Jordanian staff members joined the course (4 from Yarmouk University; 3 from Al-Balqa Applied University and 1 from MSO).



The learning methods applied to teach these topics were:

- Presentation of relevant projects/work
- Lectures on fundamentals
- Guided practical sessions in the computer lab/field work/supervised project work
- Discussions

In total, the training course included six learning units and three study visits.

• First PMB meeting in Stockholm

The 1st meeting of Project Management Board (PMB) was held in October 15-19, 2018, at Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm. All PMB members (i.e. local coordinators of GEO4D partners) attended the meeting.



The meeting has reviewed all ongoing and completed project activities. Meeting participants also discussed and planned project activities for 2019. Other management issues, such as quality control, dissemination and financial reporting have also been discussed at the meeting.

The PMB members had three study visits to: Stockholm City Planning Office, Trimble Sweden, WSP Sweden and Vasa Museum.