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UZWATER

UZWATER NEWSLETTER

29 October 2014

Dear Uzwater colleagues,

This newsletter intends to keep you all updated on the work and development in the Uzwater project. Note that the homepage is there to be used. Please visit the homepage at least once a week. uzwater.ktu.lt. Register so you have access to the Intranet. The homepage will be in three languages – English, Uzbek and Russian.

Lars Rydén, Coordinator Uppsala University

Those who did not yet list their entire partner teams or course teams on the webpage please do this. It will make the work for all of us so much simpler!

Visit of EU partners in November much reduced

The planned visit of EU partners to Uzbekistan in November got many problems. Of the original team of 8 people only 3 remain. Thus Kristine Abolina and Janis Zaloksnins University of Latvia will travel together with Xingqiang Song from KTH in Stockholm to visit Urgench and Nukus. Health problems and other duties made it difficult for the others to travel. There will therefore be another group travelling in the spring. For the November visit teachers training have been cancelled while lectures to master students and teachers will be made as planned. The roundtables will be carried out, as the Uzbek partners prefer. The advantage is that we will have more instances of interaction between EU universities and Uzbekistan, while the disadvantage is that some of the events planned for November will have to be postponed. We are all sorry for this complication, but we tried to do the best out of it.



Uppsala in autumn colours



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Uzwater Applied Projects and Master Thesis work – Preparations for the December Coordination Meeting

Applied projects are an important component of the Uzwater project (Work Package 4). It is meant to contribute to the development of the country. The topics should be as closely related as possible to the environmental/ water/ sustainability issues of the region and Uzbekistan. It is to be realised through master thesis work, and thereby foster knowledge, specialisation and practical skills of the students. Practical placement of the students at companies, industrial enterprises, municipalities or other institutions is encouraged. Universities when coming to the 3rd Coordination Meeting in Uppsala in December should have prepared lists as described below of applied projects, proposed master thesis work and stakeholders. At home all partner universities should, during the academic year, carry out roundtables with stakeholders, which the universities in Urgench and Nukus already are planning. Details are as follows:

Plans for applied projects at each university. Each partner university will prepare 1) **a list of applied projects** addressing environmental/water/ sustainability issues of the region/country. Work may be carried out at the university but relate to the surrounding society and should at best require some field work. The list will indicate the length of projects and the course(s), semester and module of the Master Programme it relates to. 2) **a list of projects suitable for master thesis work**, preferably indicating partners outside universities. (WP 4.1)

Cooperation with stakeholders. Each partner university will contact stakeholders outside the university, such as municipalities, companies or other institutions interested in cooperation with the university in addressing problems of the environment and water provision of the society. Each university should prepare **a list of stakeholders and problems, which they propose to work with.** (WP 4.2)

Multi-stakeholders meetings and seminars. The partner universities will organise Round Tables with their local/regional stakeholders to promote cooperation, and sign agreements with potential employers in order to facilitate practical placements and future employment. (WP 6.2)

Master thesis. The final result will be master thesis from students at the Master Programme. They should be written in English, Russian or Uzbek but with a summary in English. (WP 4.3)

The obligations of Uzwater partners. Some of the partners in the Uzwater project have according to the application special roles to play.

Tashkent Technical University, TTU, is asked to lead activities of WP4 in Uzbekistan. TTU will support teachers from partner universities to design and select applied projects, and collect all lists of part-



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ner universities and make them available on the MSc Programme web site. TTU will also collect all information on master thesis projects and make the final thesis available on the website.

Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, KTH, will provide guidance to the partner universities for WP4 based on its experience in applied projects in environment and water management, especially in cooperation with industries.

Swedish Aral Sea Society, SASS, will use its wider contact network in the Uzbekistan society to suggest urgent applied projects in the area of water scarcity and failed water and land management, and help to establish links to international stakeholders in this sector.

Warsaw University of Life Sciences, SGGW, will provide guidance to partner universities for WP4 based on its experience in applied projects in environment and water management, especially regarding water and land management in rural settings.

Advisory Board – will meet for the first time in Uppsala in December

When we see each other in Uppsala in December the Advisory Board of Uzwater will meet for the first time. It is planned for the 4th of December. The Advisory board consists of 7 partners 3 EU partners and 3 Uzbek partners plus Global Water Partnership, GWP: The partners are: Warsaw University of Life Sciences (chair), Uppsala University, Swedish Aral Sea Society, Global Water Partnership, Samarkand State Architectural and Civil Engineering Institute, the National University of Uzbekistan) and Urgench State University.

The Board will oversee and ensure that the new Master Programme is working well, and is relevant to the situation in Uzbekistan, that it is suited to labour market needs, is based on real projects and problems from the society and will facilitate practical placement and employment of graduates. It will focus its efforts on ensuring continuity of the Master Programme and the study centres at partner universities and the two national centres beyond Tempus funding. For this reason a Sustainability Plan will be created and updated on yearly basis. It will be based on the Sustainability Plans for the partner universities.

The Board will secure that the formal accreditation procedure of the new Master Programme to the Ministry of Education of Uzbekistan, to provide a regular university budget. It will seek financing for yearly meetings beyond the Tempus project.



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The role of partner universities. All partner universities in Uzbekistan should

- 1) develop a **Sustainability Plan** for its Master Programme and Centre and (WP 6.1)
- 2) organise **Round Tables** with relevant public and private stakeholders (WP 6.2)

In addition SGGW has the role of chairing the Board Meeting; Uppsala University will host the first meeting.



Uppsala Centre for Sustainable Development