



SDI in Life-long Learning Educational Courses in the Region

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Abstract

As spatial information and data are increasingly relevant to different professions today, the training of existing and new professionals is vital. Training new professional can be implemented by updating existing or developing new study courses but training existing professionals through life-long learning (LLL) courses has been neglected and fallen behind. A project financed through the Erasmus+ program, entitled “Western Balkans Academic Education Evolution and Professional Sustainable Training for Spatial Data Infrastructures” (BESTSDI), was launched in 2017 with the aim of developing SDI curricula for the academic and life-long training of professionals in the Western Balkans. The survey exposed the current situation and, based on its findings and the SDI curriculum developed in the framework of the BESTSDI project (structured in three building blocks: basic, advanced and applied), a programme of LLL courses was developed. Since it was developed for different professions (surveyors, civil engineers, architects, geologists, mining engineers, agriculture and forestry engineers and geographers) the courses are modular, following the SDI curriculum structure of basic, advanced and applied levels. Of course, the content is not identical for all professions. The basic course has the most common content, while the applied courses are tailored to each profession and include some common content from the SDI curriculum, as necessary.

Project partner universities have prepared LLL courses for their professionals which will be tested by partner universities in the academic year 2018/2019, creating a platform for sustainable LLL SDI courses in the coming years.

Keywords: spatial data infrastructure, life-long learning, courses, Western Balkans