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UZWATER NEWSLETTER

15 January 2014

Dear Uzwater colleagues,

This newsletter is there to keep you all updated on the work and development in the Uzwater project. There are close to 100 persons involved now; that is great, but it makes it impossible to know what is going on everywhere in the network. We need a newsletter. It will be very simple but hopefully serve its purpose. Partners both in Uzbekistan and in the EU countries, please contribute by producing one or several issues or at least articles. This issue comes from Uppsala University.

All the best

Lars Rydén

Coordinator Uppsala University

Now when we are not together the homepage is our only meeting ground. Please visit the homepage at least once a week. www.uzwater.ktu.lt. Register so you have access to Intranet. The homepage will be in three languages – English, Uzbek and Russian.

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

Core courses syllabus and curricula on the way

The development of syllabus and curricula for the 15 core courses starts to give results. So far the texts for four core courses have come quite far:

A1 Environment and Sustainable Development in the Central Asia region – an introduction

B4 Ecological Economics and Green Economy

C4 Water Diplomacy

D1 Research Methodology and Theory of Science

This is great and the contents look very interesting. Still I have to encourage all of you active in this work package to work even more since we are behind schedule. As the curriculum and syllabus have been adapted to the Uzbek requirements and finalised they should be posted on the webpage.

Study material for the 15 core courses – compiling compendia

So far those working on the curricula have listed literature for the respective courses. This is nice and needed but it will, however, not be enough in the end. We have to put together *compendia of the texts to be used*. According to the plan much of the texts to be used for



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compendia will be taken from the Baltic University material. This is fine since we have the copyrights needed. But of course much material, especially the newer material, will come from other sources. Some of these are public, like several of the webpages, and then again it is possible to use for compendia. Please be careful in stating the source for all texts.

A very critical issue is *how big a material* one may require that the students should read for each course. The time available for self-study for a 6 ECTS credits course, assuming there will be equal times for contact (lectures, seminars etc) and self-study, is about 90 hours. Some of it may be used for consulting material, books etc, at the centres organising the master programme but most for studying the compendia. This may give some 200-400 pages per compendium (1 page = about 350 words)? What do you think in Uzbekistan? Do not forget that it should all be translated. It will be a big task and of course with much material difficult to accomplish.

According to the plan outlined in Samarkand in October the compendia should be ready by April 15.

Translations into Russian and Uzbek languages are lagging behind

The translation of the webpage is lagging behind. The two universities that have the job to accomplish this have to speed up very much. Perhaps you have to divide the job between several people. It is too much for one person, especially if the person has other duties as well. It is for Russian language Tashkent Technical University and for Uzbek language Samarkand State University. Please take notice of this. So far I did not, to take one example, see any of the Newsletters translated. They were both published in November.

News from the global arena

Gunilla Björklund recommends a very useful and informative webpage produced by Alfred Diebold, former Executive Director of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea. The link is <http://www.waterunites-ca.org/>. I found it indeed excellent.

Within the *United Nations system* a most interesting process now is the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals, which will follow the Millennium Goals ending this year 2014. Their website <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1300> has much relevant material. To support this process the United Nations has created an Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) that is hosted by Korea. <http://www.unosd.org/>. It is another valuable source of the current understanding of sustainable development.

Communication in the network increases

Just before Christmas I sent a pledge of improving communication within the Uzwater network. It was met by an impressive response of colleagues who confirmed that they had received it and will improve their communication. Please stay with that promise! It was great to have all the answers!