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UZWATER

UZWATER NEWSLETTER

25 September 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. www.uzwater.ktu.lt. Register so you have access to Intranet. The homepage is 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 30 August - 7 September, 2014.

The academic year started as seven teachers from Uppsala, Riga, Kaunas and Warszawa travelled to meet colleagues in Uzbekistan. The visit began by an intense teachers training workshop in Tashkent organised mainly by the Uzwater team of the National University of Uzbekistan. (Thanks to Natalya Akinshina and Azamat Azizov). All of Saturday and the morning of Sunday was filled with lectures and discussions. Sunday - the national day of Uzbekistan – was used to visit the city and drinking a big toast for the country to celebrate its independence now 23 years. Beautiful Tashkent by night surprised us with so much light everywhere.

On Monday the EU partners divided in two teams one going to Samarkand (Environmental Science/Sustainable Development) and the other to Bukhara (Water Management) to lecture to the master students, which this week started to study Uzwater courses. This was the Work Package 3.2 called *Intensive teaching periods by EU teachers*.

In Samarkand all three participating universities got two lectures each. Students were very interested, had clever questions and at the Agricultural Institute in addition all students were very good in English. (At the other universities the English language knowledge was mixed.) We also visited the Uzwater Centres at these universities and saw the equipment, which had arrived but was not yet in operation.

In Bukhara the “Water Management” team met Rector and vice-Rector of the Bukhara State University. Measures how to activate UZWATER performance at Bukhara State University were discussed with the project partners. Later the team delivered lectures in water resource management for third and fourth year students in Ecology. The lectures were taught in Russian with partial translation to Uzbek language.

On Wednesday the teams in Bukhara and Samarkand interchanged, and the new teams delivered Thursday lectures. Friday afternoon finally a long session organised by the two member universities in Tashkent reached master students and teachers/researcher from the two universities to end the “Intensive training”.



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A second team of EU partners will visit Urgench and Nukus in 8 - 15 November. This group will include teachers from Swedish Aral Sea Society, KTH in Stockholm, and University of Latvia in Riga.



Lars Rydén and Farhod Ahrorov outside Samarkand Agricultural Institute.



Master class in Green Economy at the Samarkand Agricultural Institute. Professor Lars Rydén from Uppsala University, being the guest lecturer, in the middle.



Students and project partners from Samarkand State University. Professor Linas Kliucininkas from Kaunas University of Technology, being the guest lecturer, second from right.

Tasks to be carried out by Uzbek partners in the fall of 2014.

We are rapidly approaching the final year of the Uzwater project. The official date for closing the project is 15 October 2015. This final year will be by far the most intense and it is filled with tasks to be carried out and finalised, all as required in the project plan. Below I will describe those tasks connected to the study centres and the compendia.

The Uzwater Centres

Equipment. The centres have now been installed and equipment received by almost all Uzbek partners. Most partners have chosen laboratory equipment for working on water management from an Italian provider. The Italian company plans to visit Uzbekistan in late September to train the users in handling the equipment. It is hopefully now on-going. *Please send photos of your centres so we can see what they look like!* (Work package 2.1)

Webpage. The centres should all have a webpage with information on the Master Programme and the courses, and finally all the material needed. You need to start working on that now. If there is a problem with space on your own server, Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) has offered to host the centres webpages; then you only connect by a link. KTU now hosts the project webpage. (Work package 2.3)

Goals and Activity plans. All universities have to deliver a plan for activities and goals for the study centres. This should be ready in good time before the next coordination meeting in Uppsala first week in December. There is no fixed format for the plan but it would be nice to have a 2-5 pages document starting with a description of the centre, then a brief explanation of the goals, and finally a plan for future activities at least covering this academic year. The plan should list the personnel included, the courses to be delivered, it may mention Internet access and the use of video conferencing. It may also list library and books available, and in cases you have laboratory facilities how they work. (Work package 2.2).

Public events to launch the study centres. The openings of the study centres are foreseen to be public events with invitations of both key university colleagues, and stakeholders from the surrounding society. Probably it is best to schedule that for the spring semester of 2015. Add it to the activity plans! (Work package 5.3).



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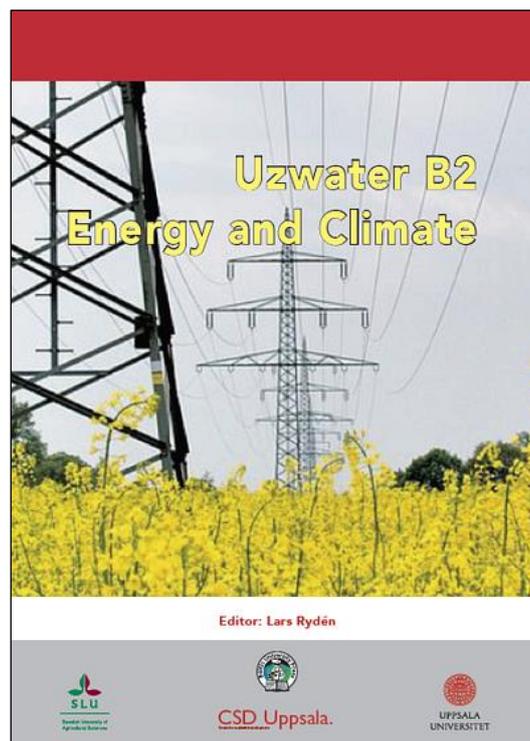
Material for the Uzwater courses – course compendia

All Uzbek universities started at least one and sometimes several of the Uzwater master courses. In general these were not quite new, but adapted from already existing courses at the universities. That is why there are teachers and material available. Never the less it is high time to start producing and finalising the material as foreseen in the Uzwater project plan. This will by far be the most requiring job for this academic year.

All courses have a course team to develop the material. They also have a course description, sometimes rather detailed, to define what should be included in the course. After the discussion in Tashkent during the visit we have started to call this material compendia. A compendium is a small book in which the material is not new but a collection of texts from various sources. In this case material from the Baltic University Programme may be used, but it is clear that also Uzbek partners have much material. We estimated that a course compendium in general would include up to 200 pages.

According to the project plan the course compendia should be produced both in English and Russian. Many, however, also want to make it in Uzbek language. This is just fine, but for the EU partners it has to be produced also in English.

The compendia may be produced both in physical form, as a traditional book, or in digital format, pdf, or both. The Baltic University Programme at Uppsala University is prepared to help making these productions in a nice layout. A first version of the compendium for the Energy and Climate course has been produced. There is, however, more work to be done before it is ready.



A first, so far incomplete, version of the Uzwater compendium for the Energy and Climate course.