



Towards a more demand-driven geospatial workforce education/training system

The challenge

The geospatial industry is a rapidly growing industry and involves high-value, high-tech jobs, innovative services and fast evolving technologies.

In the European context, the need to prepare Europe's GIS&T workforce competently to answer to the requirements of the European knowledge society is driven by the objectives of several European strategies and policies.

Handling and using geospatial data and information requires **specific skills**, and the demand for well-trained GI professionals is high. Employers in the domain of GI often find it **difficult to find well-trained** and skilled employees, as geospatial workers appear to be inadequately prepared to answer to the challenges and opportunities of this field.

Objective

The main objective is to develop an up-to-date dynamic GIS&T BoK which is in line with the latest technological developments and takes into account the European dimension.

To achieve this objective, the following activities will be undertaken:

- ✓ Analysis of the current situation with focus on the demand of private and public sector as compared to the existing academic and vocational training offer;
- ✓ Revision of the content of the GIS&T BoK to bring it in line with technological developments, emerging new knowledge areas and European context;
- ✓ Development of toolsets and guidelines that allow to manage and use the GIS&T BoK for defining vocational and academic curricula, defining job profiles, etc.
- ✓ Testing of the GIS&T BoK, its toolsets and guidelines through participation of dedicated target groups from the private, public and academic sector;
- ✓ Promoting and disseminating the use of the dynamic GIS&T BoK, toolsets and guidelines

Target groups and impact

The target groups are mainly:

- ✓ the providers of higher education and vocational training in the domain of GIS&T
- ✓ the geospatial recruitment sector (companies, governmental organizations, research institutions, etc.)
- ✓ geospatial professionals
- ✓ students studying or with an interest in GIS&T

The GIS&T BoK and related tools will serve as a basis for:

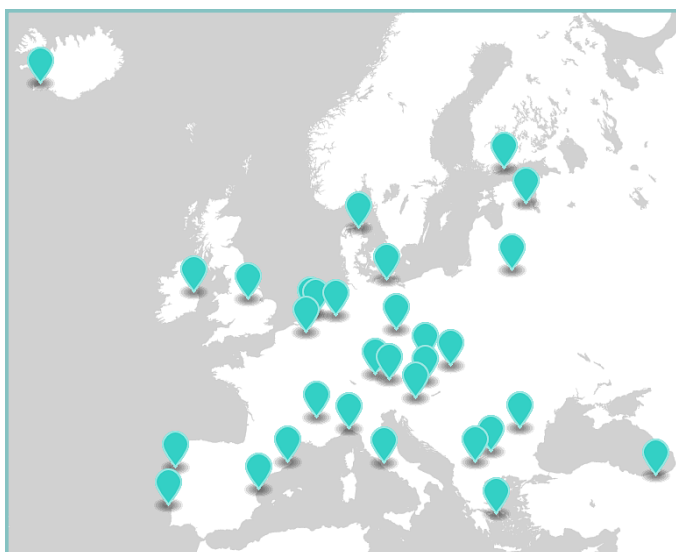
- ✓ curriculum planning
- ✓ program accreditation
- ✓ program evaluation and assessment
- ✓ curriculum revision
- ✓ program validation
- ✓ professional certification and employee screening.

Consortium

The GI-N2K project is an extensive network of 31 academic and non-academic partners from 25 countries linking up with associated partners from the broader industry, major GI associations and individual experts.

A key strength of the GI-N2K consortium is the involvement of several networks and associations in different countries.

This involvement ensures that the project development and results are endorsed and applied by the wide GI community not only during the project period but also beyond.



Main project features

- ✓ Start date October 2013
- ✓ Duration 36 months
- ✓ Coordinator Spatial Applications Division Leuven (SADL) of the KU Leuven
- ✓ Programme EU Lifelong Learning Programme - Erasmus Networks
- ✓ Website <http://www.gi-n2k.eu/>