



SuGIK

Sustainable Geographic
Information Knowledge
Transfer for Postgraduate
Education

Project Coordinator

Instituto Superior de Estatística
e Gestão de Informação –
Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal



Partners

Universidade Católica de Moçambique,
Mozambique

Universidade de Cabo Verde, Cape Verde

Associate

ESRI-Portugal, Sistemas e Informação
Geográfica S.A., Portugal

Building capacities in Geographic Information Science and Technology in Mozambique and Cape Verde

Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIS&T) applications can be very beneficial for managing and storing data in sectors crucial for development such as water supply, transport, land use or rural electrification. In Mozambique and Cape Verde, NGOs and private and public companies are increasingly counting on geoinformation to manage their infra-structure and activities. Yet the lack of highly qualified professionals in the field hinders the implementation of GIS&T in many areas where it could be operational and beneficial. The SuGIK project aims to increase the number of skilled geoinformation professionals in these counties by improving the quality of GIS&T postgraduate education at the Universidade de Cabo Verde – UniCV (Praia, Cape Verde) and the Universidade Católica de Moçambique – UCM (Beira, Mozambique).

The “Sustainable Geographic Information Knowledge Transfer for Postgraduate Education” (SuGIK) will enhance the management, academic, and technological capacity of the two universities by developing curricula and training local teachers in state-of-the-art resources and technologies for advanced education in GIS&T. The consortium will greatly benefit from the experience and knowledge in the field of GIS&T of the Instituto Superior de Estatística e Gestão de Informação from the Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

Enhancing post-graduate administration capacity

SuGIK's first set of activities will aim to strengthen administrative and technical capacities of the African partner universities to effectively implement a distance Master's programme in GIS&T. To this end, a management and administration model will be developed in cooperation with the European partner. Concretely, guidelines will be defined regarding the management and quality assurance, delivery and assessment of the future GIS&T postgraduate course. These activities will help support the transfer of expertise between the Portuguese partner and African staff.

For instance, a distance learning platform will be established at the African partner institutions. The role of this platform will be to support the traditional GIS&T postgraduate course contents delivery and lectures. Additionally, research planning cells necessary for the improvement of academic and teaching excellence will be set up at these two universities.

Adapting European curricula to African reality

The current postgraduate program in GIS&T offered by the Portuguese partner will be adapted to the needs and realities of the labour market in Mozambique and Cape Verde. Subsequently, curricula contents, educational approaches and GIS software and technologies will be thought to local GI teachers in Cape Verde and Mozambique.

During the project's first year, the African partner institutions will conduct a regional and local study on the necessities of professionals in different activities in the areas of geographic information. This will help identify the specific competencies that the GIS&T





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postgraduate course should promote and ensure an efficient reformulation of the contents that must be proposed for the second and third editions of the course. This process will ensure a complete revision of the original European Master's programme according to the regional/national needs in the area of geographic information science and technology.

Delivering a self-sustainable Master's programme

The postgraduate course will be organised into two semester modules distributed through five learning areas. During the first year, the course will be taught by Portuguese professors to a group of selected students from both African partner institutions. In the second year this course will be given by Portuguese teachers in a partnership with selected students from the first edition of the course.

Lastly, in the third year of the project, all teaching activities will be carried out by the best students of the first and second editions of the course. This will allow for a successful handover of responsibilities from the European to the African partners. It will lead to the ownership by the African professors of the teaching techniques and a capacity to run the programme without the help of the European partner.

Finally, the project partners will establish a long lasting and effective regional and national partnership network, promoting good practice, providing skills transfer opportunities, and encouraging economic development and cooperation through the use of Geographic Information Science teaching and learning for the sustainable development.

Meeting geoinformation professional needs

Extensive institutional networking and transfer of expertise and teaching methods will strengthen the administrative and academic skills of the management and academic staff of the partner institutions.

Enhanced teaching and curricula in GIS&T will in turn benefit graduate students in GI relevant areas and GI professionals in local and regional government departments in the both regions. Upon completion of the Master's programme, students will be able to apply their knowledge in key scientific and technological fields considered strategically relevant to support decision making in key social and environmental development areas.

In a broader sense, SuGIK will benefit the communities in Mozambique and Cape Verde as government departments, local authorities, private companies or NGOs will be able recruit highly qualified researchers and GI professionals to analyse key issues in disaster prevention, health, or public safety.

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