

Dear colleagues,

It is pleased to present the new issue of the newsletter GEOBIZ. In this issue, we bring an overview of the GEOBIZ project activities so far.

I draw attention to the SWARM Inter-project coaching webinar organized in the frame of the SWARM project where the Erasmus+ BESTSDI and GEOBIZ project was presented.

Also, from this issue, our colleague Iva Cibilić joined the editorial team of our newspaper, and I welcome her to the team.

I kindly invite all colleagues who wish to share with our readers' information about their activities, to send all contributions to [info@geobiz.eu](mailto:info@geobiz.eu).

Vesna Poslončec-Petrić

## GEOBIZ Project activities

### 2<sup>nd</sup> GEOBIZ Progress meeting

2nd GEOBIZ project progress meeting was held on 14th and 17th September 2020. This meeting was initially supposed to take place in Split, as part of a GEOBIZ Summer School, but due to a

pandemic caused by the new coronavirus, the summer school was postponed, and the meeting moved online. The organizers of this meeting were partners from the University of Zagreb.

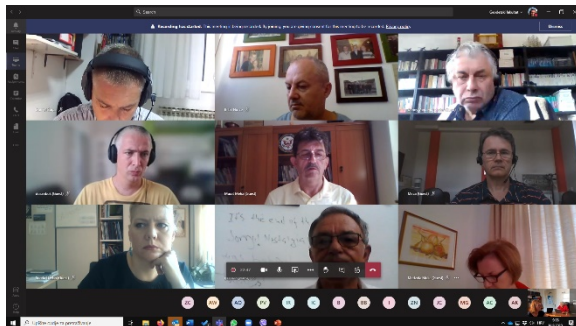


Photo of the 2nd progress meeting participants

Numerous topics were covered and the main ones were to discuss the acquisition of equipment and business-academia cooperation with related surveys and model designs, as well as establishment of a business-academia cooperation platform in geoinformatics. The final report and findings of geoinformatics curriculum survey were presented and other topics covered in the meeting were the training of teachers, dissemination and exploitation plan



and quality assessment and evaluation where the first QA report was presented to partners.

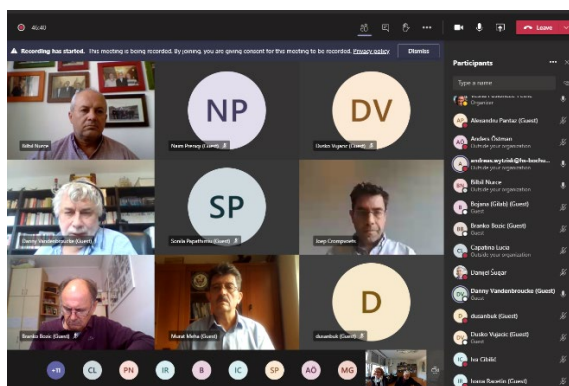
The online workshop was conducted through the MS Teams platform and attended by over 40 participants and the University of Zagreb organized it perfectly ensuring sessions to run smoothly and focused on content.

Zvonimir Nevistić, Zagreb

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## 5<sup>th</sup> PMB meeting

On October 1<sup>st</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> Project Management Board meeting took place in online mode. The meeting was attended by all PMB members and several task leaders invited in accordance with points of meeting agenda. Beside regular reporting on project progress by Project coordinator and Work package leaders meeting focus was modified concept of training for trainers (Task 2.5) presented by task leader Branko Božić.



The concept due to shifting first training in second year of the project lifetime introduced pre-trainings which will take place in December 2020 and March 2021 during regular Progress meetings. At the same time training content for the first pre-training has been defined and discussed. Second task of special interest was Acquisition and installation of equipment (Task

2.6) where task leader Danijel Šugar presented status of submitted purchase specifications. Presentation has been followed by thorough discussion as a result of joint effort to define equipment which will be purchased and best fit to the partners need for modernized courses.

PMB members have also adopted set of deliverables which have been delivered by tasks between two PMB meetings. Those deliverables are D1.1 Business and users need survey, D1.2 Survey on business-academia cooperation practices, D1.3 Geoinformatics/Geodesy curriculum analysis and comparison with EU models and D4.2.1 1<sup>st</sup> Monitoring project success indicators report for period M1-M6. Adopting them Work package 1 has fulfilled its obligations. However, mentioned reports, especially D1.1 and D1.2 are understood as a living documents and they will be further upgraded. PMB has also adopted Q2 Project progress meeting (Novi Sad) and Q3 Project progress meeting (Split) minutes. At the end, plan for coming project meetings and events till end of the year has been defined including PMB meeting in November, Project Advisory Committee meeting also in November and Q4 Project progress meeting (Leuven) at the beginning of November.

*Željko Bačić, Zagreb*

## SWARM Inter-project coaching, webinar

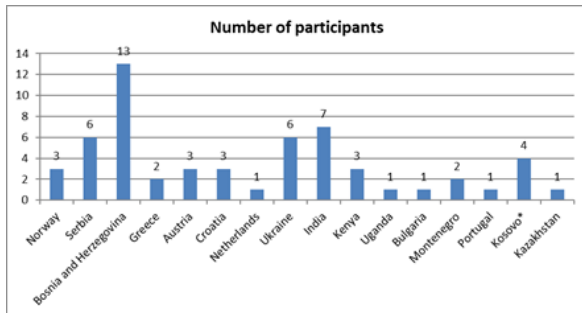
The inter-project coaching is an effort of different scientific groups from the water sector that aims to further discuss water resources management issues met through various implemented or on-going projects. It involved 18 panellists from different universities and companies.

The purposes of the meeting were to share projects' outcomes and future ideas and focused on knowledge exchanges with partners.

The meeting highlighted innovation in teaching and learning methods as well as achieved synergy with a non-academic sector.

The inter-project coaching meeting presented different interdisciplinary research experiences, in order to create a dialogue to point up solutions and synergies related to sustainable and fair water resources management, highlighting strengths, potentialities, and critical issues.

The webinar was attended 57 participants from 16 countries (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Ukraine, Uganda).



This meeting helped us to identify good practices, synergies, challenges in the implementation of the participating projects. The inter-project coaching meeting was a good initiative for the monitoring and quality assurance of the project.

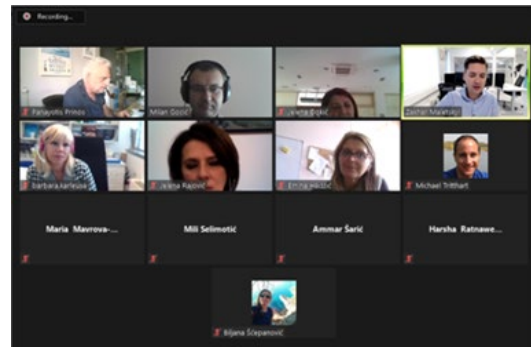
### Main points of discussion and conclusions

Strengthening quality of higher education in different fields such as natural disasters risk management, transport and traffic engineering, water resources management, electrical engineering enables students to be competitive at the labor market and in society in general by

- developing new or modernizing existing curricula for undergraduate and master studies in accordance with Bologna requirements and national accreditation standards,

- retraining teaching staff with up-to-date knowledge to teach on the new or improved study programmes,
- introducing an advanced teaching and learning process,
- introducing new laboratory equipment, library units and software necessary for the continuation of study programmes,
- creating an internship programme in cooperation with industry and SME sector,
- involving experts from industry in the education process.

Students and staff mobilities are an important component of each Partner Country partners for trainings, internships and, in the case of Programme Country partners, for transfer of experience and knowledge. Also, strengthening of the International Relation Offices and adoption of necessary procedures (mobility action plans, guidelines for student and staff exchange and strategy of internationalization) should increase the internationalization of the Partner HEIs. Partner HEIs should strive for obtaining the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education. Improvement of supervision quality and access to modern supervision techniques enables stronger internationalization.



Developed an open online platform (in English and local language) including e-courses with virtual laboratories can be used by students and professors in WB region. Especially, it can be usable in situation such as the COVID-19 pandemical. ICT tools, such as e-learning

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platforms and gamified content and applications, are expected to play a pivotal role in the public's behavioural modification and awareness.

We are especially pleased that our two projects were presented at the webinar:

- *Western Balkans Academic Education Evolution and Professional's Sustainable Training for Spatial Data Infrastructures*

(BESTSDI) – by Ammar Šarić, University of Sarajevo

- *Business driven problem-based learning for academic excellence in geoinformatics (GEOBIZ);* Emina Hadžić, University of Sarajevo.

More information is available [here](#).

*Emina Hadzic Dreznjak, Sarajevo*

## GEOBIZ dissemination diary

### Academia-Business Survey on Needs and Cooperation in Field of Spatial Data Infrastructures

Interesting and relevant document: Survey report - Academia-Business Survey on Needs and Cooperation in Field of Spatial Data Infrastructures (2020). This survey was undertaken as part of the Erasmus+ project BESTSDI – 'Western Balkans Academic Education Evolution and Professional's Sustainable Training for Spatial Data Infrastructures' together with EuroSDR.

Find out more [here](#).

*Vesna Poslončec-Petrić, Zagreb*



European Spatial Data Research

2002-10

Academia-Business Survey  
on Needs and Cooperation  
in Field of Spatial Data Infrastructures  
BESTSDI / EuroSDR  
Zeljko Cernjovski, Zeljko Bacic, Vesna Posloncec-Petric

Survey Report

### Book: Basics of Spatial Data Infrastructure (Osnove Infrastrukture prostornih podataka)

[Osnove Infrastrukture prostornih podataka](#) (Basics of Spatial Data Infrastructure, ISBN: 978-9958-27-414-5) is a book by Slobodanka Ključanin, Vesna Posloncec-Petric, Zeljko Bacic.

This book was published as part of the Western Balkans Academic Education Evolution and Professional's Sustainable Training for Spatial Data Infrastructures BESTSDI project and is now available [online](#).

*Vesna Poslončec-Petrić, Zagreb*



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## Don't miss it...

### EO4GEO Newsletter #6

A new issue [EO4GEO Newsletter #6](#) has been published in which you can read:

- Update on the project outcomes
- New Associated partner in the Consortium
- EO4GEO Events and News
- Good reads.

With a handful of news about the activities of the Erasmus + EO4GEO project, I would like to draw your attention to the article: "EO4GEO educational offer for Earth Observation and related curricula" prepared by our small EO4GEO-GEOF team.

[View this email in your browser](#)

EO4GEO Newsletter #6



*Foster the growth of the European EO/GI sector  
ensuring a workforce with the  
right skills, in the right place, at the right time.*

## Impressum

*GEOBIZ news is an e-newsletter of "Business driven problem-based learning for academic excellence in geoinformatics" - GEOBIZ project. This newsletter is published by GEOBIZ Project office with the support of the Erasmus+ program: Higher Education – International Capacity Building (N° 610225-EPP-1-2019-1-HR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP)<sup>1</sup>.*

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<sup>1</sup> *This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This e-newsletter reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.*