

Minutes - Project Management Meeting (11)

Date: March 10, 2023 - 12.00 (CET)

Place: Videoconference by MS Teams

Agenda

- State of the midterm report, amendment of PA with KSTU and 2nd installment
- Training in NUACA + External evaluation (18-25 April)
- Draft agenda for training in KSTU/OshTU + GISCA (30 May – 9 June)
- Preparation of Workshop on innovation in KTH (19-23 June)
- Updates of a joint degree in Armenia and Ph.D. program application in OshTU
- Other topics

Participants at the Project Management Meeting

UPV	Luis A. Ruiz Jesús Torralba Juan Pedro Carbonell
KTH	Huaan Fan
VUB	Jonathan Chan Carlos Machado
UL	Anka Lisec
NUACA	-
YSU	Arsen Aproyan Artak Piloyan
ANAU	Naira Aloyan Gurgen Eghiazaryan Armine Hambardzumyan
CCRoA	Marine Sahakyan
MESCS	-
KSTU (KSUCTA-KSMU)	Akylbek Chymyrov Bekbolot Attakurov
OshTU	Gulshaan Ergeshova
Goscartography	Ulukbek Asanakunov
MoES	Ainura Isiralieva

Minutes

- State of the midterm report, amendment of PA with KSTU and 2nd installment

The coordinator explains that the evaluation of the mid-term report has not yet been completed because the documents certifying the fusion of Kyrgyz Universities KSUCTA and KSMU into KSTU have not finalized yet, so the second payment is being delayed. KSTU is waiting for a letter from the Ministry of Justice of KG, the last

required document. It should be signed in 3 or 4 days. After this, KSTU will send it to the EACEA, then the mid-term report will be evaluated and the second payment will be sent to the coordinator. Finally, UPV will process the transfers to the partners as soon as possible. All this procedure will take some time.

- *Training (Cities) in NUACA + External evaluation (18-25 April)*

This uncertainty makes not possible that the transfer can be done on time for the training in NUACA. Kyrgyz partners will not be able to travel if the money is not transferred.

Therefore, training (Cities) in NUACA is postponed to September or October.

Regarding the external evaluation, the initial proposal was to subcontract 3 experts to attend one week to Yerevan and Bishkek. This is not feasible in such a short period of time. The coordinator proposes to change the strategy, only one expert in quality control will be subcontracted, starting to work online and attending to one or two events during the next months, afterwards she/he will elaborate an evaluation report. VUB commits to start looking for at least three potential external evaluators, then only one will be selected and a service contract will be prepared.

- *Draft agenda for training in KSTU/OshTU + GISCA (30 May – 9 June)*

KSTU provided a draft agenda (attached) for the technical training (Environment) to be held in OshTU (Osh) and KSTU (Bishkek and Cholponata, Issyk-Kul Lake), Kyrgyzstan. The following tentative schedule is proposed:

- Participation at GIS Central Asia (GISCA) 2023 Conference: 30-31/05
- Technical training in Environment at OshTU: 1-3/06
- Technical training in Bishkek and Cholponata: 5-9/06

During the first day of GISCA partners can do technical presentations, the second day will be devoted for academic presentations (new PhD degrees developed, etc.). The coordinator encourages the partners to prepare a presentation based on their research work.

The technical training in Osh/Bishkek will be conducted by the European partners as well as by the Armenian and Kyrgyz partners. Several parallel sessions can be organize (e.g., for KSTU teachers, students, Goshcartography technicians). In addition, a meeting with professors and university administration will be held in OshTU to monitor the logistics of the new PhD program, and propose collaborations, in particular during the first year. In Issyk-Kul we will organize a meeting to advance and monitor the new PhD curricula.

- *Preparation of Workshop on innovation in KTH (19-23 June)*

KTH is working on the workshop agenda. The coordinator proposes some session describing the innovation and collaboration between KTH, partner companies and administration.

Visa applications should start as soon as possible. ANAU has an appointment at the German embassy on June 2, just when the training is held in Osh. Two solutions are proposed: (I) Write a letter signed by the project coordinator and the University Rector to try to change the appointment at the embassy; (II) Have the people traveling to the training in Kyrgyzstan be different from the people traveling to Sweden.

- *Updates of a joint degree in Armenia and Ph.D. program application in OshTU*

OshTU Ph.D. program has been approved by the Ministry, and it will start in the Fall semester 2023 (normally PhD programs start in November-December).

KSTU has already started the new Ph.D. programs. They will ask European partners for some online classes for next academic year. KTH offers to teach students while the training is taking place in Kyrgyzstan.

The Armenian Ministry of Education has approved, through an official signed document, the pilot join PhD program in GIT, and it will start in October, 2023. The Ministry of Education will also provide 3 scholarships for students, one per university. The Cadastre Committee, as a government body, expresses its willingness to support this new program in the scope of its capabilities, the scope of support will be determined during further working discussions.

- *Other topics*

Depending on the agenda, the 12th Project Management Meeting will be in Bishkek or Stockholm.

Akylbek introduces the new contact person of MoES, Ms. Ainura Isiralieva, Senior Specialist of the Science Department, Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, to the partners.