

Teaching Geodata Management in a multidisciplinary distance learning environment

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Abstract

- ***Introduction***

Geoinformation technologies may perform critical tasks and assist processes belonging to a wide range of geoscientific disciplines and engineering specializations. The applicability and usability of such technologies depends on the needs, the particularities and the constraints of the exact domain of application. Therefore, in educational terms, learning material related to Geoinformation technologies has to be appropriately adapted to the learners educational profile.

- ***Methods***

In the case of the EnvYJobs ERASMUS+ project, over a hundred postgraduate and undergraduate students from 3 different EU countries and different technical knowledge backgrounds had to be taught a series of electronic courses via a dedicated for this reason virtual learning environment. The course Geoinformation Technologies for Environmental Changes and Pressures Assessment (GEPKA) aimed to introduce to the learners typical actions over geospatial data as well as to familiarize them with current trends worldwide regarding open data and services.

- ***Results and significance***

In specific, three critical actions were demonstrated and relevant experiences were gained by use of free and open source desktop and Web Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software: a) gathering, b) processing and c) publishing of geospatial data.

- ***Conclusion***

In addition, participants were informed about current trends and policies and were encouraged to exclusively work over the Web, to exploit free and open source software, to exploit free geospatial data repositories, to reuse free geospatial web services and to be oriented towards migrating geoprocesses and gegorithms in the cloud.

Keywords: *Geoinformation Technologies, Geodata Management, ERASMUS+, envYJobs, Free and Open Source Software*

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