

HEI-GIS capacities in Geography education at the University of Dar es Salaam (Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, HEI-ICI instrument 2013-2015)

Last decades have shown how rapidly information societies have diversified and how our economies, decision-making and well-being in its multitude of aspects have become dependent of fluent access to reliable and up-to-date spatial information. The science and practice of using Geographical Information has rooted its way into higher education institutions and their curricula world-wide. For academic discipline Geography, GIS education has become one of the key fields of capacity development since it allows practical means to explore world causalities, dynamics between people and their environment, analysis of how the nature changes and how societies evolve.

University of Dar es Salaam and University of Turku and working together in this HEI-ICI project and develop *higher education teaching, learning and infrastructural capacities in Geographical Information Systems (GIS)* at the Department of Geography of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) through three main themes of curricula refinement and pedagogical and infrastructural capacity building



After the completion of the project, UDSM will have two renewed curricula with GIS, short-term publicly offered GIS course and 10 GIS experts (4 senior, 6 junior) who have up-dated theoretical and practical skills in GIS . GIS education is strengthened in theoretical and practical elements and is based on diverse pedagogical teaching methods, which support students' learning throughout their degree. Evaluation and feedback mechanisms for teaching exist and GIS teaching laboratory (incl. hardware, software, maintenance staff) has been established with new GIS course and field work materials and equipment kits (incl. GPS devices). New online GIS teaching materials are accessible to teachers and students and stakeholder networks have been established and are used in GIS capacity development at UDSM and widely in the society.

“Umoja ni nguvu, utengano ni udhaifu” - There is strength in unity, but weakness in division”

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