



Branislav Drašković
University of East Sarajevo
Spasovdanska 10
Istočno Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

HYDROAID 2011 – TRAINING FOR DEVELOPMENT

FINAL REPORT

During the period from 2011 to 2013 I have attended training program organized by Hydroaid. This is a complex training program made of 3 phases: Distance learning courses, Traineeship in Turin and Dissemination programme.

FIRST PHASE - DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

The first phase focused on online courses which provides key principles and useful guidelines on developing and implementing management plans concerning river basins and urban solid waste. There were six subject divided into different pedagogic units, each focused on one specific topic. The courses had aim to provide practical and technical tools for the management of environmental issues at urban scale. I have successfully completed the courses which can help me in future regarding managing process of sustainable development.

SECOND PHASE - TRAINEESHIP IN TURIN

In the period from 11th March to 11th June 2013 I have attended second phase of "Training for Development 2011" project which include three months traineeship in ITHACA research centre in Turin.

I was involved in projects: Water Bodies Automatic Classification and Extreme Rainfall Detection Systems and also introduced to other projects and activities which ITHACA carried out. The main objectives of these projects was early warning and flood protection (and other natural disasters) and fast mapping of vulnerable areas. My supervisor was Dr Pierro Boccoardo, Director of ITHACA and Associate Professor in the field of surveying and mapping at the Politecnico di Torino. Also, I worked closely with researchers Dr. Franka Disabato and Dr. Adriana Albaneze, as well as other researchers involved on other projects, Dr. Fabio Giulio Tonolo, Dr. Eros Agosto, Dr. Andrea Ajmar, Paolo Pasquali et al.

One of the most interesting topics during traineeship was Web GIS applications using free and open source software tools (QGIS, Geoserver etc.).



THIRD PHASE - DISSEMINATION PROGRAMME

This very important phase is related to benefits of work in previous phases. After coming back to University in East Sarajevo I have started to work with my colleagues and students on spreading the knowledge acquired in phases 1 and 2.

We established a GIS centre at the Department of Geography, whose main purpose is to work on projects with GIS application in various subjects: water utilities, hydrology, transportation and other fields.

Our first project was cooperation with regional Nokia Centre in Zagreb (Croatia). We have been working on updating local transport maps. This project is based on HERE Map Creator (<http://here.com/>), an Internet-based mapping program devised by Nokia. There were 30 students involved in first phase of updating. Some of them awarded with NOKIA certificate. We plan to continue work during next semester and improve our level online-map updating skills. This project had large impact in academic circles and even New York Times wrote about this.¹

We have also established contact with the local community (municipality of Pale and the City of East Sarajevo) and next step is work on creating local interactive maps and spatial databases. In the future I have plan to work on subjects related to Water Bodies Automatic Classification and Extreme Rainfall Detection Systems, projects which I have participated in ITHACA. It will be real challenge for me considering level of equipment and lack of money in developing country such is Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, there are various ways for applying GIS and remote sensing in management of flooded area. Perhaps most important is early flood detection which is aimed at the production of scenarios for flood events, in order to provide information in real-time and flooded zones mapping.

Finally, I would like to conclude that training programme was very successful and useful. Besides me, benefits will have University of East Sarajevo, especially students of Department of Geography, considering transfer of acquired knowledge. Also, local community will have benefits thanks to various projects such is creating digital maps and local spatial databases.

Once more I would like to express my appreciation to Hydroaid for great experience and personal education and improvement. Also, I want to thank to Hydroaid's staff for hospitality during the second phase in Turin. It was really great time for me and I hope we will find way to stay connected for a long time.

Best wishes,
Branislav Drašković
5th December 2013.

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/12/technology/nokia-map-project-sheds-light-on-belaruss-roads.html?pagewanted=all&_r=3&

Also, here is article on University web site: <http://www.ues.rs.ba/cir/filozofski-fakultet/vijesti/rad-na-nokia-mapama>