

“Sharing best practices to enhance geoskills for the spatially enabled society”

For the 21st century e-skills are a key determinant for the future growth and development of the global economy. The European market has to deal with a range of specific e-skills shortages, gaps and mismatches. The European Commission has developed an e-skills strategy to address this. The GeoSkills Plus project focused on these mismatches for the geospatial sector in Europe.

The project created opportunities to address the quantitative and qualitative gaps in relation to the education sector and the demand of the labourmarket of geospatial specialists and to offer solutions to bridge the gaps, such as:

- Imbalance between the number of students and labour market demand
- Discrepancy between expectations of the job market (employers), student professional capabilities (qualifications, knowledge, practical skills, etc), and the level of motivation for lifelong learning,
- Variance between rapid technological developments in industry and slow evolution of study curricula
- Dissonance between narrow geo-specialised study programmes and multi-disciplinary needs of the market
- Inadequacy between locally educated students and the internationalization of the geo-market.

The project was executed from October 2013 until October 2015. The main *outcomes* of the project include:

- the identification of the gaps that exist in the geospatial market in Europe that prevent the system from working properly.
- a cooperation model to be used across the geospatial marketplace, and
- strategies for raising awareness for solving the mismatch between the market requirements on labour force and number of students provided by geospatial vocational education and training institutions.

In this paper the results of the GeoSkills Plus project are described to strengthen and promote good practices in professional geospatial education. The lessons learned from the European project will be extracted to a global level.

Paula Dijkstra
Regional Manager - Kadaster International
P.O. Box 9046
7300 GH Apeldoorn
The Netherlands
+31 88 183 55 09
+31 6 52 06 23 23 (cell)
paula.dijkstra@kadaster.nl
paula.dijkstra (skype)