

## Bring training of experts in GIS to the professional demand

The research group GEOTEC (Geospatial Technologies Research) of the Universitat Jaume I of Castellón, participates in a European project that aims to align the training of experts in GIS to the actual market demand. Once analysed the market needs and the training offer at an early stage, in the coming months there will be advances in the review of the knowledge to be acquired by future professionals in Geographic Information to respond to the current needs. The contribution of the UJI researchers to the project will focus on developing a set of tools to facilitate access to the body of defined knowledge by new technologies.

The field of Geographic Information, in which geographers, cartographers, experts in GIS and teachers, among others, are included, is in full expansion, mainly for two reasons: increased technological capabilities for data generation with a geographic component, and the enormous possibilities of analysis that maps offer. Therefore, GIS is considered a growing industry with high economic potential that is already reporting and will report extensive job opportunities.

The GI-N2K (Geographic Information: Need to Know) project aims to improve the training of future professionals in Geographic Information for their leap to the labour market, aligning labour demand and supply with the curriculum development in the field of Geographic Information. The project, at its halfway point, is funded by the Erasmus Longlife Learning Program of the European Commission for the years 2013-2016 and counts with the participation of 31 partners from 25 different countries, among which is the Universitat Jaume I.

The main objective of the GI-N2K project is the revision of the first version of the document GIS&T BoK (GIS&T BoK - Geographic Information Science and Technology Body of Knowledge) elaborated in 2006 by the University

Consortium for Science of the US Geographic Information. In addition to updating the contents, the project also aims to incorporate aspects that are specific to Europe, such as those relating to the INSPIRE directive laying down general rules for the establishment of an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community.

In the coming months, participants and experts in the field will discuss the measures needed to adjust the body of knowledge in geographical matters to the technological, labour and social current context. Similarly, based on different cases of real study, the contents of the new GIS&T Bok resulting will be validated in specific professional contexts.

During the first phase of the project were analysed the competencies and skills demanded by the market to be compared with the current training offer in order to, in this new phase, review the contents of the body of knowledge in geographic information.

Meanwhile, investigators and researchers of the group Geotec at the Institute of New Imaging Technologies (INIT) of the UJI, who participate in the project will contribute to the development of a set of tools to navigate and explore the body of knowledge, define curricula and design learning pathways and specific courses. Furthermore, the tool will allow defining professional profiles, establishing an innovative way to prepare future professionals in geographic information for the job market.