

DAAD Programme „Higher education cooperation with Jordan and Lebanon to support Syrian university staff”

Project profile

Title of the project:

GEO-IT - The Technology of Data Acquisition for Sustainable Development and Crisis Management

Name of the German university(ies):

Freie Universität Berlin

Project Manager(s):

Prof. Dr. Brigitta Schütt, Dr. Wahib Sahwan

Partner country/countries:

Jordan and Lebanon

Partner university(ies):

Yarmouk University, Jordan

RCSSTEWA (Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia-Jordan), Jordan

National Council for Scientific Research, Lebanon

Brief description / project goals:

In the past few decades, the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean have undergone economic developments, which, along with the rapid population growth and the ramifications of climate change, pose a major challenge for the region in general and for Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, in particular.

In order to address these challenges, a good cooperation with the various planning and execution levels is required. Geoinformatics has proven to be an adequate tool for providing important, up-to-date spatial information of the location as well as on the development of the land use of a region. As part of the project, a network of various universities and specialist representatives from the three countries Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, is to be formed and expanded so that different regional experts from the respective countries can be brought in to share and further their academic qualifications. The project particularly seeks to nurture and advance the academic skills and qualifications of the Syrian scientists involved in the project. The project offers participants, especially those with a background in earth and environmental sciences such as Geography, Geology, Agriculture, Cultural Heritage, and Civil Engineering, the opportunity to further develop their training, skills, and knowledge in this area and, when possible, to contribute to developing and updating the curricula. This goal is to be achieved through the application of curricular components of research-oriented teaching. In small groups, the risks in areas such as land degradation, water supply, and cultural heritage should be evaluated. In this connection, Geography forms the basis for the interdisciplinary consideration of these topics from all perspectives. Theoretical teaching and practical application will be delivered within the framework of the project, using digital platforms. Through access to online platforms such as Google Earth Engine and QGIS (free of charge) as well as ArcGIS Online and Sentinel Hub (commercial), joint work on projects shall be carried out. Furthermore, teaching and learning materials will be made freely accessible in the central content management system (CMS) of the Free University of Berlin.

Links: <https://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/en/v/geo-it>