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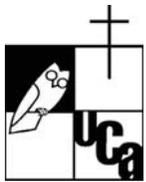
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WHAT IS CAPWEM?

The project „**C**apacity Development in **W**ater Engineering and **E**nvironmental **M**anagement“ is a joint project involving universities in Latin America and Europe. Under the direction of Siegen, universities from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Paraguay and Portugal are engaged in the project.



An overall objective of the project is to establish and to improve the cooperation between the universities in Latin America and Europe, to derive advantage from this cooperation in the field of higher education and to develop common research projects. Regarding water resources and environmental management, the following topics are given priority within the project:

- Reduction and avoidance of water scarcity,
- Improvement of water quality,
- Improvement of availability and access to drinking water as well as
- Disaster prevention and management.

CapWEM runs from 2011 to 2013 and is supported by European Union funds within the scope of the ALFA III programme.

INITIAL SITUATION

Water is one of the most important topics of the 21st century even in Latin America. Here water scarcity and water quality as well as availability and access to drinking water are the most important key words.

In Latin America huge problems are:

- an inappropriate amount of wastewater treatment plants and a lack of qualified technical personnel for their operation,
- a lack of environmental awareness in society as well as in many areas of the economy,
- the availability and access to drinking water.



Only the development of highly skilled and qualified personnel enables finding appropriate problem solutions in the countries of Latin America. At present, lots of universities do not react quickly enough to the changing demands which is the reason why university graduates in the fields of water and environmental management are inadequately prepared to satisfy the steadily increasing requirements. Therefore, the project focuses on the improvement of tertiary education.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The CapWEM project provides help for self-help in order that the countries in Latin America are able to better face these challenges. Based on this approach, four specific objectives can be defined:

A: IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION

Analyzing existing study programmes at partner universities and developing target-oriented proposals to improve the training content, teaching curricula as well as further education programmes. Developing a PhD programme and concepts for lifelong learning.

B: BOOSTING LINKS BETWEEN HEI'S, PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Establishing a research transfer centre in El Salvador to improve the national and international knowledge exchange as well as developing a concept for a sustainable institutional cooperation between higher education institutions, authorities and the private sector.

C: STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Critical reviewing of technical guidelines and norms as well as developing and implementing specific concepts for environmental education adapted to different social classes in order to make people sensitive to environmental problems and to raise environmental awareness.

D: PREVENTING AND MANAGING DISASTERS

Developing regional adapted disaster protection concepts and carrying out a risk analysis in the scope of a pilot project placing particular emphasis on transboundary requirements and cooperation in the river basin.