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# Strengthening Higher Education in the Water Sector for Climate Resilience and Security in Central Asia (HWCA)

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## Résumé

As part of the ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE project (Capacity Building in Higher Education), three Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from the European Union and eleven from Central Asia (CA, i.e. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) are working together to improve the relevance, quality and responsiveness of Master's programmes in water governance and diplomacy offered by the latter. Central Asian university teaching staff receive training in the new curricula. These programmes will help to train a new generation of experts who are prepared to tackle the challenges faced by the water sector. Increased mobility and the development of a regional programme for continuous professional training and research will ensure the sustainability of the project's results. These modernised courses will boost graduates' employability and open up attractive career opportunities.

The HWCA project particularly aims to:

- Increase the capacity of higher education institutions (HEIs) and state bodies responsible for the water sectors of Central Asian countries, particularly with regard to water governance and water diplomacy, by improving the relevance, quality and responsiveness of MA/MSc curricula to issues raised in the governance and use of water resources.

- Revise existing curricula or develop new ones in two specialisations: water governance and water diplomacy. Start the accreditation process for new MA/MSc courses and update the selection criteria for students based on a review of the curricula and needs assessment.

- Improve the quality of higher education in the CA countries, increasing its importance to the labour market and society, and raising the visibility and competitiveness of universities' research, innovation and international cooperation activities.

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- Train a new generation of experts prepared to tackle the challenges faced by the water sector.

- Upgrade proficiency in English for faculty and students.

The communication will focus on the theme of how science can support the work of water diplomats. This will focus, on the one hand, on the tools offered by climate and environmental science, and, on the other hand, on understanding the most important conclusions of climate and environmental science and using remote sensing imagery to prepare for and conduct negotiations on water and the environment.

**Mots-Clés:** water, education, governance, diplomacy, transboundary, arid, Aral Sea, remote sensing