



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Asia-Link Programme

**Phase III**

# **INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT 1**

**A Euro-Asia Partnership for Development Human Resource Capacity of  
Engineering Education in Afghanistan**

**Reference: 123738/Contact 2007/147-063**

|                    |   |
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| Name of applicant: | Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava |
|--------------------|---|

Bratislava , April 2009

*INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT 1 of the project 123738/Contract 2007/147-063*

## **1. Description**

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**1.1 Name of beneficiary of grant contract:** Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava

**1.2 Name and title of the Contact person:**

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**1.3: Name of partners in the Action:**

Vienna University of Technology

Asian Institute of Technology

Kabul Polytechnic University

Herat University

**1.4: Title of the Action:**

A Euro-Asia Partnership for Development Human Resource Capacity of Engineering  
Education in Afghanistan

**1.5 Contract Number:** 123738/Contact 2007/147-063

**1.6 Start date and end date of the reporting period:** 01/01/2008-28/02/2009

**1.7 Target countries or regions:** Afghanistan, Thailand, Slovakia, Austria

**1.8 Final beneficiaries &/or target groups:**

Afghan universities, Afghan university staff, Afghan students

**1.9 Countries in which the activities take place:** Same as in 1.7

## **2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities**

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### **2. 1: Activities and results**

The project activities were divided into five packages in the project proposal. Each activity packages was consisted of a number of partial activities. In this section of the report the current state of activities planed for the first period of the project implementation is described. Results achieved in the frame of individual activity package are reported.

#### ***Activity package 1: workshops of partnership's management committee***

##### **Activity 1.1:** first workshop of the partnership's management committee

The first key activity was organization of the first workshop of the partnership's management committee. This workshop was held in Bratislava from March 2. 2008 to March 8, 2009. The following representatives of all partners involved in the project have taken part in this workshop.

1-From the Slovak University of Technology:

Prof. Ing. Vladimír Bálež, Dr.Sc, Rector of STU

Ing. Juma Haydary, PhD. Project coordinator

Ing. Pavel Timár, PhD. Project leader from STU

2-From the Vienna University of Technology:

Dr. Peter Gabgo, project manager

3- From the Asian Institute of Technology

Dr. Oleg Shipin, project manager

Jean-Philippe Thouard, project manager

4- From the Kabul Polytechnic University

-Dr. Mir Fakhrudin Sayed, Chancellor of KPU

5- From the Herat University

- Dr. Mohammad Naim Assad, President of Herat University

The aim of this workshop was to set up project structures in detail and to identify the relevant knowledge and possibilities of the partners that can be utilized in the most target-oriented way.

During this workshop, all project objectives and activities required for their achievement was discussed. The responsibilities of each partner was determined in detail. The results of the workshop was concluded in a partnership agreement (ANNEX II) and minutes of the workshop (ANNEX III) and signed by the representatives of all partners. The Action plan of the project for the first period was slightly modified. The time for realization of project activities planed for the first period was prolonged by around 3 months, because the start time of a major part of the project activities was delayed. The funds paid by grant authorities have reached our account at the end of February 2008.

The partnership agreement describes the terms, conditions, partners responsibilities and other details of the Implementation of the Project. The partners agreed the Co-financing of the project by the Strengthening Higher Education Program (SHEP) project of the world bank (Budget line of the Herat university and Kabul polytechnic university) and by the Slovak university of technology as it is specified in the partnership agreement.

During a meeting by participation of STU leadership, each partner has represent his institution, facilities and possibilities to cooperate in the field of project objectives.

The organization of this workshop and all related key activities was provided by the applicant.

The results that were expected from this activity were achieved completely. It was a very successful start of project implementation.

[Project website](#) were designed. Online informing of partners and public about the project activities was provided via the project website. Online organisation of project activities such as conferences and seminars was another aim of designing the project website. .

**Activity 1.2:** second workshop of the partnership's management committee

The second partnership's management committee workshop was organized from the February 13 to February 18, 2009 at the Asian institute of Technology in Thailand. The objective of this workshop was evaluation of the project's first stage and specification of the work plan for the next period. All preparation works for implementation of Master degree courses, short training programs, and preparation works of the first conference organized in the frame of this project in Kabul "Current trends in civil engineering and architecture" and also the status of realization of these activities were evaluated.

Each partner have prepared a progress report on its activities for project implementation. These reports were evaluated by the management committee. The PMC decisions have been Collected in PMC minutes (Annex IV). The most important recommendations on corrections in the project work plan are:

**In stead of 3 small scientific seminars in Kabul, 2 large international conferences will be organized.**

The First International conference is prepared to be held in Kabul from March 28 to April 1 "Current trends in civil engineering and architecture", The second conference will be organized in Hanoi in April 2010. The subject of the conference will be "Energy Sources"

Next meeting of project partners will be held in Vienna and will be connected with scientific seminar "Management of universities". Estimated time is the end of November -first week of December 2009

The second partnership's management committee workshop was organized by partner 3 , AIT.

**Activity package 2: Master degree study of Afghan students at partners universities**

One of the major problems, which have faced Afghan universities is a low qualification level of the staff. One of the main objectives of the proposed project is contribute to an improvement of this situation by providing master degree courses for young Afghan teachers with bachelor degree. All activities related to the preparation and realization of these courses are included in this activity package and explained as follows:

**Activity 2.1:** Specification of specializations for Master degree study

During the first workshop of the partnership's management committee based on the priorities of beneficiaries (Afghan partners) and possibilities of partners, 10 MSc posts were specified. For each MSc post, also the place of its realization (departments of the partners universities) were selected. The selected posts and departments are as follows:

2 Master degree posts in Urban planning and Architecture, at the faculty of architecture, Slovak university of technology. For KPU teachers

2 Master degree posts in construction architecture, at the faculty of civil engineering, Slovak university of technology, for Herat university teachers

2 Master degree posts in water supply and environmental engineering, at the Asian institute of technology, for KPU teachers

4 Master degree posts chemical and biochemical engineering, at the faculty of chemical and food technology, Slovak university of technology. For teachers from KPU.

#### **Activity 2.2:** Requirements for MSc. students

After specification of specializations and departments, each department has prepared its requirement for accepting MSc students. The Slovak university of technology departments have prepared the tests for entry examinations.

The project team have assembled the requirements and conditions of each department for MSc study.

#### **Activity 2.3:** Publication of the action at the Afghan partner universities

The information about the possibility of study master degree abroad was published at the Afghan partner universities. Each MSc. post with requirements and conditions for candidates were described. All persons interested were requested to submit their applications together with all required documents. One of the conditions for selection candidates were the signature of an agreement between the candidate and the Afghan university, which binds the candidate to work for the university for a specific period after finishing his study. The candidates were informed about this condition.

#### **Activity 2.4:** Selection of students for Master degree study

All persons interested for master degree study within the project had the possibility to submit his/her application.

The entry tests for MSc. courses at STU were realized in June 2008 at KPU and HU. However the tests were evaluated by the relevant department of STU. The following persons were selected for MSc. Study at STU:

1. **Ahmad Arash Baheej**, from Herat University accepted at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia
2. **Ahmad Waheed Khatibi**, from Herat University accepted at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia
3. **Mirwais Fazli** from Kabul Polytechnic University accepted at the Faculty of Architecture, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia
4. **Mohammad Yonus Wafa**, from Kabul Polytechnic University accepted at Faculty of Architecture, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia
5. **Faridullah Hashim** from Kabul Polytechnic University accepted at the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia

6. **Abdul Wasim Noori** from Kabul Polytechnic University accepted at the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia
7. **Mohammad Emal Qazizada** from Kabul Polytechnic University accepted at the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia
8. **Mohammad Jafar Royen** from Kabul Polytechnic University accepted at the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia

Beside the passing of tests, a successful candidate have fulfilled also other requirements. The most important of them were:

Bachelor degree

Good study results at home university (more than 75%)

Good English

The Age of the candidates (The upper bond of the age of candidates were 30 years)

Signature of an agreement between the candidate and the university, which binds the candidates to work at the university for a specific period after finishing his study, and warranties for loyal observance of this agreement.

Selection of another 2 candidates for studying water supply and environmental engineering at AIT was not realized at that time, because nobody from KPU had fulfilled all requirements for selection. The main problem was the history of study and age of candidates. However, KPU promised, that until next school year will prepare candidates for admission the AIT. In March 2009 they have been selected and their admission at AIT is expected in August 2009.

At present time the application of following 2 candidates are in progress,

**9- Sayed Ajmal Dshti**, from the Kabul polytechnic university, accepted at the School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

**10- Zabihulla Paiman**, from the Kabul polytechnic university, accepted at the School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

#### **Activity 2.5:** Coordination of travel and admission of students to the universities

After the selection of students for MSc study their admission to the university was coordinated. The travel of students from Afghanistan to the target country and preparation of the necessary documentation for visa procedure were the key activities for this part of project implementation. This part of project implementation has required a lot of coordination and administration works and also cooperation of different institutions, and embassies.

Activities 2.1-2.5 have need to be coordinated with the beginning of the academic year. This fact caused the need of finished all the mentioned activities before September 2008.

Based on the partnership agreement, the cost of travel of students to Slovakia was paid by the ministry of higher education of Afghanistan in the frame of SHEP project.

#### **Activity 2.6:** Coordination of the stay and study of students

Master degree study takes two years time. During this time the behaviour of the study is monitored. Accommodation, scholarship, health insurance and other matters related to the stay of students were coordinated.

Up today the students continue with their study without basic complications.

### ***Activity package 3: Short time training stays for Afghan university teachers***

Short time training stays (2-3 month) at the partner's universities enable to improve knowledge and skill of Afghan university teachers in a quick way. The main objective of these courses was the transfer of knowledge between the universities. Knowledge and experience of the partners can help with reconstruction of Afghan higher education system in a most effective way.

Within the frame of the proposed project 15 short time stays of Afghan teachers at the partner universities are planned. 6 of them were scheduled to be done in the first period of the project implementation. All activities related to the preparation and realization of these courses are included in this activity package and explained as follows:

#### **Activity 3.1: Specification of priorities of beneficiaries for trained staff**

In a close cooperation with Afghan partners their priorities for trained staff were specified.

During the first workshop of the partnership's management committee it was decided that for each period of the project implementation the short training stays will be organized in the same field as conference held at the end of the period in Afghanistan. The aim of this solution is to provide the possibility of presentation of knowledge in skills collected during the training stays.

The first scientific seminar organized in Afghanistan (see activity 4.1) was in the field of civil engineering and architecture. For this reason, the training stays realized in the first period of the project implementation were also in the field of civil engineering, water management and architecture.

#### **Activity 3.2: Specification of training providers**

The providers of training were specified based on the field of training courses. The following departments were selected for providing training courses in the first period of the project implementation:

Department of hydraulic engineering, Faculty of civil engineering, Slovak university of technology

Institute of interior and exhibition design, faculty of Architecture, Slovak university of technology,

Institute for Mechanics of Materials and Structures, faculty of civil engineering, Vienna university of technology.

Department of building structures, faculty of civil engineering, Slovak university of technology

Department of Environmental Engineering & Management, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asia Institute of Technology

#### **Activity 3.3: Design of a schedule for short time training courses**

A specific work plan for short time training courses was designed. Base on this plan 6 training courses were realised in the first year of the project implementation. The courses were realized from the August 2008 to March 2009. The courses schedule takes into account the teaching process in universities of both sides.

**Activity 3.4:** Selection of people for short time training courses

In a close cooperation with the project coordinator the Afghan partners have selected people for individual training courses. However, each person selected for these training courses has meet some basic criteria such as:

To be a full time employer of one of the Afghan partners

Working on the same curriculum as the subject of training course

English communication skill

The following academicians were selected for short-term training stays for the first period of the project implementation:

1. **Mr. Abdullah Halim** from the Faculty of Agriculture, Herat University, accepted at the School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
2. **Mr. Mohammad Yosof Amini** from the Faculty of Agriculture, Herat University accepted at the School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
3. **Mr. Mohammad Nazir Nejabi** from the Faculty of Construction, Kabul Polytechnic University, has been trained at Vienna University of Technology, Austria
4. **Mrs. Homa Khalid** from the Faculty of Construction, Kabul Polytechnic University, accepted at the Faculty of Architecture, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia
5. **Mr. Mohammad Qasem Sedeqi** from the Faculty of Construction, Kabul Polytechnic University, has been trained Faculty of Civil Engineering, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia
6. **Mr. M. Jossuf Kayoumi** from the Faculty of Construction, Kabul Polytechnic University, has been trained at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia

**Activity 3.5:** Coordination of the travel of selected persons

After the selection of applicants for individual training courses their travel to partner countries were coordinated. The necessary documentation for visa procedure and other needed assistance was provided. This progress has required the full cooperation of various institutions.

Based on the partnership agreement, the cost of travel of participants to partners countries was paid by the ministry of higher education of Afghanistan in the frame of SHEP project. The costs were paid directly by partners 3 and 4.

**Activity 3.6:** Coordination of the training stays at the partner universities

The duration of these training courses was 3 months in 3 cases, 4 months in 2 cases and 2 month in one case. During this time the behaviour of the courses were monitored.

Accommodation, food, health services and other issues were coordinated.

Every participant of courses have prepared a report on his activities during the training program, a theses, that include the collected information and knowledge at the partner university, in major cases also an article for publishing in the conference proceeding book. The articles were published in the conference proceedings. The scientific reports of training courses participants (from 50-130 pages per report ) is available at the Slovak university of technology.

#### ***Activity package 4: Scientific Seminars organized in Afghanistan***

*It is proposed to change the name of this activity package into: **Scientific conferences organized in Afghanistan***

Originally, organisation of three small scientific seminars by participation of domestic lectures and lectures from the partner institutions were planed. However, based on decision of the project management committee and large interest of participants from abroad instead of three seminars organizing of two large conferences is proposed. One under the name “Current trends in civil engineering and architecture” and another under the name of “ Energy sources”.

The first conference was organized in Afghanistan by participation of 124 domestic and foreign scientists from 10 countries. Practically, all teachers and researchers of Afghan engineering education institutions have the possibility to take part in this conference.

The aim of organizing this conference was not only transfer of knowledge and new trends in engineering education to the Afghan universities, but also transfer of knowledge in organizing scientific conferences and seminars. Fully electronic communication via the project web site [www.afgasialink.eu](http://www.afgasialink.eu) with all conference participants, online registration and submission the contributions, DVD of conference proceeding book, preparation of first and second call of the conference and a number of other activities were the new elements that have entered to the afghan higher education system.

Another objective of these conferences is to take the initiative by Afghan scientists living in Afghanistan or abroad. Participation of people with an Afghan origin, which are working at universities outside Afghanistan were also expected. Together 8 persons who are working at the universities and institutions abroad had an active participation in the conference.

#### **Activity 4.1: Scientific conference on new trends in civil engineering and architecture**

Originally, the project proposal has calculated with a scientific seminar in the field of civil engineering and architecture. However, in real a very successful international conference by participation of 124. People from 10 countries were organized

The main topic of these conference were:

- Civil Engineering and Architecture at European and American Universities (teaching methods, modern technical tools used in teaching process, standard American and European university curricula and comparison with Afghan curricula)
- Materials and Procedures used in Modern Civil Engineering (applications for Afghan conditions)
- Traditional versus Modern Design: Afghan designers – domestic and international projects
- Open Discussion Forum – possibilities for international cooperation of Afghan universities with European or other universities, modernizing of teaching curricula at Afghan universities, etc.

- Seminars for students of civil engineering and architecture in Afghanistan – transfer of knowledge and information, new trends in civil engineering and architecture

Organizing of the conference had two phases, the preparation phase and the conference itself. In the preparation phase the dates and deadlines of the conference actions were determined, the scientific and organization committees were selected, information about the conference was published at the project website and via e-mail. Preliminary participation forms was sent to potential participants. After determining the number of active and passive participants of the conference the final participation forms was distributed. Contributions of active participants were collected. The contributions of participants were published in Proceeding (in electronic and hard format, CD is included) of the conference and disseminated within the conference participants during the action. An online registration database at the project website was developed for registration of the conference participants.

Another objective of the conference was to take the initiative by Afghan scientists living in Afghanistan or abroad. Together 8 persons who are working at different universities and institutions abroad had an active participation in the conference. A web page, where the detail information on the conference is available and all contribution is published was created. The web page is available at: <http://www.afgasialink.eu/KabulConf/home.aspx>

The conference has taken place in Kabul polytechnic university IT centre fro March 28 to April 1 (**The financial report of this activity is not included in this report, it will be included in the second Interim narrative report**).

#### *Activity package 5: Monitoring and evaluation of project activities, results and outcomes*

During the first period of the project implementation the activities and progress results of the project were continuously monitored and evaluated by the project team.

**Activity 5.1:** Monitoring and evaluation of the project by individual partners and their progress reports

Each partner was responsible for monitoring and evaluation of project activities, results and outcomes in his institution. At the end of first period of the project implementation each partner have prepared a progress report. These progress reports were evaluated by the partnership's management committee (PMC) during its second workshop at AIT in Thailand. The PMC has stated that all scheduled project activities were implemented in coherence with the project action plan.

**Activity 5.2:** Monitoring and evaluation of the project by the applicant and overall project progress reports

The applicant as coordinator of the project have monitored and evaluated all project activities, outputs and outcomes. The applicant also have prepared this interim narrative reports of the project. Until this period of the project implementation all project activities and expected results continues in coherence with the project work plan.

## **2.2: List of Contracts**

No contracts above 5000 Euro was awarded.



### 2.3 Updated action plan for second period

| Year 2  |            |   |   |   |   |   |            |   |   |    |    |    |   |
|---|------------|---|---|---|---|---|------------|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| Activity  | Semester 1 |   |   |   |   |   | Semester 2 |   |   |    |    |    | Implementing body                                   |
|   | Month 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7          | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |   |
| Activity 2.5:<br>Coordination of travel and admission of students to the universities (2 rest MSc students) |            |   |   |   |   |   |            |   |   |    |    |    | The applicant                                       |
| Activity 2.6:<br>Coordination of the stay and study of students   |            |   |   |   |   |   |            |   |   |    |    |    | The Applicant<br>Local partner 2                    |
| Activity 3.2:<br>Specification of training providers  |            |   |   |   |   |   |            |   |   |    |    |    | The Applicant<br>Local partner 1<br>Local partner 2 |
| Activity 3.4:<br>Selection of people for short time training courses  |            |   |   |   |   |   |            |   |   |    |    |    | The applicant<br>Local partner 3<br>Local partner 4 |
| Activity 3.5:<br>Coordination of the travel of selected persons   |            |   |   |   |   |   |            |   |   |    |    |    | All partners  |
| Activity 3.6:<br>Coordination of the stay at the partner universities                                       |            |   |   |   |   |   |            |   |   |    |    |    | The applicant<br>Local partner 1<br>Local partner 2 |
|   |            |   |   |   |   |   |            |   |   |    |    |    | Local partner 3<br>Local partner 4<br>The Applicant |
|   |            |   |   |   |   |   |            |   |   |    |    |    | The Applicant                                       |
|   |            |   |   |   |   |   |            |   |   |    |    |    | The Applicant<br>Local partner 3<br>Local partner 4 |





During the first period of the project implementation the project coordinator was in a permanent contact with project leaders from individual partner universities. Communication between the partners were also obtained via the project coordinator.

Very effective tool of communication between the partners are the workshops of the PMC, which enables very close cooperation of partners in the project implementation.

There was established a relationship with the ministry of Higher education of Afghanistan and coordinators Strengthening Higher Education Program (SHEP) supported by the world bank. The results is the Co-financing of the project (20 % ) by the SHEP program. The Coordinators of SHEP program have closely cooperated in arrangement of travel of MSc. Students and short term study visitors.

The developed link with SHEP can be considered as a very effective tool that can results in further cooperation of involved partners with Afghan higher education institutions.

It was also developed links between our university and Hardfort university (USA) and Brighton university UK in the case of cooperation with Afghan universities.

#### **4. Visibility**

The visibility of action was insured by different methods. Firstly the project web site [www.afgasialink.eu](http://www.afgasialink.eu) was designed. All project activities and results are published via this website. With the aim of propagation project activities, mainly conference in Kabul we have contacted a number of universities all around the world. Project activities were published also at the web sites of KPU, web site of STU, STU University Journal Spectrum, presentation of the project at Nowroz celebration meeting in Bratislava, March 2008 and March 2009, Afghanistan media (TV Tolo, TV Lmar, ART, Afghan TV, Different Afghan Radios and news papers), and Slovak media (Slovak Radio).

#### **Annexes:**

- I- Financial report
- II- Partnership agreement (electronic form only)
- III- Minutes of the workshop I (electronic form only)
- IV- Minutes of the workshop II (electronic form only)
- V- Conference proceeding CD

Name of the contact person of the action:.....Ing. Juma Haydary, PhD.....

Signature .....

Location:.....Bratislava.....

Date report due.....April 30, 2009.....

Date report sent..... May 04, 2009.....

**Financial report:**

Financial report of the project first implementation period was prepared based on the expenditure documents of the applicant and reports of his partners. The guide and forms included in Annex IV of the grant contract No. 147-063 were used. The financial report contains:

- 1- Interim financial report for period: 01/01/2008-28/02/2009
- 2- Forecast budget and follow up
- 3- Expected sources of funding

Please note that some significant costs of activities implemented during the reported period were paid in March and April, 2009. For this reason they are not included in this financial report. For example cost of conference in Kabul and significant part of costs of short trainings. These costs will be included into the next interim report.