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## Higher Education Institutions Institutional Cooperation Instrument

### TAITAGIS

TAITAGIS - Improving capacity, quality and access of Geoinformatics teaching, research and daily application in Taita Taveta County, Kenya

**Academic Disciplines** Geography (Geoinformatics), Mining and Geology, Environmental Sciences

**Project Budget (MFA Funding and Total)** 698 272.11 EUR / 872 840.13 EUR

**Project Duration** 1.3.2017-30.3.2020

**Coordinating Institution** University of Helsinki, Department of Geosciences and Geography

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**Partner Institutions and Countries**

Taita Taveta University (TTU), Kenya



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## Description of the Project

TAITAGIS project aims to develop Master's degree programme in Geoinformatics for the young under and postgraduate students at the Taita Taveta University (TTU) (partner HEI), and building teachers capacity through Training of Trainers (ToT) education in Geoinformatics, which aims at improving technological and methodological capacities of the TTU staff members. This programme will also develop a Certificate programme in Geoinformatics for the Taita Taveta County stakeholders including in-service professionals working at the county government, corporate bodies, such as the Kenya Forest Service, ministry offices, research institutes, NGOs and CBOs in the county in Kenya.

By strengthening geoinformatics teaching, research and decision-making capacity in TTU and other stakeholder organizations in Taita Taveta County, staff members of these are better capable of collecting and analyzing environmental and climatic data and disseminate their findings to various policy makers. Based on this more accurate and relevant information, policy makers can make more informed decisions on regional planning, sustainable use of natural resources, adaptation to climate change, preparations for natural disasters and environmental protection.

The jointly developed Master's Degree Programme in Geoinformatics and the Certificate Programme in Geoinformatics are expected to boost the use and application of geoinformation by different actors and sectors in forestry, agriculture, water resources, housing, health, education, and commerce to name a few. At the TTU emphasis is also given to entrepreneurship skills, which will ensure that the graduates from the programme are capable of establishing small and medium enterprises of GIS and geoinformation to serve local, regional and international clientele, bring growth to local economy and create employment especially for the youth.

Key Results to be Achieved:

- 1. Improved access of postgraduates and life-long learners (experts from county government, research and development institutes, NGOs and CBOs) to Higher Education in Geoinformatics in the Taita Taveta County.**
- 2. Improved research and teaching capacity of the teaching staff and postgraduates in Geoinformatics at the TTU through the new self-sustained high-quality MSc and Certificate programmes, which will train skilled experts to HEIs, county governments, research & development institutes and businesses as well as other sectors to give their contribution to the development of Kenya.**
- 3. More trained scientists and GIS experts to cooperate with various research and development partners in the area.**

## Project Website

<https://www.helsinki.fi/en/researchgroups/taitagis> (Under construction)

## Project Image(s)



Figure 1. Participants of the final planning meeting at the Taita Taveta University College, Voi, Kenya (on the left; Designated space for the established geoinformatics laboratory at the university college (on the right). © 2017 Tino Johansson.