

## **AEGOS - Common strategies for capacity building and training programmes**

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Being the african spatial data infrastructure (SDI) for geology-related natural resources, the sustainability of AEGOS (African-European Georesources Observation System – [www.aegos-project.org](http://www.aegos-project.org)) relies on the ability of the participating geoscience organisations in making geological metadata, data and knowledge accessible in an interoperable way. Moreover, the production and dissemination of user-oriented products in the fields of minerals, non-energy raw materials, groundwater and geothermal energy requires personnel both qualified and stable on the long run. Therefore, the facilities and skills currently available within partner African geoscientific institutions were compared against the qualifications required for implementing and operating the SDI. Accordingly, a strategy for capacity building and adapted training programmes was defined in order to bridge the identified gaps. In order to narrow the actual and required knowledge and skills gaps, a multi-stage training plan was developed. A minimum baseline of knowledge required for participation in AEGOS-specific training was defined and a series of comprehensive curricula were compiled in which the topics, content and goals of training modules were summarised. Special attention was paid to the cooperation with African universities which are active in the fields of geology and environmental sciences. The innovative concept of training and capacity building placed emphasis both on short-term training (training courses for trainers) and on facilitation of long-term training by universities and regional centres of excellence. A follow-up support of the organisational framework for these training activities will be crucial to sustain the qualifications gained in the long term and stabilise the skilled personnel within the concerned geoscience organisations.