

THE NEW GIS COURSE AT THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

In 1987 the Department of Topographical Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens completed an innovation concerning the academic curriculum. Many courses were withdrawn, new ones were introduced and the contents of others were dramatically changed.

One of the newly introduced courses, which was taught for the first time in Spring 1990 was the course on Land Information Systems (LIS). Many things related to this course are still open for discussion as we consider this being quite far from finalized.

Although there is plenty of bibliography, it is obviously very difficult to formulate the course contents for a given university and given market. We have spent quite long time discussing and trying to clarify our objectives in order to finalize the contents.

The basic adoption was that LIS is the new form of maps and diagrams and since our graduates besides being engineers, are actually mapmakers thus LIS must be central to their education.

It was very difficult to allocate one man to teach the diverse and so specialized fields of this course and teaching was performed by a group. We have also found many difficulties in formulating laboratory exercises and having proper text books. For the time being everyone of the group has to prepare his own lecture notes. Maybe some very interesting and very useful objectives for the working groups of commission VI would be to assume or to support the following:

- a) the formulation of a model curriculum for a course on LIS or GIS
- b) to collect a set of slides or computer cassettes to be used for teaching LIS or GIS
- c) To collect and disseminate laboratory exercises for that purpose
- d) publish extended reviews of the existing related bibliography
- e) to encourage or even to assume the writing and the publication of a Manual of LIS or GIS