

Innovative Training Centre for Advanced third level course in Azerbaijan/ ITACA**P.G.Koutsoukos^{1,2*}, C.A. Paraskeva^{1,2}, P.G.Klepetsanis^{2,3}, P.D.Natsi^{1,2}**¹ University of Patras, Department of Chemical Engineering, 26500 Patras, GREECE² FORTH-ICEHT, Platani, 26504 Patras, GREECE³ University of Patras, Department of Pharmacy, 26500 Patras, GREECE* pgk@chemeng.upatras.gr**ABSTRACT**

ITACA project is performed, in the frame of ERASMUS KA-2 programme. It deals with the design and the foundation of a Training Centre, involving EU and Azerbaijan institutions, as well as enterprises active in the field of environmental impact of oil and gas production. Also aims to contribute to the strengthening of the relationship between university and industry, by training graduated students to be employed in this field.

This three years project aims to improve and modernize the educational system in environmental engineering and related disciplines in Azerbaijan (AZ) by implementing a third cycle advanced course. The implementation of the project is based on modernisation, development and internationalisation strategy of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Education and of the targeted higher education institutions from Azerbaijan members of the consortium. Several actions such as new teaching methodologies, pilot application of the 3rd cycle advanced courses and collaboration with local stakeholders, will contribute to the improvement in the higher education system in Azerbaijan. A robust course based on front end lectures (60 ECTS) and practical training (60 ECTS) is planned and it consists of 10 modules taught jointly by staff from EU and AZ partners. The content of the modules has been defined and teachers from AZ training programme in EU partners has been scheduled.

The partners associated with this project, are: Sapienza University, Aalborg University, University of Granada, University of Patras, Baku State University, Baku Engineering University, Baku Higher Oil School, Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction, Azecolab Company LLC – AEL, ANALITIK LLC – AT, “Sukanal” Scientific Research and Design Institute and ARGUS Umweltbiotechnologie GmbH. This innovative teaching program includes work packages which cover a wide variety of actions. The main issue that this project faces is the environmental problems, that occur due to the pollution of oil and gas extraction in Azerbaijan. For these reasons a Training Centre will be designed and installed. The courses introduction to the Azerbaijan HE system will be evaluated for the project sustainability. Finally, remediation technologies investigation will take place.