



## Shaping the Future of Surveying & Mapping Skills Across the Mediterranean

The SUMTS project enters a decisive new phase: the completion of three core scientific and pedagogical deliverables — the **Baseline Study (D2.1)**, the **Capacity Building Plan (D2.2)**, and the **Training Materials Package (D2.3)**. Together, they form a solid foundation for transforming surveying and mapping education in Jordan, Tunisia, and Egypt.

In this issue, we showcase the progress made, the insights gathered from more than 450 stakeholders, and the momentum gained during the **2nd Steering Committee Meeting in Amman**.



### Result

A robust, future-oriented training ecosystem capable of supporting **Smart City development, lab-based learning, and industry collaboration** across the Mediterranean region.

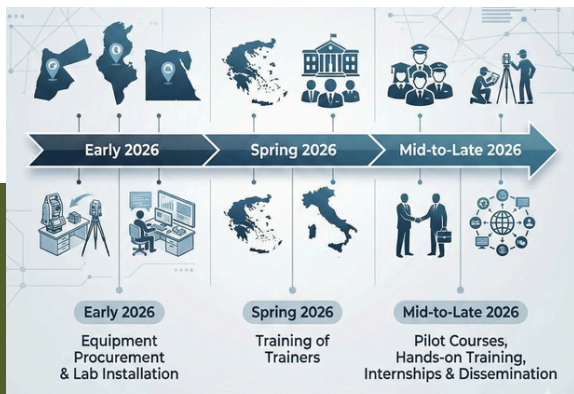
### Sustainability

All materials will be released as Open Educational Resources (OERs) and integrated into partner institutions' curricula for at least five years.



# Insights That Shape Action: Baseline Study (D2.1)

The **Baseline Study** presents an in-depth, evidence-based analysis of the current state of surveying and mapping training in the three partner countries. Through **questionnaires, focus groups, workshops, and expert consultations**, the study identifies the gaps that hinder both educational institutions and industry from meeting today's technological and urban development challenges.



## What Comes Next?

- ✦ **Early 2026**
  - Completion of equipment procurement
  - Installation of SUMTS Labs in Jordan, Tunisia, and Egypt
- ✦ **Spring 2026**
  - Training of Trainers in Greece & Italy
- ✦ **Mid-to-Late 2026**
  - Launch of pilot courses
  - Start of hands-on training with real equipment
  - Enhanced collaboration with industry for internships
  - Targeted dissemination and stakeholder engagement actions

SUMTS now transitions from planning to implementation – where its real impact will unfold.

## Key Findings

- **Outdated equipment & limited access to modern technologies** such as GNSS receivers, GIS software, drones, LiDAR, and advanced data processing tools.
- **Fragmented curricula**, often lacking integration between theoretical training and real-world fieldwork.
- **Insufficient cooperation between universities and industry**, leading to skills mismatch in the job market.
- **Strong demand for blended learning**, combining short in-person sessions with online modules.
- **High interest (90%+) among students** for structured, modern training that enhances employability.

## Why This Matters

Urban development, smart-city planning, infrastructure management, and environmental engineering **depend on accurate spatial data and highly trained professionals.**

The Baseline Study confirms that SUMTS is addressing real, urgent needs — and doing so at the right time.



## Steering Committee Meeting No. 2 in Amman

From 27–29 November 2025, partners convened in **Amman, Jordan**, for a strategic review of progress and coordination of upcoming activities.

### What Was Achieved

- Validation of the three completed deliverables
- Finalisation of SUMTS Labs specifications
- Planning of procurement procedures
- Agreement on the structure of pilot courses
- Roadmap for the upcoming Training of Trainers in Greece and Italy
- Strengthening of communication and dissemination strategy

### A Meeting of Shared Vision

Hosted by Al-Balqa Applied University, the meeting highlighted the consortium's commitment to:

advancing Smart City technologies, upgrading VET systems, and empowering the next generation of surveying and mapping professionals.

### Beyond the Meeting Room

Participants also explored iconic Jordanian sites – Petra, the Dead Sea, and historical Amman – reinforcing the cultural and human bonds within the partnership.

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## From Evidence to Strategy: Capacity Building Plan (D2.2)

Building on the Baseline Study, the Capacity Building Plan defines how teachers, instructors, and trainers at partner institutions will upgrade their competencies — not only technically, but also pedagogically.

### A Modern VET Pedagogical Framework

The plan introduces:

- **Competence-based learning**, ensuring alignment with labour market needs.
- **Active learning methodologies** - problem-based, project-based, challenge-based, and place-based approaches.
- **Transparent assessment systems**, including peer assessment, self-assessment, and learning portfolios.
- **Integration of soft skills** such as teamwork, critical thinking, adaptability, and communication.

### Preparing Trainers for the New SUMTS Labs

The plan supports the establishment of three Innovation Centres for Surveying and Mapping (ICSMs), each equipped with:

- GNSS receivers & RTK systems
- Total Stations & Theodolites
- GIS, AutoCAD, Civil 3D, and BIM software
- Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing tools

Trainers will be prepared to use this equipment in both teaching and applied research.



## Training Materials (D2.3): A Complete Knowledge Ecosystem

SUMTS has produced one of the most comprehensive VET training packages in the region, significantly exceeding the initial scope.

### What's Inside


The material includes 12 topics (instead of 6 originally planned), each available in English and Arabic, in PPT and PDF format, covering:


1. GPS & GNSS Systems
2. Surveying Fundamentals
3. GIS
4. Civil 3D for Quantity Calculation
5. Architectural Drawing (AutoCAD)
6. Highway Engineering
7. Building Information Modelling (BIM)
8. Artificial Intelligence for Geospatial Applications
9. Health & Safety for Surveyors
10. Geoinformatics & Remote Sensing
11. Drone-Based 3D Surveying
12. Project Management

### A Training Resource Designed for Real-World Impact

- Highly visual materials
- Hands-on exercises
- Integrated software demonstrations
- Real case studies
- Aligned with industry standards

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## Message from the Coordinator

“The completion of the first set of deliverables marks an important milestone. We now move confidently toward implementation: equipping labs, training staff, and building the skills that modern surveying and mapping require.

SUMTS is more than a project — it is an investment in people, innovation, and the future of smart cities.”

### **Panagiotis Amoiridis**

Coordinator, EPIMORFOTIKI KILKIS SM LLC

