

Turning a crisis into opportunity

Online courses provide skills and knowledge to prepare for mine engineering careers.

The Department of Mineral Resources Engineering of the University of Western Macedonia in Greece has always valued the integration of mine planning software in the undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum.

Maptek™ Vulcan™ has been used for more than 20 years in the Mining Informatics and Geostatistics courses of the Environmental and Geotechnology Engineering degree. It has now been introduced in the Mine Planning and Applied Geostatistics courses of the new Mineral Resources Engineering degree.

The Mining Informatics course was tailored to deliver all necessary mine planning knowledge to undergraduate students using comprehensive Vulcan design, analysis and modelling tools.

These were applied through a set of exercises using real world data and well-established design and modelling procedures employed in the mining industry.

A textbook, *Introduction to Mining Informatics Using Maptek Vulcan*, has been written in Greek and is given to all third-year students.

'The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated limitations on the way higher education is delivered in Greece meant that our Department had to find a different mode of working with the students to ensure that they would still receive all necessary knowledge and gain the same level of mine planning skills', explained Dr Ioannis Kapageridis, Head of the Department of Mineral Resources Engineering.



A bright moment for Department of Mineral Resources Engineering and Mining Informatics students who have successfully completed the course, holding their Maptek Vulcan training certificates in one of the virtual classrooms.

At the Department's request, Maptek provided 30 academic Vulcan licences and online access to the software for students through Maptek Account. This allowed them to use Vulcan on their home computers and follow the courses through virtual classrooms.

Maptek Account also allows better monitoring of software usage and easier licence administration.

Many students took advantage of the online access and used Vulcan any day of the week, not just the day of the scheduled course. Maptek Account also offered flexibility in delivering the new course content.

At the end of the course, and after successfully passing the exam, the students were delighted to receive a training certificate from Maptek Europe General Manager, James Moncrieff.

'We hope that the training certificate and the skills and knowledge they have gained will be valuable assets for our students in their engineering careers', concluded Dr Kapageridis.