

European Association of Geographers

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2017: A Year Full Of Innovation



educators,
researchers,
policy
makers,
citizen and
NGOs

This has been an extremely busy and varied 2017 for EUROGEO as an association and for me as elected President. It gives me immense pleasure to report here on our successful engagement with international fora like the United Nations as well as the Parliamentary Assembly and Council of Europe; the innovative and exciting multilateral projects we have been involved in; and the wonderful study visits of Geography teachers and educators to Morocco and South Korea.

In terms of our projects, EUROGEO has been involved with a wide variety of stakeholder groups, teachers, educators, researchers, policy makers, citizen groups and NGOs. In 2017 we successfully concluded our participation in two EU funded projects, the SMILE (Soft Mobility Integrated Learning in English) Project and the GeoCapabilities 2 project, which sought to help teachers develop as curriculum leaders.

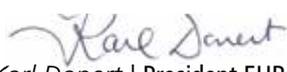
The SMILE project has explored non-formal learning about sustainable transport and English language in Primary Schools. SMILE created a course for educators based on non-formal approaches. GeoCapabilities 2 addressed a 'capabilities approach' to Geography teaching in schools by creating opportunities for powerful learning. The project has created an open-access teacher training course.

Being involved in these projects has been inspirational, challenging traditional education and training approaches and developing high quality geography resources and tools for others to use. EUROGEO is now working on several other ongoing education and research projects. In the GI Learner project, the schools and teachers involved have been developing exciting and innovative learning resources to integrate GIScience and spatial thinking in the school curricula in four countries. I have been leading the YouthMetre project using geospatial technologies to provide and present open European data on youth priorities. The purpose is to empower young people to challenge policy makers on the policies they have developed for young people aged 18-30. The YouthMetre has devised an index of youth well being identifying the best and worst regions for young people to live in the EU. You can see this at <http://www.youthmetre.eu/youthmetre/>. A very successful launch event for the tool was held at the Committee of Regions in Brussels, bringing those working with youth together with policy makers at regional and European levels. The Tell Your Story project has been using StoryMapping to change the aspirations of young people who have left school early. The resources developed have been produced for those working with young people at risk. EUROGEO has participated in the H2020 project SeaChange, which has initiated a European campaign to help make more citizens become ocean literate. These innovative actions keep the association at the forefront of geographical research and education. They also

feed into our exciting publications, the new Springer book series and our open access journal, the European Journal of Geography. This was the first year that EUROGEO organised study visits for schoolteachers and teacher educators. In July, the North East Asian History Foundation based in Seoul, South Korea hosted EUROGEO members. The joint European-South Korean conference examined innovative teaching in Geography and the geographical challenges faced by South Korea. A highlight was the visit to the demilitarised Zone with North Korea and Pyongyang where peace talks between North and South take place. This was followed by a late summer visit to Morocco, where participants explored the busy, thriving city of Marrakech and the challenging rural developments taking place at the Imlil valley, in the High Atlas mountains. During these visits, teachers were able to network, increase their expertise and create and share resources and materials.

EUROGEO has continued to interact with many other international organisations. Our work with the International Geographic Union focused on supporting and promoting the International Year of Global Understanding. EUROGEO is also now proud to be a consultative NGO in the United Nations. This is an immense achievement for the association, providing a forum where geographers can share their expertise with decision makers on themes such as smart city developments, population migration and education for sustainability.

In this year EUROGEO helped organise workshops for policy makers in Brussels during the European Week of Regions and ran, with its partners a YouthMetre launch event for policy makers and educators. The association also participated in Council of Europe and Parliamentary sessions in Strasbourg, where I was elected Vice President of the Education and Culture Committee and invited to lead a transversal working group on the Digital Citizen. Our Amsterdam conference and meeting of members in 2017 was a really successful experiment. It was our first 24 hour event, where we aimed to keep accommodation and travel costs to a minimum for members. Focusing on geographical education, the conference was held near Schipol airport and attracted more than 150 EUROGEO members from more than 35 countries. Personally, 2017 was a very difficult year for me, with the sudden loss of my beloved wife Nicole. Many members knew her as she regularly participated in our conferences and meetings, as well as accompanying me to project meetings and conferences. I especially thank my friends and EUROGEO colleagues who have supported me through these challenging times.


Karl Donert | President EUROGEO



EUROGEO Visit To South Korea

EUROGEO has held, in the recent past, a close relation with several United Nations agencies concerning spatial issues, in particular UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) and UNHABITAT (United Nations Human Settlements Program). In 2017 for the first time EUROGEO participated at the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. During the meeting of 30th January 2017 EUROGEO presented the general aims of the Association, its initiatives in the field of geography, youth education, sustainable development and also the conferences, projects and other initiatives linking geography and human development. The 19-member Committee are responsible to vet applications submitted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), recommending general, special or roster status on the basis of such criteria as the applicant's mandate, governance and financial regime. The EUROGEO application passed this examination and thus, the NGO Committee proposed to grant special consultative status to the United Nations. At the 2017 ECOSOC Coordination and Management meeting (held on 27th April) they adopted the recommendation of the Committee and granted EUROGEO special consultative status to the United Nations.

Consultative status for an organization enables it to actively engage with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat, programmes, funds and agencies in a number of ways: in obligations (regular reports) and in privileges such as attendance at meetings and access to the United Nations, written statements and oral presentations at ECOSOC and other United Nations agencies or events, consultations with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, etc. Besides the United Nations, EUROGEO, is also representative at the Council of Europe (Vice Presidency, INGO Conference, Commission on Education and Culture) and International Geographical Union. This new consultative status at United Nations reinforces EUROGEO presence at international organizations for increasing our engagement with geographical issues as key factors for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030). This will foster the role of Geography as a scientific discipline and a social concern in order to solve today's challenges in the world and to contribute to human development on Earth.

Tijana Ilic | Vice President

increase of
expertise



European Journal Of Geography

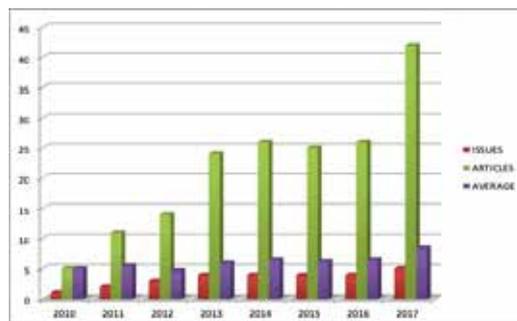


YEAR	ISSUES	ARTICLES	AVERAGE
2010	1	5	5.0
2011	2	11	5.5
2012	3	14	4.7
2013	4	24	6.0
2014	4	26	6.5
2015	4	25	6.3
2016	4	26	6.5
2017	5	42	8.4
Total	18	165	5.8

As I was preparing this year report on the state of the European Journal of Geography, I decided to carefully analyze the statistical data related to its publication and consider the changes and trends in the publication of EIG. This effort has led me into discovering a single prevailing issue, namely the globalization of our publication (there are authors from more countries, writing about a greater variety of subjects and representing many more institutions). Because the impact of globalization is already present in the published issues of the EIG and it will continue to increase in the immediate future, I would like to share with you some observations and reflections on its past, present and future. Last year, I had argued that traditional journals (including those in electronic form such as EIG) will continue to operate, because they provide formal, public, and orderly communication among scientists. At the same time, however, the business run scientific communication environment, where companies are profiting from publishing the work of individual scientists, will continue to expand and its role and influence strengthened. The reason is that this relative new approach provides a host of benefits to scientist (high impact factors, avoidance of illegal reproducibility, and professional mechanisms by which scientific knowledge is disseminated and assessed), but mainly exemplifies the pivotal role of "commercial publishing" in continuous adaptations and streamlining of publishing to meet the present day needs of a globalized scientific community.

Even a cursory examination of past practices and present trends in journal publishing indicates the continuing strengthening of key globalization dimensions, such as: rising connectedness between scientific fields, scientific institutions and scientists, coupled with declining journal's subject diversity and mainly spatial stretching or globalization of authorship and readership.

The present day globalized journal publishing has its proponents who highlight the benefits of greater scientific output and spatial coverage, and its critics who among others point to the exacerbation of economic disparities (how many authors from third world countries can afford to pay more than 1000 USD to publish their papers?). But the most important insight flowing from the present publishing picture is the trend that reverses the usual scientific conditions in which large-scale things are slow and durable while small-scale things are fast and ephemeral.



However, this allows the traditional journals to be highly reflexive and able to lead either to initiatives aimed at avoiding or mitigating the dangers of globalization or to positive feedback processes that intensify the benefits of globalization. In other words, it is in the discretion of traditional journals to navigate carefully in minimizing the dangers and maximizing the benefits of globalization.

The editorial team of the EIG with the support of the board of the European Association of Geographers have been carefully addressing this volatile situation, by not only providing "formal, public, and orderly communication among scientists", but in a manner that does not compete with commercial publishers, by utilizing their experiences and their business approaches. For EIG to continue making significant progress, it is important that its goals and objectives remain constant, but adopt flexible approaches to face the globalization of the publishing environment.

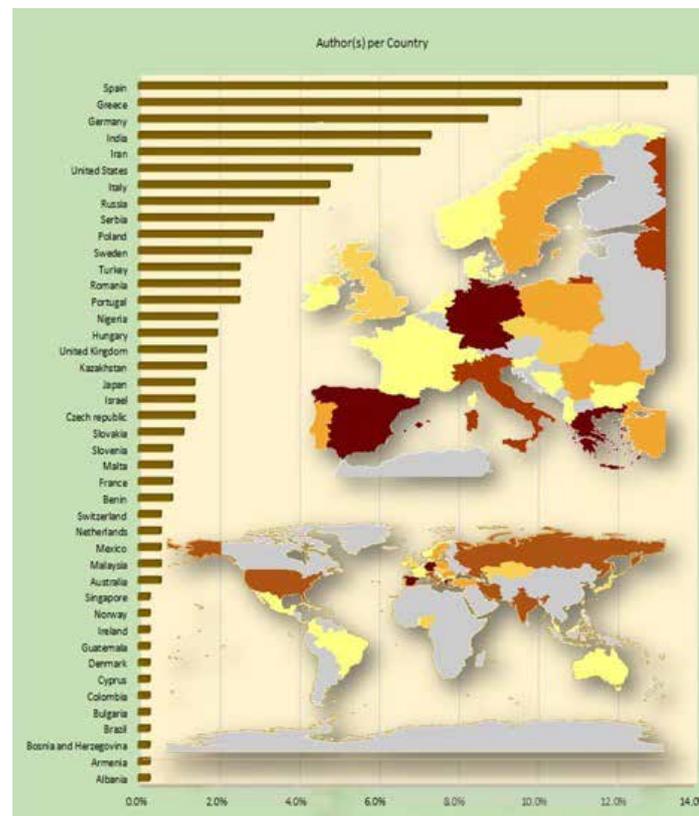
I would like to close this brief report on EIG by reassuring the EUROGEO members and all our Geography colleagues that EIG has been successfully achieving its major goals such as

- Communicate Geographic information to the widest possible audience.
- Continue validating the quality of Geographic research, which is the isthmus test of all journals.
- Build a valid collective Geographic knowledge base.
- Promote the work of the Geographic community

At the same time the editorial team is intensifying its globalization efforts by signing agreements for EIG's easy distribution and availability to Geographers, Geography teachers and Spatial scientist in China and Northeast Asia.

Professor Kostis Koutsopoulos
Vice President, Editor-in Chief

flexible
approaches
to face
the
globali-
zation



Key Challenges For Geographical Education



The 2017 Annual Conference of the European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO) was held in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) on the 2nd and 3rd of March 2017. Gert Ruepert, Uwe Krause, Tine Beneker and Mathijs Booden were on the local committee of the Conference.

It turned out to be a rushed meeting focused on challenges at schools and at university which the key notes speakers drew our attention to. Tine Beneker (Utrecht University) and Joop van der Schee (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam) explained how Global Understanding is not a universal concept for geographers and research results. It is based on a survey show this lack of knowledge of the concept. Thus, it is necessary to improve knowledge of this essential concept in order to obtain a global dimension in geographical education.

The "Geo For All" initiative was brilliantly explained by Suchith Anand (University of Nottingham), more information can be found at <http://www.geoforall.org/>. This is an open vision focused on open data, open standards, open software and open access to publications whose objective is STEM as well as to empower geography learners to reduce the digital divide by making the knowledge open. Some cross disciplinary topics, such as climate change mitigation, are global topics covered by Geo For All. Thus, a sustainable innovation ecosystem for broadening education opportunities make it possible to enhance efforts towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The main topics of the conference were focused on: Textbooks – old and new and Primary school teacher training; the Bologna process update: quality of geography in universities; Geography and employability; Responding to the IGU Charter on geography education; Fieldwork in Geography; Storytelling with maps; Teaching and the

Ocean; Geographical education and the needs of society; New technologies in the geography classroom; Geography in Primary Schools; the Geography Curriculum; Empowering youngsters through geoinformation; Entrepreneurship; Geo for All – open access to geography education; Remote sensing; Teaching excellence in geography; Recruiting geography students; GeoCapabilities and curriculum leadership; Geography and global understanding and GI-Learner – learning lines in GIScience and Geo-design.

More than 150 registrations, 130 participants and 2 keynotes participated in this relevant geographical event. The scientific work was displayed at 8 workshops and special sessions, as well as described in more than 60 papers and shown on 10 posters.

During the conference, the Annual Meeting of the association took place, and the 2016 Annual Report was presented and approved. Elections for Vice Presidents took place and Tijana Ilić was elected as Vice President and María Luisa de Lázaro was reelected to serve for another period as Vice President. The slogan 'Geography for All' is the theme for the 2018 EUROGEO conference and Annual Meeting of members, that will be held at Cologne University (Germany), on the 15th and 16th of March 2018, with an optional field trip to explore energy issues on the 17th of March 2018.

Dr María Luisa de Lázaro
Vice President

reduce
the
digital
divide

EUROGEO Book Series With Springer

provide answers

By its nature Geography connects the physical, human and technological sciences enhancing teaching, research, and decision-making. Therefore, Geography should and can provide answers to how different aspects of these sciences are interconnected and the spatial patterns and processes that form. These tendencies impact on global, regional and local issues and thus affect present and future generations. Moreover, Geography by dealing with places, people and cultures, explores international issues ranging from physical, urban and rural environments and their evolution, to climate, pollution, development and political-economy.

EUROGEO members working in different professional activities and at all levels of education, have to deal with examining such geographical issues, while a goal and a core part of the statutory activities of the European Association of Geographers is to make European Geography a worldwide reference and standard.

It should be of no surprise, therefore, that the EUROGEO Presidium felt strongly that the association should take the lead in formally addressing these issues by publishing textbooks, comprehensive monographs and edited volumes, refereed by European and worldwide experts, specialized in the subjects and themes.

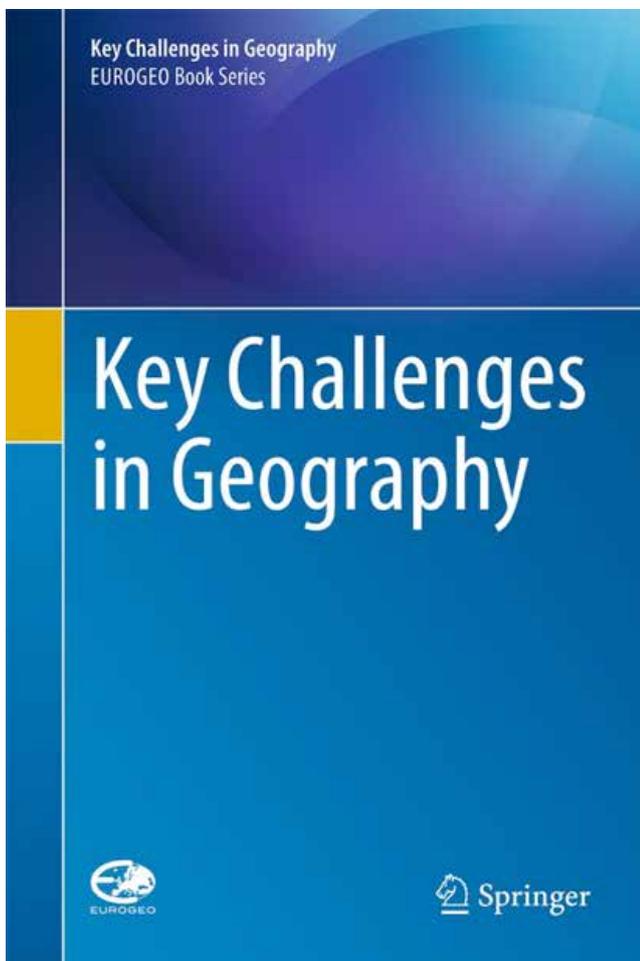
To accomplish these goals, EUROGEO has started to work with Springer International Publishing AG, a long-time associate of the association, to develop a book series titled "KEY CHALLENGES IN GEOGRAPHY". It is hoped to produce several books a year with the overall goal of establishing a scientific platform to present:

- Research on topics that reflect the significance of Geography as a discipline.
- Disciplinary and interdisciplinary scientific efforts related to geographical, environmental, cultural, economic, political, urban and technological research with a European dimension, but not exclusively European.
- Thought-provoking contributions related to cross-disciplinary approaches and interconnected works that explore the complex interactions among geography, technology, politics, environment and human conditions.
- Ways to tackle urgent topics to geographers and policy makers alike.
- A forum for geographers worldwide to communicate on all aspects of research and applications of geography.

The EUROGEO Presidium and the editorial team proudly announce the publication of the first and second books of the series, titled "GEOSPATIAL CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY" and "GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY IN GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION", which will be available in 2018 and 2019. The focus of these books is to provide a clear picture of the important role Geospatial Technologies (GT) can play in facing real, every day issues and resolving them, both in geography disciplinary research and in geography education.

These publications will be followed by others dealing with topics such as Ocean Literacy and Teacher Training in Geography. For more information, including the call for chapters and guidelines, please visit: <http://www.eurogeography.eu/springerbooks/>

Professor Kostis Koutsopoulos, Dr. Rafael de Miguel González | Vice Presidents, *Karl Donert* | President



EUROGEO, Special Consultative Status For United Nations

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Dr. Rafael de Miguel González | Vice President



actively
engaged

Field Trip Amsterdam Conference

For the field trip at the 2017 EUROGEO conference in Amsterdam the participants needed to use the most popular mode of transportation in the Netherlands: They travelled by bike!

The first stop of the field trip was at the Cruquius pumping station. 160 years ago there was a large lake at the location of the conference venue and Schiphol Airport. The Haarlemmermeer was one of the first polders in the Netherlands where they used steam power for the reclamation. The pumping station Cruquius houses the largest steam engine in the world. A surprise for the geographers, at the pumping station there was a very large map on the floor containing real water, which showed the whole water management system of the rivers, polders and lakes in the Netherlands. After that the pumps were set in motion, which was very impressive although they work on electricity now instead of steam.

After the pumping station the group cycled to Fort Vijfhuizen, one of the fortresses of the Defence line of Amsterdam, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Defence Line of Amsterdam is a 135 km long ring of fortifications around Amsterdam consisting of 42 forts. The purpose of the defence line was to protect Amsterdam in case of an enemy attack by flooding the land with water deep enough to stop the enemy from marching on the city but also it would be too shallow to cross the area by boat. The fortresses were built at weak points in the defensive ring. Fort Vijfhuizen is one of these fortresses. Nowadays it has been transformed into an 'art fortress' as it houses workspaces, conference facilities, an exhibition space and a restaurant.

Gert Ruepert
Vice President

160
years
ago



Financial Report 2017

small
negative
balance

In 2017 EUROGEO had a small negative balance of -800.32 EUR.

Our main income is:

- Projects where EUROGEO is involved as coordinator: YouthMetre,
- Projects where EUROGEO is involved in as partner: GI Learner, School On the Cloud, Tell Your Story, My Story Map, Geocapabilities and Smile,
- our annual congress, which was a 24-hours conference in Amsterdam,
- membership fees.

Our main expenses are:

- services, including, payment of people doing the project work and board expenses (incl. board meeting and lobbying)
- goods, including payment site European Journal of

geography, costs for the accountant and auditor, and webhosting of as well our website as our Moodle platform.

The negative balance is due to the fact that we payed already staff and travel costs for all projects - as coordinator for YouthMetre we already payed more staff and travel & subsistence costs for the project than was prefinanced in the first two payments done by the European Commission. Also we are member of many other European organisations and networks, but the cost of these memberships is recovered by the projects they produce. The final payment of many projects was done in 2018, which will bring our balance again positive.

Luc Zwartjes | Treasurer

Sint-Blasiusstraat 3
8020 Waardamme Belgium
ONDERNEMINGSNUMMER 0817.975.363

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	INCOME	AMOUNT
Services	184,628.84 €	Membership	4,300.74 €
Financial costs	47.42 €	Subsidies	0.00 €
Other costs	0.00 €	Congresses and courses	20,045.74 €
		Projects	157,275.79 €
		Trainings	0.00 €
		Financial profits	2,206.67 €
Total expenditure	184,676.26 €	Total income	183,875.94 €
Balance 2017			-800.32 €



Activities With Young Geographers

EUROGEO has had a strong positive relationship with many organisations including EGEA, the European Geography Association for Students and Young Geographers. In 2017 EUROGEO was invited to participate in the Annual Congress of EGEA. The congress was held in in Szczyrck, a winter sports resort in the south of Poland.

The main theme of the conference was urban renewal, cities in transition. This theme was for example explored in the excursion to Katowice. There were also workshops, lectures, excursions about other geographical themes and meetings about career development and the organisation of EGEA. EUROGEO presented itself and discussed matters with the newly elected board. Over 250 students from all over Europe participated in the event.

For the first time in the history of EGEA, there was also a meeting of its alumni members at the same place as the Annual Congress. In total, 40 former EGEAns participated in a special alumni programme. EUROGEO had helped to organise the first alumni congress in 2016 and is happy to see that the tradition is carrying forward.

In 2019 an alumni event will be organised connected to the Annual EGEA Congress in Croatia.

As part of Geography Awareness week, which took place between the 13th and 19th of November 2017, EUROGEO supported a student competition organised by EGEA, GeoDACH (German geography students association) and AFNEG (French geography students network). The students competed to create the best local action to promote and raise awareness of geography.

Together with the Scientific Committee of EGEA and EGEA alumni, a competition was also organised for the best abstract at EUROGEO's 2017 conference in Amsterdam. The winner of this competition was supported by the EGEA alumni organisation to present this research at this conference. For the EUROGEO conference in Cologne in 2018, the best presentation of the scientific conference of EGEA will also be invited to present their work.

Gert Ruepert
Vice President

250
students
from all
over
Europe

Telling Stories Using Storymaps

EUROGEO is a partner in the Tell Your Story Key Action 2 Erasmus Plus Project. Tell Your Story aims at exploiting the use of digital storytelling and using maps in education to counteract the amount of early school leaving in European countries. Well-told stories are very powerful learning tools. Maps are interesting, exciting and essential ways of visualising what we do. The project therefore uses digital storytelling with maps as a suitable means for young people to communicate their life experiences. These life stories can be presented in compelling, interactive and emotionally engaging formats. EUROGEO through its affiliation with Esri has been able to provide access to the Web 2.0 Story Maps tool (<http://storymaps.esri.com/>) to combine the use of maps and connected media for digital storytelling. Participants in the project discovered how Story Maps uses geographical location as a means of organizing and presenting information, to be able to tell the story of a place, event, issue or experience in a geographic context.

The purpose of Tell Your Story is to use non-formal learning

approaches to engage young people at risk of leaving school early, encouraging them to tell and then share their stories. In 2017, EUROGEO led the development of a state-of-the-art research report on "Telling digital stories to fight against early school-leaving". This included defining early school leaving and understanding the issues affecting young school leavers, as well as the role that storytelling can play in understanding the challenges being faced by the young people concerned and motivating them to actively engage with education. The research report can be found at <http://tellyourstorymap.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/tys-io1-report.pdf>. The project will then develop a learning modules that form a training course for those working with young people at risk of leaving school early and an online exhibition of digital life stories produced by young people who have completed the training programme.

The Tell Your Story Web site is at <http://tellyourstorymap.eu/>.

Karl Donert | President



Youthmetre: A Tool For Forward Looking Youth Participation

EUROGEO is the lead partner in the newly funded YouthMetre project. YouthMetre is an exciting project supported under the Erasmus+ Key Action 3 programme that looks to pilot innovative 'forward looking' actions to empower young people to connect with policy makers, in order to improve the degree of dialogue associated with developing youth policies in local authorities, regions and countries in Europe. YouthMetre creates an innovative tool that will give young people access, via a digital data dashboard, to socio-economic geospatial data in the European Union and presents information about how well policymakers in their region are performing in different youth fields. Examples of best practices in youth policy are mapped and presented in order to provide inspiration that can help authorities improve their activities. EUROGEO is the applicant and coordinator of YouthMetre and participates actively in the creation of the YouthMetre tool, the development of training resources, state of the art research and dissemination across Europe.

On February 14, 2017, the YouthMetre data dashboard was launched at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. It was a day with high hopes for youth participation in the EU's many localities. YouthMetre project partners were present, along with young European influencers from ten different countries who participated with a host of other stakeholders discussing the ways to engage young people in democratic processes. The launch also brought together representatives of local and regional authorities, civil society associations, European institutions, experts and young people. The event turned out to be precisely the chance to exchange knowledge and experiences on how to involve young citizens in decision-making at local, regional, national and European levels. This type of participation between local youth and authorities is what YouthMetre will aim to promote through the rest of its work.

Other important YouthMetre activities and dissemination events during 2017 were:

- YouthMetre presented at 2017 United Nations ECOSOC Youth Forum: The role of youth in poverty eradication and promoting prosperity in a changing world.

- YouthMetre took part to the event Future EU Youth Strategy: Shape it, Move it, Be it, organised by the European Commission within the framework of the European Youth Week.
- YouthMetre participated to the conference The Future of Education and Youth Work: Approaches and Practices around the World.
- YouthMetre was presented at the First International Korean-European Joint Conference on Geographical Education.
- YouthMetre organised an interactive workshop at European Local Democracy Week in Brussels.
- YouthMetre was involved in a special workshop during the World Forum for Democracy, Council of Europe, Strasbourg.
- YouthMetre was presented at 5th Global ECPD Youth Forum.

Dr. Rafael de Miguel González
Vice President



Raising Awareness Of Ocean Literacy

EUROGEO has been a partner in the Sea Change Project funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (H2020-BG-2014-1), Blue Growth: Unlocking the potential of Seas and Oceans. The project aims to establish a fundamental "Sea Change" in the way European citizens view their relationship with the sea, by empowering them, as Ocean Literate citizens, to take direct and sustainable action towards a healthy ocean and seas, healthy communities and ultimately a healthy planet.

Ocean Literacy concerns the political and environmental importance of the sea to the future of the planet. It relates to increasing awareness of how our day-to-day actions can have a cumulative effect on the health of the ocean, a necessary resource that must be protected for all life on the planet Earth. An Ocean-Literate person therefore understands the importance of the ocean to humankind, can communicate about the ocean in a meaningful way and is able to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the ocean and its resources.

The key objectives of Sea Change are to:

- Compile an in-depth review of the links between Seas and Ocean and Human health based on latest research knowledge outputs.
- Build upon the latest social research on citizen and stakeholder attitudes, perceptions and values to

help design and implement successful mobilisation activities focused on education, community, governance actors and directly targeted at citizens.

- Build upon significant work to date, adopting best practice and embedding Ocean Literacy across established strategic initiatives and networks in order to help maximise impact and ensure sustainability.
- Ensure that efforts to sustain an Ocean Literate society in Europe continue beyond the life of Sea Change through codes of good practice, public campaigns and other ongoing community activities.
- Ensure that all activities of Sea Change are carefully monitored and evaluated to ensure maximum sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency.
- Ensure Knowledge exchange with transatlantic partners to bring about a global approach to protecting the planet's shared seas and ocean.

Ultimately, the Sea Change project will educate and engage a wide range of audiences, from scientists to sailors, from pupils to policy-makers and leave a legacy of awareness and care for the most important resource on this planet - the Ocean. The resources and outcomes of the project can be obtained from: <http://www.seachangeproject.eu/resources>

Karl Donert | President



Representing Geographers In Europe

Since 1987 EUROGEO has had participative status at the Council of Europe and has been a regular member and participant at the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO) in Strasbourg, France. The Council of Europe aims to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. Founded in 1949, it has 47 member states and covers approximately 820 million people. The INGO (international non-governmental organisations) Conference is the body representing civil society in the Council of Europe.

One of the main challenges currently facing member states is to strengthen NGOs and civil society in order to develop participatory democracy on a pan-European basis. Members of EUROGEO can participate in the Conference of INGOS, a free event open to participative associations. The role of the Conference is mainly as a watchdog, in particular regarding

the Human Rights' and Democratic situations in various Member States. The Conference also work together with other areas of the Council on the preparation of the World Forum for Democracy, held each Autumn, bringing many hundreds of young activists together in Strasbourg.

In 2017 the INGO Conference establish three thematic Commissions, on Education and Culture, Human Rights and Democracy and Social Cohesion and Global Challenges. The President of EUROGEO was elected by the Conference to be Vice President of the Education and Culture Commission and invited to lead the Working Group on the Digital Citizen. EUROGEO participated in the Education and Democracy Commissions, engaging in debates on migration, climate change, global challenges and digital citizenship.

Karl Donert | President

Education
and
Culture



GI Learner Project And GIScience In Education

a learning line for GIScience

The project “Developing a learning line on GIScience in education” (GI-Learner) (2015-1-BE02-KA201-012306) (Erasmus +. KA2 Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices and Strategic Partnerships for school education) is coordinated by Luc Zwartjes, with EUROGEO as a full partner. The purpose of the project is to create a learning line for GIScience pilot and integrate spatial thinking into an entire 6-year high school curricula.

The project involves four partner schools: Sint-Lodewijkscollege, Brugge (Belgium), Borg Nonntal Secondary School (Austria), Dimitrie Cantemir Secondary School, Iasi (Romania), King’s Ely secondary school, Ely (UK), and Nuestra Señora del Pilar School, Madrid (Spain). They are involved in developing, testing and giving feedback on the classroom materials. There are also two European universities: Ghent University and the Complutense University of Madrid and the European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO) who researched curricular developments and spatial thinking.

In 2017, the second year of the project, the following advances have taken place:

- Lessons Plans are complete and most of them have been tested.
- The main topics chosen were: The local area K7. Biodiversity K7, Tourism: European and World K8, Urbanization K8. Water K9, Economic disparities K9, Climate change K10, Refugees and Migration K10, Human Population K11, Plate Tectonics/ Tsunamis K11, Globalization and me K12, Final work Spatial thinking K12 for K7.
- Students have given feedback on the lessons and lesson plans.
- Lesson materials have been updated and finalised based on this feedback.

The GIScience learning line to integrate geospatial literacy in secondary schools is related to the categories described in Blooms taxonomy.

It is very challenging to have a common European framework as different countries have varied curricula, which also can correspond to very different pedagogic approaches. In spite of this, the learning line developed by the project has ten levels that reflect an increasing level of complexity, ranging from easy (more basic skills and knowledge) to difficult knowledge and skills. The ten learning line levels:

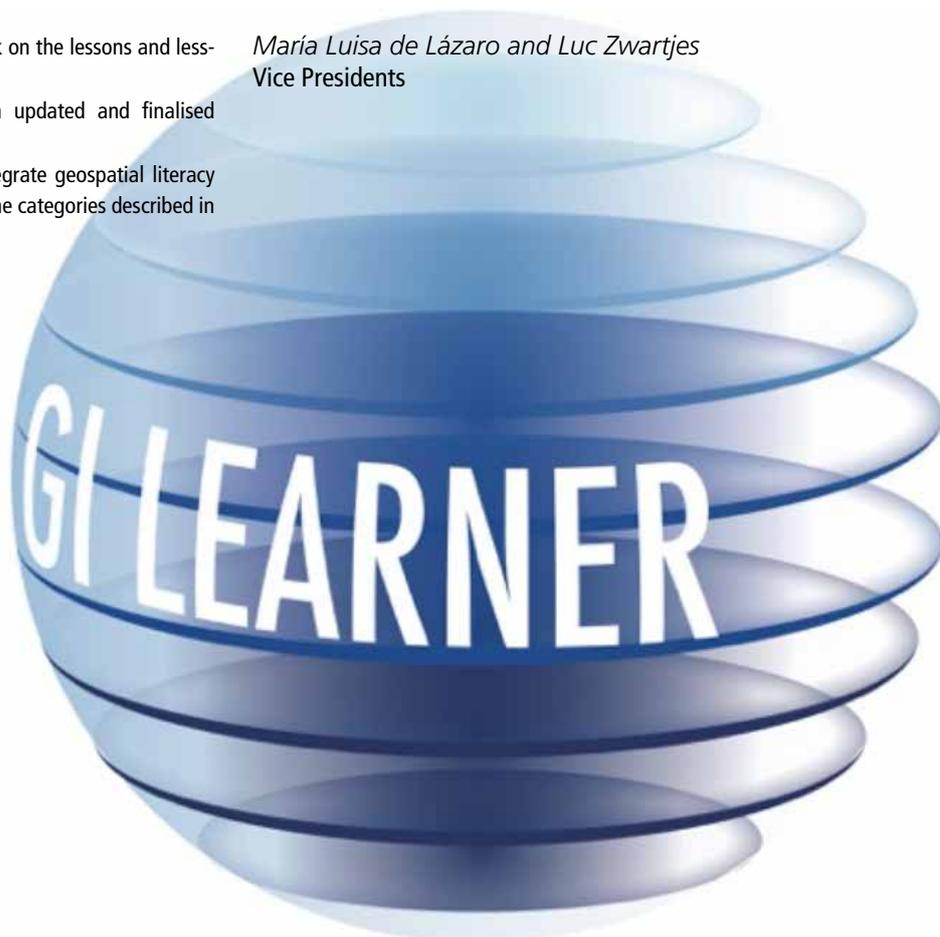
- Critically read, interpret cartographic and other visualisations in different media
- Be aware of geographic information and its representation through GI and GIS.
- Visually communicate geographic information
- Describe and use examples of GI applications in daily life and in society
- Use (freely available) GI interfaces
- Carry out own (primary) data capture
- Be able to identify and evaluate (secondary) data
- Examine interrelationships
- Synthesise meaning from analysis
- Reflect and act with knowledge

The final version of the GI-Learner learning lines and publications are available for download on the project web site (<http://www.gilearner.ugent.be/>).

The GI Learner project has tried to respond by developing a learning line based on enjoyable activities that fit with geospatial competencies following curriculum opportunities.

In 2018 GI Learner plans to promote GIScience for inclusion in the national curricula of the partner countries.

María Luisa de Lázaro and Luc Zwartjes
Vice Presidents



Marrakech, Desert Camp, High Atlas Mountains

EA field visit for European teachers to Morocco was organized by EUROGEO from 30 August to 3 September 2017. This study visit was organised in conjunction with the geography field studies experts Discover Ltd (<https://www.discover.ltd.uk/>). The group visited the city of Marrakech and the village of Imlil in the Atlas mountains.

The trip was a fantastic experience for the 14 teachers who participated. The trip introduced many different geographical themes such as urban and rural settlements in Marrakech and the Imlil valley. Many differences were experienced for instance between modern and ancient forms of transport, from all-terrain vehicle to donkeys and camels. Topics such as the impact and benefits of tourism, agricultural trends in an adverse environment and the scarcity of water in desert regions were addressed.

The group visited the orange buildings made of golden sand in Marrakech; saw the market and motorcycles filling the narrow pedestrian streets and browsed through the different stores selling their merchandise like leather goods, metal articles, spices and natural products. The famous square Jemaa Fna, a UNESCO Cultural Heritage space is crowded with people selling almost everything.

Golden Marrakech contrasts with the desert and the green Imlil valley. The opportunity to camp at the desert and have a meal just looking at the stars in the clear September sky was something unique. In the high mountains, the group saw how local Berbers have been able to develop their own lands by irrigating the valley and growing crops for sale in nearby markets. This halted and reversed previous out migration flows.

In the Imlil village the group visited the Kasbah de Toubkal, an old Berber fortress rebuilt for lovers of amazing landscapes and unique rural tourism. Behind it, the snowless High Atlas mountains were visible. Walking freely along the valley allowed the teachers to experience first-hand the local hospitality, from children to elder people. The locals love their valley and like to share this with foreigners. They work hard to make them happy. The growth of tourism means building is increasing, roads need to be improved and services provided.

On the way back to Marrakech the group visited an educational charity called Education For All, established by the owners of Discover Ltd. Education For All is an initiative that provides opportunities for girls from the rural high Atlas villages to attend the lycée (secondary) school and live in a secure and friendly environment. This helps them to complete their studies and apply for university courses and professional training.

EUROGEO plans to organize further study visits with Discover Ltd. In the future.

We encourage you to read the book 'Reasonable plans: History of the Kasbah du Toubkal', <http://wildernessmedicaltraining.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Reasonable-Plans-history-of-the-Kasbah-du-Toubkal.pdf> for a better approach to the nice Imlil valley. An unforgettable geographical experience of land and people.

Dr María Luisa de Lázaro
Vice President

between
modern
and
ancient
times



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KOSTIS KOUTSOPOULOS
Vice President



TIJANA ILIĆ
Vice President



LUC ZWARTJES
Vice President: Treasurer

EUROGEO is a registered NGO in Belgium.
<http://www.eurogeography.eu>

Contact EUROGEO at:
eurogeomail@yahoo.co.uk



DANIELA SCHMEINCK
Vice President



GERT RUEPERT
Vice President

www.eurogeography.eu

