



egea

Policy Paper 2019/2020

BY THE BOE, RCPS AND SC

2019/2020

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Purpose

The main goal of this paper is to inform all members of the association about the future plans of the Board of EGEA, Secretariat Coordinator and Regional Teams. It is aimed to reflect all sides of work with EGEAns within different bodies and positions. By publishing this Policy Paper we would like to show our openness to suggestions from everyone, participation in the life of our association and willingness to contribute to its development according to our best conscience.

Our Values

We would like to create a comfortable environment for every member of EGEA by setting a good information flow and approachability of people in official positions. We would like to spread the idea of equality, tolerance and respect towards each member of EGEA according to the Strategic Plan 2020 and to create a new Strategic Plan which will preserve these values. It is important to keep the existing spirit of our association and pass it on as well as add our own values for the future generations.

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Structure

Entities

We would like to establish smooth communication between RCPs and CPs within regions with regular live and e-meetings to make sure that entities work efficiently and are developing. It is important for RCPs to know what is happening in the other regions as well and to help each other and to share ideas.

We would like to motivate CPs and other active members to organise local and international events and raise their quality. Our goal is not only to raise the number of events but also raise the number of participants on smaller events (for what we need help of CPs to promote these events more).

We realized that a lot of CPs do not know the Master Folder which is really important for event organisers. Because of that we would like to make sure that every CP knows about the Master Folder and that they know where to find it as well. In our first regional emails we will send the link to the Master Folder to all CPs.

Official Bodies

In order to keep efficient information flow, BoE and RCPs are the ones responsible for planning and structuring the next steps of the association. Communication plays a major role here; therefore, it is needed to plan live and e-meetings beforehand according to current interests of the association and its members, as well as to stay open to new ideas and contribution from active members. To reach maximum productivity all tasks will be distributed according to our positions` duties and personal interests. The secretariat will support the BoE and RCP's where needed and will also try to facilitate an efficient information flow.

It is important to involve everyone who wants to be active into shaping of the future of EGEA. This includes all Supporting Roles, FCC, Committee Representatives and other groups of active EGEAns. Smooth communication and information flow in both directions between respective bodies will make the upcoming year productive and efficient for the whole EGEA. Besides that we need to raise awareness of official positions and promote their opportunities to show the possibilities of personal development and self-improvement. We would like to put more effort into a rewarding system of active members to find a better way of encouragement.

This year it is necessary to define a way of communication with the new body in EGEA – Advisory Board (AB). The BoE will stay in close contact with the AB throughout the year to keep them informed about their activities and ask for advice whenever needed.

Moreover, an important task will be to create a new Strategic Plan for the years 2021-2024. It should reflect the general way of development of EGEA, supporting current values and goals as well as an increase of impact of our activities, our statement of climate change and activeness on European level.

Restructuring EGEA

We, as the Board of EGEA for 2019/2020, plan to start a restructuring process in order to make the Association`s official bodies more efficient and less bureaucratic. We believe that after several years of discussion and collecting information we now have enough data to base the restructuring processes on and thus start the actual restructuring.

A decision was jointly made by us that we will first aim the process on restructuring committees and supporting roles. We plan to implement several pilot changes this year, monitor them throughout the year and analyse them afterwards so that more and bigger changes can be proposed for voting to the General Assembly of 2020 and implemented in 2020/2021.

THERE ARE TWO PLANNED PILOT PROJECTS FOR 2019/2020:

- Creating a "Finance Team" (joined team for financial tasks and to assist the Treasurer which will consist of Grant Team members and FundComm members and will closely cooperate with the Treasurer).
- Creating a PR and Social Media Team (a team of interested EGEAns - mainly members of CMC`s internal Social Media Team or CMC - which will closely cooperate with the EPRA).

WE PLAN THE PROCESS OF PILOT RESTRUCTURING PROJECTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Restructuring manuals will be prepared with advice on task and HR management, communication flow or responsibility division.
2. Bodies concerned will be contacted well enough in advance and informed about planned changes and their decision and feedback will be taken into account when planning and implementing them.
3. E-meetings will be held to discuss practical implementation of changes and to get the new structure running.
4. Continuous monitoring will be carried out by the respective Board member or the Vice President.

5. Deeper analysis will be prepared followed by discussion and evaluation during both OSMs in 2019/2020.
6. If the evaluation is successful a proposal will be prepared by the Board (or other interested EGEAns) to be voted on during GA 2020 to implement restructuring changes.

PLANNED TIME FRAME:

September	Prepare a documentation (manual) + get in close touch with bodies concerned
October	Implementation of pilot restructuring (e-meetings)
December	Evaluation and discussion during Winter OSM
Spring	Possibility to carry out changes after Winter OSM or add pilot projects
June/July	Evaluation and discussion during Summer OSM + preparing a proposal (if agreed on)
July/August	Preparing/finalising the proposal (if agreed on)
September	GA voting on proposal (if prepared)

Activities

Congresses

Congress organisers need to be in contact with the EPRA who will support and assist them with everything that needs to be done. Also the task for the EPRA is to answer and try to solve any problems or questions that will emerge during the preparation period. The Regional Teams should get regular updates from the EPRA and the congress organisers from every respectable region. The Regional Team should also be responsible for ensuring that entity members join their Regional Congress and the Annual Congress so that every entity has a representative at the Regional Meeting and at the General Assembly. The Newbie Area and EGEA Fair should be organised at every congress.

Congresses have a great potential of creating more widespread impact which could be implemented in their scientific programs. We would like to encourage congress organizers to

try solving problems or issues by creating actual outcomes through cooperation either with local scientists, entrepreneurs or inhabitants. We also wish to encourage organisers to compose congress reports in order to reflect back on the events and to make the main outcomes visible for everyone.

Administrative events

We aim to organise two Organisation and Strategy Meetings, one in winter and the other during summer. We also need to promote these events with the help of RCPs and CPs in order to make them more available for everyone; not only for those people who are a part of OSC.

Scientific events

Scientific events are extremely important since it is one of the best ways to create impact. It is necessary to focus on motivation of event organisers to raise level of science at these events and at Congresses. One of possible decisions would be to encourage their communication with the Scientific Committee as an experienced body in advising on the topic of science at events. Besides that, we would like to support scientific events financially if the budget allows.

We expect to see more impact as a result of the scientific level increase. This could be a combination of practical and theoretical work, continuation of work after workshops, close cooperation with local companies and sharing output or other ways of improvement.

Moreover, the theme for the upcoming year is "Sustainable cities and communities". Narrowing of the topic makes people think in a specific direction and helps to develop their ideas in more detail. Diversity of such events could gather more opinions from citizens of various European cities. This will stimulate people to organise events, lectures and other activities dedicated to this topic and increase interest in it. Furthermore, we could collect good examples from entities all over EGEA regarding this topic and create a special European Geographer issue or a year report by SciComm. Additionally, it enables EGEA to have more impact. And of course, we will make sure to choose another topic on the next GA.

Other events

In order to keep EGEA growing and developing it is necessary to continue the tradition of Newbie Weekends in each region where people who have joined us just recently could get an insight into traditions of our Association and get to know people from all over Europe. The BoE and the RCPs will support the organisers and at least one representative will be present at each Newbie Weekend. Furthermore the RCPs will work closely together with the EPRA and the Regional Congress organisers to support them wherever they can. Besides

value of these events for newbies, RCPs and the BoE will try to have one of their live meetings at one of them.

We also wish to ensure having four CP trainings in collaboration with RTs, one for each region where new CPs could get more knowledge and perform their tasks more efficiently. We plan to have intensive promotion of the CP trainings so that interested EGEAns can join them and get more involved. In addition to this we would like to arrange online CP-trainings which make it convenient for everyone to take part in them regardless of their location.

For all the members of our Association it is beneficial to participate in trainings and other events which could help EGEAns to enhance their hard and soft skills. It is important to promote such events to raise awareness of them and stimulate members for personal development and help other people to develop themselves as well. We should encourage organisers to include trainings into all big events and keep importance of these activities on a high level. Furthermore, the generations of trainers should work closely with each other to organise knowledge transfer – such events as Training New Trainers were created for this purpose, and they will be supported during next year. Our partners offer plenty of training possibilities as well and we need to keep our members informed about all of them.

Finances

Transparency

During our term 2019/2020 we aim to be transparent about our finances and important financial decisions. These will be communicated to all the members through BoE updates and minutes of the BoE meetings. Furthermore, the Treasurer will be in close contact with the Financial Control Commission for ensuring the transparency by monthly updates regarding income and expenses of EGEA in comparison with the estimated budget.

Support Fund

The Regional Contact Persons together with FundComm will promote the Support Fund in their region to let everybody know that every member of EGEA, regardless gender or region, has the same opportunity to apply for the fund. All applications will be handled confidentially. The Support Fund was created to ensure all individuals who want to be part of a congress or other administrative or scientific event but have financial restrictions were able to join. The RCPs will plan and support activities which will help to fundraise for the Support Fund pot like the Support Fund Auction.

Grants

To ensure financial stability of next year the BoE will be working closely together with the Grant Team, the Fundraising Committee and the Regional Teams. An application for the Erasmus+ Key Action 3 grant will be handed in. Also Key Action 3 grant will be reported with joined forces of RTs and CPs. Moreover, we would like to work closely with the Grant Team in order to collect information about the other possibilities and work on more financial projects.

Fundraising

The Treasurer and BoE will be in close contact with the Fundraising Committee in order to actively look for new partners and sponsors for EGEA; this in order to diversify EGEA's finances. In addition, we will promote the "Friends of EGEA" institute to stimulate members and alumni to donate money to EGEA.

Furthermore, we want to continue our financial agreements with Esri and Utrecht University. We will work on prolonging the contracts for another year. This will be done by close contact with the Secretariat and the respective partner. Furthermore we will continue with the affiliate partnerships of Flixbus, Deutsche Bahn and Hostelworld.

Communication

Internal

The BoE and the RCPs would like to keep improving the internal communication within EGEA. This means we want to ensure transparency, access to information and good horizontal communication which are key factors to achieve the transfer of knowledge.

TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL WE ARE GOING TO

- Have regular meetings with all concerned bodies
- Announce the meetings and their topics beforehand
- Announce updates and reports of the meetings afterwards (in the form of minutes)
- Make a Committee Promotion week during the year 2019/2020
- The RCPs will ensure to forward the information during their regional meetings, using entity e-mail addresses throughout the year or in other effective ways (regional group chats, facebook groups etc.)

- Promote informal communication among cooperating bodies (cross-committee projects, Regional Team and entities etc.)
- Encourage official bodies to update their Manuals

The RCPs will work together with each other and the entities to help entities grow into their full potential. For this the Regional Contact Persons will communicate with each other regularly and exchange ideas and experiences throughout the year both at the E-meetings and Live Meetings. To bring the regions closer together the Regional Teams will promote trans-regional cooperation and promote events of all EGEA entities.

To ensure good communication with their entities, the RCPs will focus on supporting struggling entities as well as encouraging active entities to stay dedicated. To provide knowledge transfer between entities on common issues faced on a local level the RCPs will encourage entities to exchange their experiences, struggles and solutions.

For exchange of information and dissemination of information among EGEAns, several communication channels (which have been used in previous years and proved themselves useful and followed) will be used.

THESE COVER

- The website (announcements and forums for relevant information)
- Official social media channels (facebook fan page, official facebook group, official Instagram profile)
- Newsletter (Bupdates among others)
- Organisation and Strategy Meetings
- Regional meetings (both live and e-meetings)
- Entity or body e-mails

External

Over the years the number of partners has increased greatly. At this moment our cooperation has spread not only towards geography students but towards many other organisations. We are eager to support communication with all of them on a good level by sending representatives of EGEA to their activities and inviting them to events organised by us. We will try to share more external opportunities for all EGEA members.

Partnerships with Utrecht University and ESRI will be supported by the Secretariat Coordinator.

Being a young generation of Europe we feel the need to express our vision on behalf of EGEA at the meetings of IFISO and YFJ. Nowadays the voice of youth is recognized and we have a great chance to shape our future.

Besides contacting other organisations we will stay close to our alumni who have made their first steps into their "serious" life. We can invite them to contribute in the scientific program of our events and thus enhance communication between older and younger generations. Also, they could be a great chance for our members to get information about job opportunities and internships in Europe.

Moreover, Climate Action campaign can be realized within this year: as a student Geography association, we will cooperate with other student associations in order to raise awareness about Climate Change together on a bigger scale.

Awareness and impact

Awareness

GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS

The goal of increasing Geography and EGEA related awareness can be achieved in collaboration of our member entities and the primary project for that is the Geography Awareness Week. This enables a whole week full of activities which promote both our association and our field of study. We will also continue in cooperation with our partner organisations AFNEG, GeoDach (and EUROGEO for the first time) in the upcoming year. The goal is to have an efficient promotional campaign to motivate as many entities as possible to take part in the project.

There is also a plan to join the "Night of Geography" in April together with AFNEG for the first time. It is a geography awareness day/evening where activities are organized during that time.

In general, entities have the power of creating year-round awareness on local levels and this could be facilitated by taking more courageous steps and make the projects appear in different local/national media (television, journals, social media etc.) and making both geography and our association more visible.

SOCIAL AWARENESS

As EGEA brings together young students from all around Europe we wish to maintain the great atmosphere our association carries. In order to guarantee a non-discriminatory environment for everyone, acceptance, tolerance and solidarity are stressed out and it is

also stated by the Code of Conduct that EGEA follows. We are a community that supports and respects each other and this mentality and EGEA spirit needs to be continued.

Impact

ENVIRONMENTAL

We have to work more efficiently together with EGEA Green to achieve more sustainability in EGEA and with the Climate Action Group to create impact both within our association and also externally by advocating environmentally friendly behaviour. We wish to promote EGEA Green projects more and make entities motivated to participating in them.

It is also necessary to continue with successful environmental campaigns such as Waste Free Week. We could integrate them more with international events such as Buy Nothing Day and spread the knowledge about these kind of activities within EGEA entities which in turn can spread the message towards a wider audience. We also believe that new ways should be implemented in order to make EGEA activities and events more sustainable and environmentally friendly. Organizing green events is under more attention certainly.

EXTERNAL IMPACT

EGEA`s external impact has been a relevant topic for a long time since the current situation is that mainly only those people who have been involved in official positions know about it. In order to achieve more recognition outside our community we need to create more impactful events to reach out to a wider audience. Entities can raise awareness about certain topics on their local level. We plan to work on supporting EGEA`s statements in collaboration with entities regarding different topics whether it concerns climate change or anything else.