

Strategic Plan 2023-2027

2023



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Introduction

Over the years, EGEA has grown from a small European network into a pan-European association for young people. Now, it has Entities in many of the European countries and young motivated people always bring new and innovative ideas to the network.

To ensure that EGEA will grow and improve structurally as well as in terms of quality in a long-term way, the three years Strategic Plan was implemented. This year, we decided that the Strategic Plan should last one year longer, four years in total, so EGEA and its officials have a realistic chance to implement the ideas of the Strategic Plan. It shall be a general outline is set out for the future leaders of EGEA to ensure and follow up on structural changes and improvements that surpass individual leaderships.

However, the strategic plan is merely a guideline for improvements of the next leaders of EGEA and is meant to highlight certain topics that are important to EGEA. It is meant to be a base for annual policy papers written by the Board of EGEA (BoE) and Regional Teams (RTs) which lay out how the association will develop and what it will focus on in the upcoming year.

This strategic plan is built around three main topics: **sustainability**, **professionalisation** and **external appearance**. These have been identified as current and relevant topics in which EGEA can grow further and realise more of its potential. Each of them is divided into three to four subtopics. In this division it is important to see the strategic plan as a whole, zooming in from a larger to a smaller level. Each topic has a short description including what this chapter is about and ending in a table where the **sub-ambition** is written down with ideas on how to work on them in the **'how'** section.

In addition, the topics of the strategic plan is connected to the Sustainable Development Goals to contextualise these aims in a wider context.



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Note: The names of bodies and projects reflect the current situation and can change in the following years.



1. Sustainability

Sustainability can be understood in many ways. For EGEA, sustainability means building a stronger association with active member entities and motivated individuals, while diversifying and strengthening the financial basis for the long term. On the other hand, environmental sustainability is an ever more present topic in our society, for geographers it is a key topic. As the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) explain, sustainability is an extremely complex and interdisciplinary concept. For EGEA, it entails the permanent character of things, how they can be made in a long-lasting way. It is about the environmental impact we cause by travelling across the continent as well as about ensuring the existence of the Association over a longer period.

The Sustainable Development Goals are the successor of the Millennium Goals and formulate 17 highly connected global issues we face in realising a sustainable world. Throughout the Strategic Plan they will be connected to the different subtopics by means of their official icon created by the UN. You can find more information about the SDGs <u>here</u>.

1.1 Knowledge transfer & human resources

official positions, soft-skills, organisational development, manuals, trainings –



Individuals of EGEA in official positions are students or young professionals interested in geography who **use their time to develop the Association**. During this time of development and personal growth, **knowledge transfer is a big part of passing on knowledge** from one EGEA generation to the next one.

Sub-ambition	How?
People for the first time in an official position will have a smooth transfer	6 6,

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Improv the quality & ef- fectiveness of the transi- tion processes for differ- ent teams and position on all levels by creating guide- lines/training.	 Team Management Training. Manuals for Officials. Team building training should be a part of the transition process. Attending a team management training can be useful for the 'team leaders' (e.g., President, RCPs, Team Coordinators etc.). An officials' training before the transition should be done with everyone who will have an official position and should be organised together with the Training Team.
A good transition docu- ment & digital data man- agement is key for knowledge transfer.	 Manuals should be improved and updated longer manuals should be accompanied by shorter, condensed versions. Use of linked titles should be used to help navigate documents quickly. Existing manuals should be better promoted through CP trainings, sending them out to new CPs and everyone who is taking over a position (Team coordinators, Congress organiser etc.). Create a handout for new CPs/new Team Reps/with short notice where to find what and whom to contact when needed. Data management (GDPR management & awareness) needs to be improved structurally.
Contact Person (CP) train- ing should have a higher outreach and effective- ness.	 CP trainings are twice a year for two hours mandatory; therefore, trainings should be held online and at least one residential. The topics should be increased but balanced (There is no limit. Some sessions could just be about the manuals e.g.) It should contain digital data management and where the manuals/master folder could be found.



	 An effective way is to hold one training straight after the Annual Congress (preferable middle of October) and one in spring. The trainings should be organised together with the Training Team and its certified trainers as well as other fitting Teams.
EGEA is a platform in which people can self-develop in an atmosphere of re- spect , inclusion and per- sonal development, which contributes to many useful skills for the rest of peo- ple's lives.	 Soft skills that EGEA especially aims to contribute to are: intercultural communication (e.g., intercultural competencies, intercultural communication & societal awareness) project management event organisation personal leadership
Spread motivation and en- gagement though sharing inspiring personal stories as well as through informal networking on events and exchanges.	EGEA stories should be shared through a blog and reels (e.g., through the campaign "#EGEAadventure").
Strengthen the number and active entities and in- dividuals	 Effective top-down promotion and communication. Work on the EGEA Reach Beyond project again.

1.2 Inclusion

- support fund, general inclusion, cultural inclusion, connecting, code of conduct -



Inclusion is one of the main goals in EGEA with the aim to **welcome people from any** economic, social, religious or cultural background. Our Association gives equal opportunities to people from all kinds of backgrounds because equal chance to people impacts positively the society.



Sub-ambition	How?
Increase the visibility of the Support Fund (SF) to EGEAns with less re- sources to participate in	Create possibilities to be sure of getting the money even before applying to the event through motivat- ing them to apply as e.g., workshop leader to get a fixed place.
our association and in- crease the flexibility flow of money to the Support	 Explain it in the regional meetings before the dead- line one more time in detail.
Fund.	Include the Support Fund and a short explanation into the event page.
	Do a short explanation/promotion video/flyer and promote it.
	 Rebranding the Support Fund to be open for every individual in EGEA.
Foster a general inclusive mentality and embracing cultural diversity within EGEA.	 Encouraging members to join the meetings aiming to improve inclusivity.
	 The people in official positions working as role mod- els in promotion of general inclusiveness.
	 Organising cross-cultural debates/ talks/ presenta- tions.
	Through emphasising the mission, vision and values at events (e.g. the Opening eremony) and signing of the Code of Conduct at events, we create an open and inclusive environment.
	 Promotion should represent everyone.
Connect with interested local groups outside of Europe and with inter- ested individuals without an entity.	 Stay in contact with individuals of (recently) discharged entities that still want to participate and support them to restart with an entity. Develop ways for individuals without an entity to
	stay connected in EGEA and attend (official) events.
Implementation and eval- uation of Code of Conduct (CoC) and its evolution.	 A working group of individuals should check the Code of Conduct yearly. Continue the implementation of the CoC.



Better communication and inclusion.

- Online introduction for newbies and at the same time networking all over Europe.
- "#EGEAadventure" (personal stories) on the and social media.
- Possibilities to improve English language through PenPal, speaking at events or cooperations with english Summerschools.
- Job related events with job relevant workshops (e.g., GIS-workshops) and the possibility to share experiences and information about job possibilities for geography students (additionally to the <u>Database of</u> <u>the External Opportunities Team</u>).

1.3 Quantity and quality of entities

- reactivating entities, Support struggling entities, promotion to find new entities -

EGEA, especially the Regional Teams will work in close contact with the struggling entities. Additionally, the Inclusion Team will be motivated to focus more on finding new entities and promote EGEA in 'non-EGEA Universities' and reactivate the 'Reach beyond' project. Why: due to the pandemic and conflicts within countries we believe entities, both quality and quantity, need extra attention in 2023–2027.

Sub-ambition	How?
Restart EGEA Reach be- yond project.	 Visit entities/potential new entities. Promote 'How to start an entity' on social media so individuals interested in EGEA easily know how they can be part of it.
	 Manual that shows how EGEA should be presented. EGEA is not only for geography students, it should be open for 'everyone' (doesn't matter what you are studying, if you are not studying etc.).



Help struggling entities.	The Regional Team should keep an eye on strug- gling entities and visit the struggling entities and work in close contact with the Reach Beyond project so they can visit the struggling entities.
	 Inviting nearby entities for an exchange.
	Instal a 'Buddy system' to help struggling entities nearby.
Search for new potential entities.	 Promote to start an entity to Erasmus students.
	 Promote EGEA to companies, organisations and talk about their internship possibilities.
	 PhD students can spread the idea of EGEA to their students.

1.4 Environmental awareness

- environmental awareness, sustainability, climate change, EGEA Green -



EGEA will **strengthen its sustainability and environmental awareness**. We want to work on closer cooperation with the **Green Team** and all other bodies of EGEA, especially the event organisers.

Sub-ambition	How?
Continu and further develop activities and projects of EGEA Green , such as the Green Book and Entity Ranking List points for green events . Including more sustainability in events, projects and bodies of EGEA	 Improve and evaluate the <u>Green Book</u>. Motivate entities to use the Green Book more. Entity ranking list points for sustainable events. Travel competitions (e.g. hitchhiking for sustainable travelling. Organise little waste events. Vegan/Vegetarian events. Active Social Media Promotion when someone from



	BoE/RTs travels sustainably to an event.Reusing materials at events.
Inspire others to be more sustainable.	 Organise sustainable activities at events. Organise discussions about sustainability at events or for EGEA podcast. Organise workshops on ecological impact. etc.
Use targeted promotional campaigns and activities in cooperation with partner organisations to raise awareness beyond EGEA.	 Geography awareness week with AFNEG and Ge- oDACH. Searching for more projects with partners e.g. ISHA-
Support thematic pro- gramme on congresses and other events.	 Raise more awareness about the current/up-coming theme year: include the theme year in the open call for congresses. Promote the theme year more through social media and with small events of official bodies (RTs/Teams etc.)
Support and promoting local sustainable events and activities by entities such as clean up campaigns, tree planting actions, flea markets etc.	 Organise an 'environmental month' where entities/ teams etc. can promote their actions. Work together with our partner ISOHA to promote it more (they have a day to promote this).
Actively use the Sustaina- ble Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework for interdisciplinary sustaina- bility and as a framework to increase our external impact.	 Include the SDGs as much as possible in events and the planning of EGEAs future. More SDGs can be found here: <u>https://sdgs.un.org/goals</u>





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2. Professionalisation

EGEA understands **professionalisation as a constant process**. This process allows the Association to grow; it **strengthens its external impact** and **creates** opportunities for individuals. Other European student associations can act as an inspiration for EGEA. Significant improvements in structure and operation can be achieved through close cooperation and exchange of good practices. In this respect, EGEA wishes to **focus on several internal aspects of professionalisation**. In this strategic plan, the focus is detailed on **internal communication**, **high-quality events and a suitable**, **updated structure** that facilitates working towards EGEA's mission, vision and values.

A key aspect of professionalisation is to be a part of a **strong network of partners and sponsors.** This network allows us to meet enthusiasm, dedication and values of our members with real world problems, market demand and conscious citizenship. This can be achieved by a tight cooperation with external stakeholders: universities, companies, NGOs, research institutes, associations, policymakers and local authorities.

2.1 Internal communication

- collaboration among individuals, vertical & horizontal communication -



EGEA will **strengthen the communication** and exchange of important topics vertically and horizontally, with **all stages** and bodies of EGEA included. This exchange is important for the work and the future of EGEA.

Sub-ambition	How?
Equal access to infor- mation for every individ- ual.	 More structured overview over all available infor- mation.
	 Quick and easy language summaries of the most im- portant (and not constantly changing) aspects of EGEA.
	 Create an easy way for newbies to understand what EGEA is and to connect with each other.



Independent decision of each team for choosing the communication chan- nels.	 Structure template for ways to organise communication effectively, e.g. Team Leading/Team communication trainings. Use one channel for the communication between the different bodies (each body can use it for their group chat as well or decide on another one).
Increase accessibility of in- formation and updates to all EGEAns.	 Sharing short and on point outcomes from official meetings accessible for relevant audience by: 'Just a minute' conclusions of longer meetings. Posts on social media with the main points which were discussed. Develop an easily accessible newsletter on the website with information from all bodies combined (accessible to members and non-members). Develop a website blog where all members can share ideas, experiences, etc. Especially for EGEA officials and the different bodies.
Continuous development and update of manuals, their promotion and pro- motion of existing know- ledge transfer materials.	 Promotion of manuals e.g., through integration in CP trainings and to the congress organisers and all other bodies during a transition process. Ask EGEAns who are working with the manuals to update ideas (e.g. Congress Organiser).
EGEAns know the Advisory Board as people available to everyone for further as- sistance or advice, espe- cially in relation to knowledge transfer mate- rials.	Through active promotion, especially amongst EGEA Officials, and a present attitude, the Advisory Board gets more known as an approachable body with the aim to advise, help and improve knowledge transfer connecting different generations of EGEAns.
Regular and informative newsletter/blog, which tar- gets increasing its audi- ence	Install a blog on the webpage which can be trans- ferred easily to a newsletter on the web page to up- date EGEAns as well as non-EGEAns (through blog and send out newsletter) about what is happening in EGEA.

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Continuous development of the website in order to provide an easier access to the content as well as a more professional appearance for its users.

- Webpage should be the number one access point for information everyone needs to have.
- Push officials to use the webpage so everyone is more active on it.
- Promote Tech Team. We need them!

2.2 Quality of events

- events, congresses, event development, quality management -



EGEA wants to ensure that the events organised by entities can be well organised through sharing experiences of past event organisers to future event organisers. Additionally, we want to make sure that the input at events is on a high level and can be shared after the event.

Sub-ambition	How?
Ensure a smooth transi- tion of knowledge for the people who are taking up organising an event for the first time.	 Creating a public database with reports, made by past organisers. Doing an Orgateam evaluation which then can be accessed by anyone. Establishing contact with previous organisers, rely-
All event organisers are supported more actively. They know where to find information and who to ask for further assistance, support or clarification.	 ing on their experience. Congress organisers and organisers from smaller events alike can rely on manuals, fundraising tutori- als, transitions, and other tools for support. Regional Teams are the main point of contact for event organisers of non-congress events. Work in close contact with the teams and make use of their knowledge/work e.g. work together with the finance team for the fundraising strategy
Quality guidelines are developed for event organisers. These guidelines aim to both support organisers	 Create guidelines based on previous events and their strong sides. Make the guidelines doable and approachable, so they won't discourage potential organisers (a Good

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and simultaneously en- sure certain quality-as- pects, as well as an inclu- sion of EGEA's mission, vi- sion and values.	 Practices Book). Integrate the Plan-Do-Check-Act approach (HR Strategy) in evaluation methodologies.
More support for congress organisers is developed, through transition docu- ments (evaluations, man- uals,) and through in- creased connection with previous congress organis- ers. This ensures a higher knowledge transfer amongst organisers.	 Examples of actions are: Create a Orga-team evaluation manual. Experiences about each part of the congress. Buddy-system among congress organisers where every member of the orga-team is connected with an ex-organiser who had similar duties. This is especially important for congresses where (some) organisers have little or no congress experience.

2.3 Structure of EGEA

- knowledge transfer, restructuring, soft skills, professionalisation -

The current restructuring of EGEA shall continue towards a **more professionally and efficiently functioning (student) organisation**. The structure of EGEA has been evolving for a few years now. This process should be continued with the main area of **focus on individuals and entities/regions**. The main idea is to maximise effectiveness, care about EGEAns in official positions and optimise their workload. All changes in the structure and shifts of tasks among official bodies shall be discussed and planned before their approval and evaluated regularly in order to maximise positive impact and mitigate potential drawbacks.

Sub-ambition	How?
Implement and evaluating the restructuring of re- gions.	 If the proposal for General Assembly 2023 is approved, the restructuring of regions will be effective in 2024/2025.
	The evaluation shall start at the Winter OSM and continue until the Summer OSM, where potential changes should be proposed.



	 Regional Teams shall be the responsible bodies for the evaluation. Entities and individuals shall be informed properly about the changes to understand and accept them.
Evaluate BoE restructuring after 22/23 and redistrib- uting tasks in the Board more equally.	In 2022/2023, EGEA had the first 6-members-BoE; valua- tion should start already during the transition and con- tinue throughout the whole year (during BoE meetings or as sessions at OSMs).
	 Board of EGEA members from all 6-members-BoEs should be included in the evaluation process.
Interest EGEAns into the processes of restructuring, even those without official positions.	 Having discussions and suggestion pools during re- gional meetings, congresses etc.
	 Making OSMs more attractive also for people with- out official positions.
	 Sharing ideas and outputs from discussion publicly and spreading them.



3. External appearance

As written in the Strategic Plan 2020–2023, **EGEA has a lot of content to share** and according to the Association's Vision, Mission and Values **it aims to encourage curiosity**, **to spread inspiration, to strengthen the strategic position of Geography in Europe and to bring about a positive impact on society**. Therefore, in this section, the writers of this strategic plan wish to focus on **PR**, **External impact and science** within our association. With these respective focal points, EGEA can develop a more profound stewardship of the European environment. On a scientific level in terms of geography and sustainability, and in terms of local and international societal impact. In both aspects, public relations are crucial to increase the visibility of said impact.

3.1 Public Relations (PR) Strategy

- professionalisation, attractivity, connection, collaboration, visibility -

With the boom of social media, the external appearance of the organisation is becoming more and more essential for gaining new members and new potential sponsors. The use of the right type of social media will help to be more professional (e.g. LinkedIn) and publish the accomplishments of the Association. The main challenge in the following year will be connected to regional restructuring which will bring the need for **a new visual identity for EGEA**.

Sub-ambition	How?
Create new comprehen- sive, attractive and profes- sional Visual Identity for the whole Association, as well for the new Regions.	Find resources in the budget of 2023/24 (together with the Finance Team) or human resources to cre- ate a new Visual Identity before the Regional Re- structuring takes place (if it will be accepted by the GA23).
	 Find a professional to create the new Visual Identity of EGEA to be ready for September 2023/24.
	Implement the Visual Identity in September 2024 during the Annual Congress.
	The Visual Identity should include templates for the Official documents, presentation etc. as well as ma- terials and guidelines for social media.



Further develop relation- ships with Partner stu- dent organisations and approach new potential Partners to learn from each other and provide mutual promotion.	 Offering collaboration to like-minded organisations. Staying in close contact with current Partners. The Youth NGO Training Network can be used as a basis for contact as this is a network with 20+ youth organisations.
Create guidelines for the Entities and Bodies for so- cial media.	To make sure the entities represent EGEA in a pro- fessional way, we shall create a manual/guidelines that clearly sets the rules for the type of post that are published by official EGEA members (entities) on social media (loosely connects to Appendix H of the Protocol).
Analyse the online poten- tial of EGEA and suggest better ways of communi- cation (e.g. improving the EGEA Website, use of spe- cific types of social media that are current and used by the age groups of Uni- versity students).	 Through collaboration between Technical Support Team, Media and Communication Team and Exter- nal Opportunities Team with support and guidance of the PR Advisor. Assess the potential improvements and user friend- liness of EGEA Website to make it more attractive. Promote website as online meeting place of the EGEA community. Identify potential for LinkedIn and develop a plan and divide responsibilities for maintaining an active LinkedIn (External Opportunities Team). Promote LinkedIn references amongst EGEA offi- cials. Research the social media use of the youngest gen- erations of EGEAns and adapt the social media plan accordingly (e.g. less Facebook, consider Twitter, TikTok, etc.).
Re-establish an external news feed by issuing press releases and professional- ising the current Newslet- ter.	 Media and Communication Team and the PR Advisor being the responsible coordinators of the Newsletter. Create guidelines and a clear manual that establishes the rules of posting a Blog Post (including manual for a cover picture).

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	Establish an "EGEA blog" on the EGEA Website that is available for not logged-in users (e.g., potential Partners and Sponsors) or logged-in users only – dis- tinguish the public and internal sections.
	From the blog posts create a mail Newsletter that can be released regularly and targets increasing its audience (once a month), including organisational information (new available events etc.) and updates from the official bodies of EGEA, Open Calls etc.
Develop the user experi- ence of the EGEA Website.	 Renew the hosting (server) of the Website in June 2024.
	Motivate EGEAns to use the Website efficiently by promoting tutorials on how to work with the website on the social media and the CP Trainings.

3.2 External impact

 impact on society, professional newsletter, partner organisations, reports from congresses and events, sponsors -



EGEA's local and international external impact shows the importance of geography and its role in the topics of climate change, sustainability, climate awareness and democracy. Through a better external impact EGEA will be more visible and wider recognised.

Sub-ambition	How?
Encourage entities to re- port and promote impact from events and activities.	 Regional Contact Persons should encourage organ- ising entities to compile reports of their events.
Organise projects with partners and other stu- dent organisations	Sharing and comparing with them to learn from each other's experiences.
Reactivate the newsletter.	 Including science report of congresses and events with a cooperation of the European Geographer. The newsletter could be a tool to show potential

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sponsors and professors.

Participate in external events to connect with other associations and projects.	 Stay in further close contact with GeoDACH and AFNEG. Connecting with Youth Forum and ERASMUS.
Increase impact of con- gresses through local col- laboration with institu- tions.	 Rethink the workshop format to increase the scientific and societal impact of Congresses. At a congress, 50–200 geographers from all over Europe come together. This creates a sizeable potential to conduct tailored research and problem-solving workshops around local challenges. (e.g. Hackathon format). Support of congress organisers is vital. EGEA Alumni and EuroGeo can be useful allies.

3.3 Science

research, opportunities, scientific events, quality of scientific programme –



Science shall be promoted within EGEA as we have

a unique opportunity to collaborate within our European network. One of the main aims of EGEA is to **support and strengthen international scientific research** and collaboration. As students and young geographers, we have a unique opportunity to learn a lot from each other, during events and from other researchers and universities.

Sub-ambition	How?
Promote organising scien- tific events.	 Increase promotion of scientific events, both for organisers and participants.
	 Support entities which organise scientific events (help with funding, programme, promotion, etc.).
	 Share and promote scientific outcome from events, even externally. A dedicated space on the website improves visibility.



	 Motivate entities to organise scientific events for ex- ample by awarding extra ERL points for scientific events.
Assure quality of scientific programme at congresses.	 Share know-how among congress organisers. Make and share congress scientific reports. Organise trainings on how to lead workshop/lecture/research etc.
Share scientific outcome (both internally and exter- nally).	 Create a database of scientific reports and promote it at universities. Share good examples and high-quality outcome in the European Geographer and with partners.
Promote European Geog- rapher externally.	 Spread through universities/libraries/partners etc. Publish new issues regularly.

