



egea

Policy Paper

2024/2025

Introduction

We are thrilled to introduce the Policy Paper, which outlines the key focus areas for the elected Board of EGEA and Regional Teams for 2024/2025. One of the main goals we aim to achieve is a smooth transition from four to three regions. Additionally, we will prioritise important aspects of our association such as inclusion, communication, financial stability and knowledge transfer. We are optimistic that the coming year will be successful for EGEA, and with our support, it will continue to grow and thrive.

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List of acronyms

AC - Annual Congress
BoE - Board of EGEA
CoC - Code of Conduct
CP - Contact Person
EGEA - European Geography Association
EGEAn - A person who is part of EGEA
GA - General Assembly
OSM - Organisation and Strategy Meeting
RCP - Regional Contact Person
SOSM - Summer Organisation and Strategy Meeting
TPGs - Teams, Projects & Working Groups
WOSM - Winter Organisation and Strategy Meeting

Structure and Internal Communication

Regional Restructuring of EGEA's regions

Last year (2023/2024) marked a significant period for the Regional Restructuring aimed to enhance organisational efficiency and align regions with current needs. The Regional Restructuring was voted in and will come into effect after the General Assembly taking place at the Annual Congress 2024.

Preparations have been taken care of, and this year will bring the transition from four regions to three, each with its own Regional Congress and Regional Team.

This change represents a considerable amount of work for the year, as it is a major shift. As the BoE, in collaboration with all official bodies of EGEA, especially our Regional Teams, we will **promote this new structure** as much as possible to help members of EGEA adapt to it and recognise its positive impact.

Some of the positive effects are already visible in the participant distribution and activity within the newly established regions during the AC 2024. However, we will **conduct an evaluation of the process** at the end of the EGEA year and present it in next year's Annual Report.

As we move through this change, we are also aware that the Regional Restructuring may lead to growth within EGEA, possibly resulting in the creation of new entities. If such a situation arises, we will leave the possibility open for establishing a new Regional Restructuring Project to **add an additional region** - but only if the circumstances suggest an urgent need for further change.

Internal communication

We believe that **transparent and frequent** communication between the BoE and all members is crucial for enhancing the approachability of our official bodies. Therefore we will publish minutes from all BoE meetings and distribute them via email to all entities, regions, teams and projects, and also publish them in the master folder and on the website. These minutes will include a **summary of BoE's discussions** and highlight

the main points of focus for the current period of the EGEA working year. Our goal is to reach as many EGEAns as possible with clear and informative messages. Additionally, we aim to encourage all official bodies to cooperate and maintain open and transparent communication with each other and all EGEAns.

Regional Matters

With the official establishment of the three regions, our goal will be to **strengthen new relationships between regional entities**. The regions will connect better to different bodies of EGEA through CP Trainings and CP Briefings. We will also promote the hosting of live events such as smaller weekends, Newbie Weekends and Regional Congresses. Through these live events, EGEAns will more easily connect than in a virtual setting, **greatly boosting networking and cooperation**.

We will maintain and nurture EGEA's current network. Struggling entities will be given constant support and advice to help reverse their current situations. Besides maintaining, we will also put all of our efforts into **expanding the EGEA network**. The key to this will be the EGEA Reach Beyond Project, which, with the help of other bodies, will execute important tasks in the pursuit of identifying potential new entities and establishing contact. These potential entities will receive all the necessary information and materials for joining our organisation. Through expansion, the regions will become richer in diversity and increase the number of possible events, exchanges, etc.

Due to the dynamic nature of EGEA, knowledge transfer is key to maintaining and expanding our network. In the upcoming year, we will strive to **update the EGEA drive** so that current and future CPs will have all of EGEA's important material, which has been gathered over the years, at their disposal to help them in their projects.

Entity Matters

The preceding year was full of events organised by entities throughout Europe, serving as exceptional opportunities for entities and their members to gain experience in event organisation and cultivate practical skills.

This year, we will pay particular attention to **keep encouraging** people to organise events. In the period of the Regional Restructuring, **fostering integration** between

entities has to be a priority. One of our main goals will be to motivate entities to **collaborate among their new regions**, particularly with those they have never previously been aligned with. We will especially encourage entities to participate in events and engage in exchanges within their regions to foster integration and strengthen collaboration.

It is crucial that we persist in creating an atmosphere that encourages entities to maintain the level of engagement from the previous year, inspiring them to create such events as platforms for newbies to meet other EGEAns and experience the spirit of EGEA. To ensure the professional execution and promotion of these events, it is necessary for the organisers to **receive support** from the Regional Teams and the Event Advisor. Equally vital is **enhancing knowledge transfer** between newbies and experienced EGEAns, recognising that newbies might possess limited insight into the administrative procedures and organisational framework of EGEA. We will host at least one **CP Briefing** to ensure a smooth knowledge transfer and support them as they take on their new responsibilities.

Teams, Projects & Working groups

In the coming year, our primary focus for **Teams, Projects and Working Groups (TPGs)** will be to enhance their communication and visibility within EGEA. We will continuously assess and adjust these groups to ensure they remain effective and relevant. To improve efficiency and collaboration, we plan to schedule regular virtual meetings, with the potential for live meetings as circumstances allow, to share updates and strategies. These meetings will emphasise cooperation among TPGs, the BoE and Regional Teams. We are dedicated to involve all EGEAns in shaping the future of the association, ensuring smooth communication and highlighting opportunities for personal development. Initiatives like **"Team Promotion Week"** will be reintroduced to increase the visibility and appeal of TPGs, encouraging greater participation and fostering a strong community within EGEA.

Awareness and inclusion

Science

With the Geography Awareness Week and Theme Year, we want to highlight topics related to geography. We will encourage entities to organise thematic workshops and include the **Theme Year 2025 topic “Circular Economy”** in upcoming Congresses and scientific events. Our goal is to improve our geographical identity by engaging in discussions on the different topics we deal with in our everyday lives, such as GIS, physical geography, human geography and topics related to climate change. In close cooperation with the Science Team we aim to increase the significance of geography as a science and **improve EGEA’s scientific input and output**.

Sustainability

We will continue raising awareness about climate change in accordance with the **EGEA Climate Policy Paper**, actively promoting its content within the organisation. Additionally, we will encourage event organisers to adopt the Green Team's **Green Book** guidelines for more sustainable events. Following these principles, we aim to inspire each Individual in EGEA to minimise their carbon footprint through practices such as slow, sustainable travel.

Conflict Awareness

EGEA will continue to be a platform for **cross-border communication**. However, we will reserve the right to hold responsible anyone who exhibits or has exhibited conflict-inducing or conflict-supporting behaviour, as outlined in Protocol **Appendix H**.

Inclusivity

EGEA unites young geographers in an atmosphere of **respect, inclusion and personal growth**. We are committed to upholding these values and ensuring that everyone **feels welcome** in our association. We will actively promote adherence to the Protocol Appendix E **“Code of Conduct”**, ensuring that all EGEAns feel safe and that the rules are respected at all times. To support the participation of EGEAns in events, we will promote the **EGEA Support Fund**, ensuring everyone understands the application process and how to obtain it.

Activities

Congresses

Knowledge from previous congress organisation should be transferred more actively to entities organising this year's congresses. This should be achieved by gathering documentation of past congresses and to pass on to organising entities. Congress Organisers should be supported through frequent, proactive outreach by the BoE during the congress organisation. This particularly aims to simplify the creation of a base for congresses and identify funding.

As there are three regions now, **three Regional Congresses and one Annual Congress are desired to be held**. If no suitable organisers can be found, alternative solutions will be considered to ensure the occurrence of the Regional Meeting. To secure the presence of potential future congresses, approaching and encouraging entities to organise congresses stays crucial.

EGEA congresses address a variety of geographical topics. In the past however, the outputs of congresses besides the GA were not consequently collected. To better preserve the output produced at congresses, **Congress Reports should be reestablished** and gathered in a suitable manner to be reused for interested EGEAns, universities, sponsors and partners.

Administrative Events

EGEA's Organisation and Strategy Meetings are usually held in Winter (WOSM) and Summer (SOSM) and this year shall be the same. The WOSM will be held at the end of November/beginning of December and the SOSM at the end of June/beginning of July. Communication with the organising entities and the planning of the working sessions will be managed by the Event Advisor with the President serving as backup.

Further Events

Scientific and intercultural exchange is key to our organisation and can best be achieved by regular events. Besides congresses and administrative events, EGEAns should therefore be encouraged to **organise scientific and leisure events** and are supported in the organisation of those.

Finances

We are committed to continuing the work of **EGEA 2.0** in order to secure long term financial stability in EGEA, making our association resilient against future incidents. To reach that goal, the BoE intends to communicate with EGEA Alumni as well as with past congress and event organisers, as both might have direct connections to organisations that could be interested in sponsoring EGEA. We will also **collaborate closely with the Finance Team** on this topic, as they already have a list of potential sponsors. The external visibility and branding of EGEA, as well as our strategy of approaching organisations, will be important in order to attract potential new sponsors.

Moreover, enhancing the visibility of **Friends of EGEA** is crucial, as this project allows our association to raise funds mainly from individuals who are or have been active individuals in EGEA and are well aware of the impact of their contributions.

PR and External representation

Visual Identity Implementation

We are committed to ensuring the **correct implementation of our new Visual Identity** by providing accessible information and guidance to all members. Additionally, we aim for a seamless visual transition from four regions to three, maintaining consistency and unity throughout the organisation.

Professional Appearance

One of our main goals will be to **strengthen EGEA's external representation to sponsors and partners**. We will prioritise a professional and active social media presence as a key aspect of our branding strategy. Additionally, we aim to spotlight geography-related topics by showcasing scientific workshops, the Geography Awareness Week and the Theme Year. To further increase our reach and influence, we aim to actively engage in partner events.

EGEA Partners

The **cooperation with our partners will be re-evaluated** and our core partners will be determined. We aim to seek extended agreements if necessary, emphasising the importance of collaboration for both parties. To enhance EGEA's mission, we will continue looking for new partners specialising in geographic and scientific fields.

