



Year Plan

2025/2026

Introduction

We are thrilled to introduce the Year Plan, which outlines the key focus areas for the elected Board of EGEA for 2025/26. One of the main goals we aim to achieve is a smooth transition of the legal seat of EGEA from Utrecht to Krakow. 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.

Contributors

Board of EGEA 2025/2026

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With inputs from the Regional Contact Person and Team Coordinator Elects 2025/2026.

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List of acronyms

AC - Annual Congress

BoE - Board of EGEA

CoC - Code of Conduct

CP - Contact Person

EDI - Equity, Diversity & Inclusivity

EGEA - European Geography Association for students and young geographers

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

T&Ps - Teams and Projects

WG - Working Group

WOSM - Winter Organisation and Strategy Meeting

1. Organisational Development & Governance

1.1. Democracy, Approachability & Transparency

The BoE aims to foster a culture of openness, approachability, and transparency across the organisation.

In addition to publishing the **minutes from BoE meetings**, public statements will be issued following significant decisions to ensure all EGEAns remain informed (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 2.1).

We will also explore creating a **shared Year Calendar** to improve communication of important dates and events across EGEA.

1.2. Official Documents & Structural Processes

Our first priority is the **relocation of the Secretariat in Kraków**, Poland, as it includes registering at the Chamber of Commerce there, updating contracts, etc.

Following this, and according to priority, the BoE will continue the work, initiated by previous BoEs, on **updating and creating official documents**, to ensure they remain relevant, clear and aligned with EGEA's needs. For example, the BoE will work on Congresses & Events Guidelines.

2. Policy & Advocacy

2.1. Geography

We will strive to enhance EGEA's **output and influence within the geography community, for example in different national associations, departments**

etc. Since geography is interconnected with all aspects of life, we believe our work can have **real-world applications**. Through our events, which cover a wide range of scientific fields and topics, we can produce valuable scientific contributions that help address and improve complex challenges. We will also focus our efforts on promoting this output **within the geography community**.

2.2. Sustainability

We will continue to **raise awareness about climate change** actively sharing and promoting its key messages throughout the organisation (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 1.4).

Beyond events, we aim to inspire every EGEAn to **reduce their carbon footprint** and **adopt environmentally responsible habits** in their daily lives, for example through slow and sustainable travel practices or low-impact activities within their entities.

2.3. Equity, Diversity & Inclusivity (EDI)

According to our mission, vision and values, we will **enhance awareness of EDI**, through, for example, the organisation of training sessions at congresses or specific closed sessions for EGEAns to share their personal experiences and connect with each other.

EGEA brings together students and young geographers in a spirit of **respect, inclusion, and personal growth**. We are dedicated to maintaining these values and ensuring every EGEAn feels welcome within our Association. We will actively encourage compliance with the Code of Conduct, to **guarantee a safe environment where the rules are always respected** (Protocol Appendix E). We will also strive to ensure that reporting misconducts are easy and, if desired, anonymous.

To make event participation accessible for all, we will promote the **EGEA Support Fund** and clearly communicate how to apply and benefit from it (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 1.2). This way people from less privileged economic and social

backgrounds will have **part of their travel cost and/or the participation fee covered so they will be able to participate at administrative and scientific events.**

2.4. Peace

EGEA will remain a platform for **cross-border communication**, while the BoE will reserve the right to hold accountable anyone who engages, or has engaged, in behaviour that causes or supports conflict. EGEA will continue operating as a **non-partisan organisation**, which opposes any form of conflict or disregard for human rights.

3. Finances

To ensure financial stability of EGEA, a few key actions will be undertaken during our mandate as Board of EGEA.

3.1. Grants

We will **apply for the Activities Grant** from the European Youth Foundation (which is part of the Council of Europe). If EGEA is able to get an Activities Grant three times in a row, we would become eligible for the Structural Grant. The Structural Grant is a larger payment given to an organisation as a whole to support its workings, meaning this money could be used for example for investments, travel refunds and reimbursements for official positions to make them accessible for everyone etc. A first successful application would thus be a great first step towards this goal.

3.2. Sponsorships

To obtain various sponsors, we need to **rework old and devise new strategies regarding how to approach potential sponsors.** We can offer universities different things than companies for example, so developing different approaches

for those different potential sponsors is vital for our fundraising endeavours. We will work closely with the Finance Team to achieve this goal. **Extra effort** will be placed on **reaching out to universities** and geography departments, but we will of course try to reach geography-related companies and NGOs as well.

3.3. Exploring alternative incomes

We want to explore new income revenues. Friends of EGEA has proven to be a reliable source of income and so increasing the amount of crowdfunding efforts is a suitable avenue to increase EGEA's financial stability. During our mandate, we will **explore the feasibility to sell EGEA merch** at congresses for example. We will also **try to (re)establish affiliate programs** with travel-related companies such as Flixbus, Interrail, Uber,... to name a few.

3.4. Strengthening the Support Fund

To increase the amount of donations going to the EGEA Support Fund, **we will highly encourage congress organisers to organise charity auctions during their events** (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 1.2). We will consequently also encourage event organisers to donate the auction revenues to the EGEA Support Fund. All-in-all, auctions will increase both the awareness around the Support Fund and, hopefully, also increase the amount of donations to the Support Fund. We will also ask, when receiving spontaneous donations via Friends of EGEA or Alumni associations, whether they would like the money to go to the Support Fund or to EGEA in general.

3.5. Rehoming our finances

The rehoming of the secretariat also means opening a new bank account in Poland. This will be established as soon as the legal seat in Poland is established. **Finding a suitable and easy-to-work-with bank** for our Association is also a key priority to ensure the smooth operation and continuation of EGEA's finances.

4. Communication

We aim to strengthen EGEA's communication by making it **even more direct, engaging, transparent and welcoming** to both members and the wider public.

4.1. Internal Communication

Our goal is to **reach as many EGEAns as possible** with **clear, informative messages**. We also aim to **encourage cooperation and open, transparent communication** among official bodies and all EGEAns. To achieve this, we will **increase our use of Discord** for announcements, training sessions, activities, and meetings, and bring back the **EGEA newsletter** featuring event news, team activities, important announcements, opportunities, and partners. We will **update the EGEA drive and website** so that all important information is accessible.

4.2. External Communication & Outreach

Our communication will be **even more lively and engaging**, focusing on outward-facing content that showcases EGEA's activities, people, and diversity through short, fun videos and posts. We will aim to post regularly to enhance engagement and collaborate with partners for a broader reach.

4.3. Professional appearance

We are **committed to continuing and enhancing the new visual identity** (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 3.1), ensuring a **consistent, professional appearance across all communication channels** with high-quality visuals and clear, accessible design. Templates for announcements, events, and partner promotions will be cohesive, presenting EGEA as an organized, credible, and welcoming community. We will aim to emphasise not only consistent visual identity and appealing design, but also the quality of content, professionalism and scientific output for both internal and external audiences.

4.4. Alumni Engagement

We will keep working with EGEA Alumni and **make their contributions more visible** by inviting them to meetings to share their career paths, lead skills workshops, and talk about their experiences. This will **inspire current members and help build stronger connections** between different generations of EGEAns.

5. Partnerships

This year, we will define who our partners are, why we work with them, and what we can achieve together. Our goal is to **build mutually beneficial partnerships** that support both our objectives and our partners, while promoting the exchange of knowledge and scientific input. We will **strengthen existing relationships** and **connect with new partners** in geography and related scientific fields such as geology and forestry. We will also revise and evaluate existing partnership contracts, as all will need to be renewed with the movement to Poland. Furthermore, we aim to join umbrella organisations (e.g., Global Student Forum, Generation Climate Europe, European Youth Forum, etc.) as members or associates to amplify EGEA's mission.

6. Events

6.1. General Organisation Support

Frequent communication and support of congress organisers should be continued, with a special emphasis on more personal and transparent communication. Apart from congress organisation support, we will strive to also be in touch and to advise organisers of other events, with more attention being paid especially to **organisers of newbie-orientated and scientific events**

(Strategic Plan 2023-2027 3.3). Furthermore, the support of the organisation of both a Winter and Summer Organisation and Strategy Meeting will remain a priority.

6.2. Knowledge Transfer

The transfer of knowledge and experiences from past congress and other event organisers should be increased and supported more with the organisation of meetings between past and current event organisers (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 2.2). We will also work on **revising and improving the event guidelines and creating a new event organisation guide**, which will be aimed towards all future congress and event organisers with detailed, updated and thorough guidelines on all aspects of event planning, organisation and execution.

6.3. Diversification and Improvement of the Event Landscape

The diversity of EGEA should be reflected in its events, and we will continue our support for **all events which support the values of EGEA and improve the scientific and intercultural exchange between our members** (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 3.2). This includes the support of recurring events but also the exploration of new event ideas, such as new regional events, events on previously neglected scientific or other topics and other non-traditional event forms. Special care should be taken of ensuring a **suitable quantity and, very importantly, quality of newbie weekends or other newbie-orientated events and activities**, while also working on providing suitable support and encouragement for the organisation of events working on improving the scientific output of EGEA, such as SciCon and other smaller scientific events. We will also look into ways of **improving the event registration and communication procedures**, aiming for more fair and transparent approaches.

6.4. Event Output

EGEA events already cover a wide range of different topics and themes and produce an impressive amount of different outputs, which should be made **more visible to everyone in EGEA but also to the general public, including all our current and also potential sponsors and partners** (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 3.2). While we support the continuation of congress report creation and gathering, we also want to find ways on how to improve them and publish them, along with reports of events, especially scientific, in a **more approachable way**, which could also be used for the improvement of our organisation's visibility. Publishing certain reports of scientific workshops, excursions and other such activities in the **European Geographer** is one such idea which we want to start working on as soon as possible.

6.5. Sustainable Event Landscape

We will try to find more **meaningful ways and solutions on how to encourage a sustainable organisation of events**, while also working on finding appropriate ways of measuring the extent and success of these actions (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 1.4).

6.6. Internal Cooperation

Great care will be taken in cooperating with all T&Ps, Regional teams, other officials and active EGEAns to find new ways on how to improve events and their organisation. We will especially focus on **attracting new potential event organisers and the connection of existing ones**, while also working on finding new and alternative ways of how we as the BoE can support event organisers. In accordance with our own goal of applying for **EYF's Structural Grant**, we will also strive to find appropriate organising solutions for the events needed for the grant application.

6.7. External Cooperation

We would like to intensify **external cooperation and event (co)organisation** with our current and prospective partner organisations. Furthermore, we want to find ways on how to possibly include prospective entities in events.

7. Regional Development & Support

7.1. Entity Development & Support

We will maintain and **nurture EGEA's current network** (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 1.3). We will always be available for any struggling entities in need of help and guidance to reverse their current situation and work in close cooperation with the Regional Team.

Besides maintaining, we will also put additional efforts into **expanding the EGEA network**. The key to this will be the EGEA Reach Beyond Team, 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.

7.2. Communicating with the entities

We are seeking a more **open** and **approachable** way of communication within the regions for members of all entities. Meetings reserved for CPs only should be visibly more open for all EGEAns. With this more members are reached with important information and resources are used more efficiently.

7.3. Knowledge Exchange

To better support our existing entities, we should establish a **comprehensive resource hub**. By collecting and sharing existing ideas and presentations for local events from as many entities as possible, we can provide valuable tools for both struggling entities and those looking to present EGEA locally. Working closely with the Regional Teams, we can incorporate this information into the **CP briefing**.

8. Teams & Projects

8.1. Knowledge transfer & internal communication

To ensure continuity within T&Ps, and complementary with **regular meetings**, we will also conduct at least one **individual check-in** with Team Coordinators (alone or duo), addressing both operational progress and well-being.

We will begin developing a **Knowledge Transfer Document** for our Teams (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 1.1), to be adapted according to the Teams' structure and updated annually by the respective coordinators. Over time, this will form a comprehensive collection of practical information, tips, and step-by-step instructions for how each team operates.

8.2. External communication & visibility

The work of T&Ps will be promoted consistently throughout the year.

We will encourage T&Ps to promote their ongoing projects through **regular online updates** (via social platforms), not only during EGEA Fair.

In addition, we will aim to organise at least one **T&Ps Promotion Week**, ensuring promotion is coordinated well in advance to guarantee all teams receive equal visibility.

8.3. Team engagement & collaboration

As there is a possibility of the restructuring happening the next working year, we want to test **more collaborative ways** between the T&Ps, other Bodies and EGEAns.

We will host **working sessions** on the Discord server, involving all T&Ps (coordinators and team members) where they can collaborate on ongoing tasks, with EGEAns invited to join if interested. This way, we will also encourage **shared responsibility** and cross-team learning.

8.4. Projects & working groups (WGs)

Projects & WGs are a key part of our Association's development, as they allow us to anticipate EGEA's future and needs. We will work to ensure that **ongoing projects**, such as Friends of EGEA, are preserved but made easily **accessible for new project and WG members** to join and are **promoted more** in general, for example by featuring them prominently on the EGEA website and on the EGEA EuropeInstagram account. We will also encourage individuals to launch their own initiatives by communicating it clearly, and providing support throughout their development. By fostering a culture of creativity and collaboration, projects and WGs can continue to **bring fresh ideas, strengthen our community, and contribute to EGEA's long-term growth**.

Moreover, as EGEA is now over 35 years old and has evolved in many ways while maintaining its values and mission, the BoE would like to start the process of an **EGEA History Project**. This initiative would gather and showcase our history, documents, memorabilia, and more. This could potentially lay the groundwork, with EGEA Alumni and, for an "EGEA Museum".