



Year Plan 2026/2027

Introduction

We are happy to present the Year Plan, which outlines the key focus areas for the elected Board of EGEA for 2026/27. We plan to continue the open communication that the previous board has created by having open discussions with interested EGEAns after online board meetings and informing members about decisions and news within EGEA. Our main areas of focus are the continuation of the newsletter, teams restructuring, implementing the new CoC and improving the manuals for knowledge transfer. We look forward to the new EGEA year and give our best to fulfill our plans during our mandate.

Contributors

Board of EGEA 2026/2027

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With inputs from the Regional Contact Person and Team Coordinator elects 2026/2027.

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List of acronyms

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

OSM - Organisation and Strategy Meeting

SciCon - Scientific Conference

1. Organisational Development & Governance

1.1. Democracy, Approachability & Transparency

The BoE will continue to aim for a culture of openness, approachability, and transparency across the organisation.

Through regular publishing of meeting minutes and statements on major decisions, the BoE will ensure **all EGEAns remain informed** (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 2.1).

Creation of a **shared Year Calendar** using the Google Calendar platform will be explored, to improve communication of important dates and events across EGEA.

1.2. Official Documents & Structural Processes

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.

As the Strategic Plan and the Human Resources Strategy are set to expire this year, they shall be evaluated in regard to their effectiveness in the last year. According to the results of the evaluation, a new long term strategy will be constructed. **The BoE will strive to remain open in the creation of the Strategic Plan**, inviting all EGEAns to share their input through a specialised working group, consultations, and dedicated OSM session or sessions.

2. Policy & Advocacy

2.1. Geography

The BoE will continue to position EGEA as an **important element of the European geography landscape** through partnerships with student organisations and universities. We'll strive to create real-world applications for EGEA's work, to **improve the association's impact**. Through our events, which cover a wide range of scientific fields and topics, we can **aid in the education of the next generation of European**

geographers. We will also focus our efforts on promoting the scientific output of EGEAns within the geography community.

2.2. Sustainability

In accordance with the Climate Action Policy, EGEA will continue to **promote environmental sustainability** through Event Guidelines, local events, and encouragement of sustainable travel.

Outside of events, the organisation will use its platform to **raise awareness about climate change**, in accordance with the Strategic Plan.

2.3. Equity, Diversity & Inclusivity (EDI) & CoC

According to our mission, vision and values, we will keep **enhancing awareness of EDI** and **implementation of the CoC**, (EDI Strategy for EGEA 2025-2030 4.) through the following:

- the organisation of **training sessions** at congresses;
- specific closed sessions for EGEAns to share their **personal experiences** and connect with each other;
- incorporate EDI specific topics in annual **CP trainings** about awareness and the CoC;
- regular **promotion of the CoC**, by that we mean its meaning, contents, guidelines and every EGEA individual's rights;
- bimonthly **meetings and continuous cooperation with the Body of Trust** to monitor and further the new CoC's implementation.

We will actively encourage compliance with the new Code of Conduct, to guarantee a safe environment where the rules are always respected (Protocol Appendix E). We highly support the implementation of the new CoC and how the clear and structured guidelines facilitate our mission to secure awareness of EDI.

To enable more EGEAns to participate in events, we will promote the **EGEA Support Fund** and inform about the application process (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 1.2). This will help ensure that people from less privileged economic and social backgrounds can have **part of their travel cost and/or the participation fee covered**, enabling them to participate in events.

2.4. Peace

EGEA will continue to be a platform for **cross-border communication and dialogue**. Meanwhile, the BoE will reserve the right to hold accountable individuals who engage in, or have engaged in, behaviour that causes, promotes, or supports conflict. EGEA will continue to be a **non-partisan organisation** that opposes all forms of conflict or disregard for human rights.

3. Finances

Due to the long process of relocating EGEA from the Netherlands to Poland, we will utilize some goals from last year and try to accomplish them this term as EGEA can finally look for and sign cooperation and sponsorship agreements again. Overall, EGEA's financial situation is very unstable and reliant on individuals to support us as we currently do not have many sponsors.

3.1. Grants

Similar to last year, we will apply for the **Activities Grant from the European Youth Foundation**. If EGEA is able to get an Activities Grant three times in a row, we would become eligible for the Structural Grant. Additionally, we will research the requirements for Erasmus funding and evaluate if we could be eligible for this grant in the future.

3.2. Sponsorships

While EGEA has some amazing partners, a main goal for next year is to **strengthen our financial position** by obtaining more sponsorship opportunities. We will **reach out to more universities** with a very active student group, we will contact organisations in the Geography sector and present our organisation as a suitable partner with access to many students in various fields of Geography. We will activate current and previous partnerships and contact EGEAns willing to approach their place of work to ask for support for EGEA. Additionally, **partnerships with other student organisations** in other fields or in specific countries could open the door to many new companies and collaborations that could result in sponsorship opportunities for EGEA. Hence, we will not only try to get sponsorship, but also partnerships to strengthen those ties and secure EGEA's finances for the upcoming years.

3.3. Exploring alternative incomes

Of course, we will continue what has already worked in the previous years. This includes **donations and Friends of EGEA**. This is, unfortunately, an extremely unreliable source of funding if people stop donating money to us. Therefore, we will explore other options. We will aim to expand the merch sales and want to **launch a new collection of merch** in 2026, working with the already functioning working group. There are still some flags left that were purchased during the last financial year, so this year, we will hopefully make more profit with the sales of those flags, too. **Affiliate programs** will also become another source of income for EGEA, we will sign up to Flixbus and other transport organisations. This will also be a continuation of what the previous BoE has been able to do within the last weeks of their term after the finalized relocation to Poland.

3.4. Strengthening the Support Fund

Since the **auctions at the congresses** have proven to be very successful over the last years, we will continue to encourage organisers of congresses as well as participants to contribute. (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 1.2) Additionally, **donations** specifically to the support fund and not EGEA as a whole will also be promoted and potentially sponsors could be asked to **sponsor the support fund directly**.

3.5. Other

We will make efforts to register EGEA as a **non-profit organisation in Germany**. Since three of the six BoE members are located there, we will properly translate the required documents into German and we are able to understand all the legal requirements involved in such registration. We will look into the process to register EGEA as a non-profit organisation in other countries and possibly contact active EGEAns in these countries to help us.

4. Communication

4.1. Internal Communication

Our goal is to **communicate transparently** within EGEA. Communication between official EGEA bodies will happen through WhatsApp communities and regularly scheduled meetings. Regional WhatsApp communities have proven themselves to be a viable way of strengthening internal communication and avoiding the bottlenecks often

caused by availability and decisions made by CPs. In the upcoming year, we will continue to use this form of communication to reach as many EGEAns as possible. Furthermore a regular **EGEA newsletter** will be published using the new tools and infrastructure created in the working year 2025/26 (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 3.1). Efforts will be made to create more online events **using the Discord platform** and other tools available at our disposal. These types of events have proven to be somewhat successful with EGEA Bars and Geoguessr tournaments.

4.2. External Communication & Outreach

Our communication will continue to be **lively and engaging**. Our content will be outward-facing and represent **EGEA's activities, people, and diversity** through shorts, fun videos, animations, art and posts (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 1.2). Additionally, **talents within EGEA will be fostered**, by enhanced cooperation with the digital communication team and artists of several kinds in the association. We will continue to post regularly to increase engagement and collaborate with partners for a broader reach.

4.3. Professional appearance

The BoE remains committed to **continuing and strengthening the EGEA's visual identity** (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 3.1), ensuring a uniform and professional appearance across all platforms with **high-quality visuals** and clear, accessible design. Announcements, events, and partner promotions will be presented in a cohesive manner, portraying EGEA as an organised, credible, inclusive, and welcoming community. Outside of general consistency and design quality, we'll ensure accuracy and professionalism in our external presence. Alongside the continuing **professional appearance of EGEA**, we want to show EGEA's creativity to the outside by, like previously mentioned, **fostering the talents within the association**.

4.4. Alumni Engagement

We will continue to collaborate with EGEA Alumni and **increase their visibility** by giving them the opportunity to share their experience through joining career talks and leading workshops and trainings. This will **inspire current members and strengthen the connections** between different generations of EGEAns. Alumni will also be encouraged to include their additions in the newsletter for a broader reach. We aim to increase EGEA Alumni **visibility by fostering their social media presence**.

5. Events

5.1. General Organisation Support

We are continuing supporting event organisers with **frequent direct communication**, with **most of the attention given to congress, newbie-oriented and scientific events** (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 3.3). We will also give our all to support the organisers of Winter and Summer Organisation and Strategy Meetings as they are a crucial part of improving EGEA.

5.2. Knowledge Transfer

The knowledge and experience transfer of the past events will be supported not only by **frequent meetings between the organisers and the event advisor**, but also by creating **WhatsApp communities between past and current event organisers**, which will help with advising about region specific parts of the event (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 2.2). This year we also take on the responsibility to **renew the event guidelines**, which is going to improve and make the organisation of congresses and other events easier.

5.3. Diversification and Improvement of the Event Landscape

To ensure diversity of the events, we will **encourage more entities to work together**, which will lead to more voices and ideas being brought into the organising event. This will be especially encouraged between entities together with small, candidate or prospective entities without being bound by a singular country.

5.4. Event Output

EGEA events cover an impressive amount of scientific topics, yet they fail to make a bigger impact and become more visible to those outside the event. Congress reports will be continued gathering, but we will be **looking into more options on how to share them to a broader public**, with European Geographer being the first example.

5.5. Internal Cooperation

Team and Project cooperation with event organisers will be highly encouraged to help improve the quality of the events, but also to promote themselves to a broader public and attract new members.

Regional Teams will also be involved in helping to find new congress and Newbie Weekend organisers to help find organisers of such events and ensure they happen in locations **accessible to EGEAns** from their respective regions.

5.6. External Cooperation

We would like to **intensify external cooperation** and event (co)organisation with our current and prospective partner organisations. **Inclusion of prospective entities** in event organising will also be encouraged to introduce them to event organising and motivating them for the future.

6. Regional Development & Support

6.1. Entity Development & Support

We will **maintain and nurture EGEA's current network** (Strategic Plan 2023-2027 1.3). We will assist entities facing difficulties and need help and guidance to overcome their situation and work in close cooperation with the Regional Team.

Besides maintaining, we will also put additional efforts into **expanding the EGEA network**. There are two main goals that we want to pursue with the help from the EGEA Reach Beyond Team and other official bodies. First we want to **identify potential new entities** and get into contact with them, preferably in countries without EGEA entities yet. Secondly with the help from the **Buddy Program** we want to ensure that candidate entities **receive appropriate support for joining our organisation**.

6.2. Knowledge Exchange

Officials will focus on **updating the existing manuals** and **increasing their visibility** through the website and our organisational structure. In addition to that, we'll establish a way for experienced EGEAns to share their knowledge with other association members. Our goal is to make the transition of new team leaders, congress organizers and EGEA officials as easy as possible. As stated in the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 1.1 knowledge transfer is an integral part for taking on an official position and the existing manuals should be updated and improved.

7. Teams & Projects

7.1. Knowledge transfer & internal communication

The **teams' restructuring** will likely come as the biggest challenge of the upcoming year when it comes to knowledge transfer. To ensure it goes smoothly a number of actions have already been taken by the current Board, in the upcoming year we'll continue the transition based on a team-by-team approach. Each team has a different restructuring situation and faces different issues, therefore **individualised action will be taken**, ensuring that every team in EGEA is granted resources it might need.

Regular **meetings between team coordinators and the Board** will be held to ensure smooth cooperation between the bodies. Teams will continue to update the association on their progress and achievements through regional meetings.

A **joint group chat** will be created to facilitate lateral communication between teams and team members, with the aim to promote collaboration between teams.

7.2. External communication & visibility

With the return of the newsletter, teams will be offered an option to submit information about their recent and upcoming activities to be put in the newsletter, allowing us to showcase their work to potential external partners.

Teams promotion will continue during the traditional EGEA Fair and regional meeting. With the limited success of team promotion weeks in recent years, new avenues of showcasing the work of teams to EGEAns will be explored.

A **joint Instagram account** will be created for the teams as a pilot project, the current aim of this account will be to repost all communications coming from teams and create a unified source of team news.

7.3. Projects & working groups

Ongoing projects within EGEA (History, Music, Code of Conduct) will be provided with all necessary support they might need. The BoE will remain open to launching other projects, and would like to invite any EGEAns to convert their ideas into new projects. Project leaders will be encouraged to share their progress in regional meetings and the newsletter, in order to keep everyone up to date on the projects' progress and attract new potential members.

Working groups will be created to cover the following topics:

- **Strategic Plan and the Human Resources Strategy**, as these documents are set to expire in the upcoming year, the working group will focus on evaluating them and preparing new versions;
- **Event Guidelines** will be renewed, as they are outdated and don't have all the necessary information to help the new event organisers.

Moreover, as mentioned earlier the working group for **merch** will continue work into the upcoming year.

Other working groups will be created as needed, the BoE invites EGEAns to approach us with any ideas they might have for further development of the organisation.