



Geography Awareness Week 2019

**REPORT
JANUARY 2020**

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1. About the Geography Awareness Week

💡 What's the idea behind it?

Everywhere around the world, people prepare activities about geography to show its beauty and how interesting it is. As it is often believed that geography is not such an important subject or people are not aware of it, we would like to change that!

You can read more about the idea of the Geography Awareness Week here 

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/programs/geography-awareness-week>.

How can you get involved?

Organise geography related activities with your entity, association, Fachschaft or even together! It's a great opportunity to connect people with the same interest, make them active on the local level and also promote geography! You can cooperate with your university and ask them for a support, besides that you can work together with other local student organisations, you can have sessions just for students or for everyone. There are so many possibilities, for example:

- lectures
- workshops
- excursions
- geoquiz
- mapathon
- presentation for students
- and many more, just be creative!



2. Categories and prizes

Grand Prix

Winner of the winners, the best activity in all aspects.

The most educational

Activity with the best educational impact. The jury will evaluate the quality of knowledge that was shared with the participants (scientific and sustainability issues), the efficiency of its transfer and the methods that were used.

Best external cooperation

Activity that involved many actors in the organisation process. For example EGEA entities, GeoDACH Fachschaften, AFNEG associations, other NGOs, companies, public institutions, universities, schools etc.. The jury will consider not only the number of partners but also the way they were integrated in the activity.

The most creative

Activity with the most innovative ideas and approaches in promoting geography.

The most socially inclusive

Activity that reached the biggest number of people. We will also take into consideration the diversity of participants and the general accessibility of the event.

Prizes

This year's prizes included a wide range of geography books, atlases, bags as well as involvement for the EUROGEO Madrid Conference. They were generously provided by SpringerSpektrum, EUROGEO, ESRI, Westermann, EGEA, AFNEG and GeoDACH.

3. Events during GAW 2019

To give you an idea of what scale and scope GAW events usually have, we want to give you an overview of all events that were reported to us from their organisers and thus took part in the competition for the prizes described above.

3.1. Winners

In the following, you find a summary of this year's winners, sorted by categories.

Grand Prix: Fachschaft Geographie Augsburg & EGEA Augsburg

In Augsburg, the local student council together with the local EGEA organised a whole week full of events:

*"This year's Geography Awareness Week was held under the motto of **"igniting the spirit of exploration"** and hosted by the student association of geography in Augsburg (Fachschaft Geographie Augsburg e.V.) and EGEA Augsburg. Supported by our partners, **Greenpeace, GreenOffice, SGG, Forum Plastikfreies Augsburg, as well as the University of Augsburg, AStA, Café Himmelgrün and Kosmos Jugendzentrum**, we had a successful week of events, all united*

under the aspiration to promote the discipline of geography as a whole and to awake awareness outside of our institute and university. Hereby we could reach out to various demographic groups, such as fellow students, school classes, their teachers, as well as elderly citizens of Augsburg with no direct connection to one of the geographical topics. It was a very broad public and we are proud having reached so many different people. **In total we had an attendance of around 300 persons to ten different events**, which is a huge success considering the amount of events that took place outside of the university campus, which then concludes to our motto to “ignite the spirit of exploration”.

This year’s audience did not outnumber last year’s Geography Awareness Week, but instead we could address a more diverse audience, which was one of our main goals. We offered ten different events in six days, varying from classic excursions (e.g. “Geographie in der Stadt”) to rather sportive activities such as **Plogging**. Furthermore a workshop for producing home-made products with less involvement of plastic resources and a Mapathon, celebrating GIS Day 2019, was offered. We would like to thank all our cooperating partners for helping us organising such an eventful and successful Geography Awareness Week 2019. So far, we have reflected on our own work and are already planning new events for next year’s Geography Awareness Week to which we are really looking forward, already.”

The most educational: EGEA Tartu

In Tartu, the local EGEA entity organised three events, also teaming up with AIESEC:

"GIS-day: At the GIS-day taking place in Tallinn, EGEA-Tartu members participated as volunteers and helped with the organisation of the whole event. In addition we had a table with promotional materials and some EGEAns (especially newbies) helping to introduce geography.

Travel club: Travel club is our traditional event, where we invite someone to talk about their travel experience in an interesting place. This time we had one of our own members, Margarita, talking about her volunteer project in Brazil this summer, how she taught English to local kids and got to learn surfing. We teamed up with AIESEC in Tartu, which provides Global Volunteer projects. Event was free, everyone was welcome, it took place in an auditorium and we had brazilian style snacks.



Photo by EGEA-Tartu.

Quiz week: we hosted a web quiz for elementary and high school students. The quiz lasted for three days. Each day concentrated on one sub-discipline: physical geography, human geography and geoinformatics/cartography."

Best external cooperation: Fachrat Geographie Hannover

In Hannover, the local student council (Fachrat Geographie) organised a well-visited mapathon simultaneously with various student councils in other cities:

*"We organized a **Mapathon** simultaneously with the geography student councils in Göttingen, Heidelberg und Würzburg. That's an event where you come together to digitize satellite data of vulnerable places. The event showed how important maps and geographical knowledge are in all areas of people's lives. Maps can even save lives in human help!"*

The most creative: EGEA Vilnius

In Vilnius, the local EGEA entity organised six different events:

"1. **Scientific excursion**. It was led by our club members and two of our faculty professors. We visited Lithuanian Agriculture and Forestry Sciences Centre, Geographical Centre of Lithuania, Kėdainiai old town and remembered usually easily forgotten part of our history by visiting two abandoned mansion houses.



2. **Film and discussion evening.** *"If A Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front". It's the remarkable story of the group's rise and fall, told through the transformation and radicalization of one of its members, Daniel McGowan. This movie asks hard questions about environmentalism, activism, and the way we define terrorism. After the movie we had a long and intensive discussion about eco-terrorism, global warming and humanity input, the ways we should solve the problems, about our daily choices that have CO2 footprint... We invited „Fridays For Future“ members who actively participated in our discussion.*



Photo by EGEA Vilnius

3. **Presentation about geographer's career.** *Our club alumni, oldie and experienced geographer Linas Jankaitis suggested to share his geographer experience. To talk about life after bachelor and master diploma. He shared his experience and encourage students not to be afraid of the future, gave tips how to make the most of geography and how to become a successful geographer.*

4. **GeoQuiz "Cleverest".** *Our traditional GAW event – brain battle. This year we had 11 amazing teams. Everyone learned something new because the questions were not that easy. We had amazing time and a cosy but competitive atmosphere. Every team tried to proof how much they know, but the quiz showed how much we can learn about geography everyday.*

5. **Orientation game.** This year newbies came up with idea to involve a new event to our GAW – an orientation game. The game started in Vilnius Central Room and the finish was in our Geoscience faculty. The teams needed to solve some tasks and find spots in Vilnius Old Town. Not all teams managed to reach the finish but everyone improved their skills of orienteering with maps.

6. **Hike.** There is no better way to close our GAW than with having a hike. This year the hike took place in Pavilniai Regional Park which is in Vilnius' territory but you feel like far from the city. Hike was not just a geographical hike but also had a historical background because the goal of the hike was to find all abandoned bunkers that were built in 1923-1929."

The most socially inclusive: EGEA Skopje

In Skopje, the local EGEA entity organised two workshops for primary school kids:

"During the Geography Awareness Week, which is celebrated every year around the world in the third week of November (this year from 10th to 16th November 2019), within the Month of Science 2019, members of EGEA Skopje organized **two geography workshops for children** from 1st to 5th grade where the participants learned about the geography and the nature of Macedonia through various types of games like speedy geography and map reading."



Photo by EGEA Skopje



3.2. Other participants

EGEA Brno

“**GeoQuiz** plus some EGEA facts for everyone who came. For three best teams we had prepared some prizes.”

EGEA Praha

“A **lecture** for elementary school students about travelling while studying Geography.”



Photo by EGEA Praha

EGEA Nijmegen

“We did the game **GeoGuessr** with a group of around 15 people, who were very enthusiastic and screaming/shouting if they recognized the place in the Netherlands or somewhere in the world.”



GEOTOPIA

"The events were a **cleanwalk discovery** of the city and a **geo coffee** about the higher education in Europe."

EGEA Osnabrück

"**Climate (Change) Quiz Night**: On Tuesday evening we organized a quiz night related to a very important topic: climate and climate change. The questions were based on important facts that give information on how the current problematic situation is being treated in today's society.

City clean-up: On Wednesday we went on a clean-up tour through the city of Osnabrück. On our route we collected 14 bags of trash in just three hours. "



Photo by EGEA Osnabrück

EGEA Turku

"We organized a **mapathon**, which was open for anyone to participate. The mapathon started with a brief introduction to OSM and HOT, to themes of the mapping area (disaster



preparedness in the Philippines) and to mapping in practice. We had some snacks and mapped for a few of hours helping each other."

EGEA Tübingen

"It was a **pub quiz** organised by EGEA Tübingen with teachers and professors who created and presented the questions for their field within Geography. It took place on Wednesday evening in a public bar in Tübingen."

EGEA Utrecht

"**Geoquiz**: We organised a geographical pubquiz, covering physical and human geography and environmental sciences, divided in three rounds. First round was the picture round: with around 15 pictures of mostly geographical phenomena but also cities, country outlines and flags. The second round was the music round, with some EGEA classics like USA by Dubioza kolektiv, but also the Earth Song by Michael Jackson and Englishman in New York by Sting. Lastly, we had a round with news questions. We asked questions about the news, and their geographical connection. For example: which geographical phenomena caused the nuclear disaster of Fukushima? Or: which country wants to move its capital and why (it's Indonesia - Jakarta is flooding)."

EGEA Izmir

"We organized two joined events. We started with a **seminar** on classification of clouds and methods of cloud observation followed by a **field work and practical exercise** on cloud observation and weather predictions using climatology knowledge."

EGEA Ljubljana

"**GIS Day 2019** took place on November 13th. It was organised as 2 lectures; first by a master student of geography, based on his Bachelor thesis, about remote sensing of karstological features in Slovenia. The second lecture was given by a professional in geography, a researcher at the Slovenian geography research institute, about different methods used in



finding travel routes for ancient settlers in Velebit area. At the beginning of the event, there was also a short introduction about GAW and GIS Day in general.

“Night-time geographic orienteering” was meant to be a multi-department event, where also students of other studies (e.g. geology, history, ...) were invited to participate. It will take place in Ljubljana city center area in a treasure hunt way, with hints based on geography facts and monuments.”

EGEA Graz

“We organised a small **PowerPoint karaoke**, which was open to public. Volunteers had to present some stranger's PowerPoint presentation just like karaoke, but without singing it. Everybody was free to bring his/her own presentation, but we also offered some presentations from our side.”

EGEA Ostrava

“During GAW we organized 3 events, **our traditional geoparty, a “GIS for Dummies” workshop** and **a lecture about cheap travelling around Europe**. All those workshops were made by students and their purpose was to be closer to other students and provide what we know to the others. The traditional geoparty is an event where we are playing several games such as pub quizzes etc. just for fun and getting to know other geography and non-geography students. Workshop GIS for dummies was an idea to bring basics of GIS to everyone who needs it. We found a lack of interest for mapping from even geography students, so we thought if our very talented fellow student will show a few basics, which might be more effective than during classes with teachers. Last but not least we organized a lecture about cheap travelling around Europe because we think that free travelling is supposed to be a base for exploring what geography could be about.”

EGEA Kazan

“On November 13th, we organized a **local scientific conference in Science slam/TED format**. This is to popularise scientific researches. Participants prepared speeches and



information about some scientific researches or interesting facts and shared it on the conference. It is not necessary to have own research, because most of freshmen don't have it yet, but a lot of people want to learn new information and our conference can help them to choose the sphere for future scientific research.

On November 14th, we held the first game of the fourth season (now we can definitely call this game traditional) of the intellectual game **"Geobrainig"**. It was attended not only by geographers, cartographers, ecologists and meteorologists, but also by students of other specialties (economists, biologists etc.). The competitors were offered interesting questions on erudition and logic. The main theme of this game was geopolitics (each game has different themes that are necessarily related to geography). It was really fun and, in two weeks there will be a second game, and at the end of the year - a cup of three capitals (students from Moscow and St. Petersburg will compete with Kazan)!"



Photo by EGEA Kazan

**EGEA, AFNEG, GeoGACH and EUROGEO
thank all the participants and hope to
have even more events all over Europe
during the next GAW from
November 15th to 21st 2020**