

This report represents the activities of the Association from July 2009 until May 2010.

From Paris to Prague, Report from the Secretary-General

A selection of activities, with the main goal to promote EUROGEO, next to the administrative work like processing membership applications and keeping close contact with treasurer and president next to essential contacts with other presidium members.

- A first visit to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (F), autumn 2009
- Presentation of EUROGEO at EGEA-conference in Heeg (NL)
- Presentation of EUROGEO at the educational congress of the Royal Dutch Geographic Association
- A second visit to the Council of Europe Spring 2010
- Making connection with the European Association of Historians, EUROCLIO

Council of Europe

The main reason to visit the Council of Europe (CoE) is that EUROGEO is a long standing member of the Conference of INGOs (international Non-Governmental Organisations). The CoE counts about 400 INGOs as members and the Conference of INGOs is one of the pillars of the CoE next to the European Assembly (400 members of Parliaments of 48 countries) and the Council of Ministers. The Conference of INGOs meets four times a year in Strasbourg in the same week as the European Assembly meets. The first visit was used to explore the ins- and outs of the procedures and network with anyone that might be interested in the activities of EUROGEO. A second goal was to get an article published in the Education Magazine of the CoE. Introduction to CoE was very well taken care of by our colleague Georg Mäschtig, geographer and on behalf of EUROGEO vice-chair of the Sustainable Territorial Development Committee.

The Conference of INGOs meet in four to five committees during the week. The secretary-general attended sessions of the committee mentioned above but also attended sessions of the Culture, Science and Education Committee. Here EUROGEO made contact with the vice-chair of this commission Mrs. Sabine Rohmann from the Robert Schuman Institute for Europe, Trier (D). In the many sessions that the secretary-general attended he was able to take the floor and speak as a geographer and as secretary-general of EUROGEO. This was clearly stated all the time and in this way also served the goal to promote EUROGEO. Sessions were attended by 50 to 80 members of INGOs most of the time. In breaks between the session EUROGEO was asked to connect to the Institute in Trier and EUROGEO was asked to become a member of "Experts", a small group of representatives, that deal with quality assurance of the work of the INGOs and their advices to the European Assembly. This last group is a very interesting group of stakeholders and is lead by the Russian lawyer Nina Belyaeva from Moscow. On both occasions EUROGEO took advantage to "network" with many associations. To get an article published on EUROGEO in the Education Magazine of the CoE is difficult since the position of editor in chief is vacant. We have to wait for another opportunity.



Harry Rogge and Georg Mäschtig in Strasbourg

EGEA-conference

In the last year, EUROGEO has developed growing links with EGEA (the European Geography Student Association). At the end of a very lively conference of EGEA in Heeg, Friesland (NL) the secretary-general was able to address all, about 100, participants at a final plenary meeting in September. EGEA is the European Association of Student Geographers. It is a very willing, open and positive audience. The speech was about EUROGEO and promoting the membership of EUROGEO



next to that the website of the GEO-Cube was demonstrated. At the end of the presentation about one hundred cubes had been folded in the meantime! Although not so much students enrolled for membership the contact between EGEA and EUROGEO had a very positive outcome. EGEA will hold their alumni-meeting together with the EUROGEO conference in Prague. Tens of students and former EGEAns have enrolled to participate in this meeting.

“KNAG onderwijsdag”

Treasurer Luc Zwartjes and secretary-general joined hands in promoting EUROGEO and the GEOcube at the Dutch-Belgium event organised by KNAG “Royal Dutch Geographical Society” and well known as the “onderwijsdag” (education-day).

Almost a thousand teachers of geography from The Netherlands and Belgium gathered in Nijmegen at the Radboud University to exchange ideas and information on geography. At the large “fair” EUROGEO had a stand and was able to promote the goals of the association in a very positive and fruitful way.



Plenary session at KNAG-education-day The Netherlands

Other activities included Vice President Daniela Schmeinck presented the work of the association and had a stand at

the Deutscher Geographentag 2009 in Vienna. Vice President Professor Kostis Koutsopoulos promoted the association at the 2009 meeting of the Greek Geographic Society. Vice President Maria Attard has presented the GeoCube at the RGS-IBG annual conference in the UK and produced an article to be published in Planet <http://gees.ac.uk/blog/?m=200908> and a paper in press on in Document d'Analisi Geografica. President Karl Donert has submitted an article on Promoting Geography and the work of EUROGEO to the Journal of Geography in Higher Education.

The Presidium

There has been one meeting of the Presidium during this period in Paris in August 2009. Seven members attended. This meeting was funded by the HERODOT 2 project. Plans were

put in place to establish an association journal, newsletter, a full conference in Athens in 2011 and a seminar in Prague in May 2010.

Project Proposals 2010

Through the President, EUROGEO has been invited to be involved in a number of new proposals for EU funding. EUROGEO is partner in:

- HERODOT 3 – the thematic network for Geography in higher education, submitted by the University of Salzburg, decision made in July 2010
- GI4all – the Comenius 2.1 application to produce a basic course for teachers wanting to use geoinformation in the classroom, submitted by the University of Salzburg, decision made in July 2010
- EDUMAP – a Comenius 2,1 project on online educational mapping for schools, submitted by the University of Padova, decision made in July 2010
- Digitearth - a Comenius 2,1 network proposal linking schools using GIS across Europe, submitted by the University of Salzburg, decision made in July 2010
- Spatial citizenship, a Comenius 2,1 project proposal on how digital technologies can enhance citizenship education, submitted by the University of Salzburg, decision made in July 2010
- World At Your Doorstep, a Comenius 2,1 project proposal on mobile technologies and learning, submitted by the NGO AliceO, decision will be made in July 2010
- WHOLE, a Framework 7 proposal researching the potential of sharing scientific research, lectures and other resources via Web 2.0 technologies, draft proposal submitted by Freie University, Berlin, decision made in September 2010

An application for European Association Core Funding was rejected by the EC in 2009 because the official status of the association was not formalised. In 2010, we plan to apply again, as EUROGEO now has its legal seat in Belgium.

Other activities

EUROGEO re-enforced collaborative power with EUROCLIO the European Association of Historians. EUROGEO is involved in their project. Furthermore articles have been sent to the KNAG-monthly and the digital newsletter of geography teachers in The Netherlands. Information has been submitted to the newsletters of international networks including the IGU-CGE and INLT and for publication in the newsletter of the UK Centre for Learning and Teaching Geography and the Geographical Association. EUROGEO has produced three publications this year. A full list is available on the Web site. EUROGEO details are also published in the 2010 Yearbook of International Organisations.

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Harry Rogge April 2010



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