

**International Geographical Union  
Commission on Geographical Education  
2012-2016**



**Newsletter #6 July 2014**

**Contents**

Welcome to Newsletter #6!.....	1
COMMISSION ON GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION NEWS.....	2
IGU CGE CONFERENCE NEWS.....	2
The IGU Olympiad.....	3
IGU-CGE Treasurer's report.....	4
Other conference announcements and news.....	4
Further announcements on Geographical Education.....	6
Publications.....	7
Spot light on: Geography Education in Poland.....	8

**Welcome to Newsletter #6!**

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to our sixth newsletter! As many of us draw to the end of an academic year, there is much to think about the year that has gone past and the one to come. A highlight for many of us will be the meeting in Krakow in August, and in this newsletter, you will find lots of news and events centred around the Krakow meeting. We would really like to encourage you to attend our two business meetings: the first is at the start of the Conference on Monday August 18 from 9.00-11.00 AM in room A9 a and the second is on Friday August 22 between 13.30 and 15.30 PM in room A5. All the papers for the Commission are being held in Rooms B5 and B6. We look forward to seeing you at those too.

To celebrate and whet your appetite for Krakow we have included a special "Spotlight on Poland" feature in this newsletter so that we can all find out a little more about Geography Education in Poland.

As usual the newsletter is packed with news and events from around the world. Many thanks to all our contributors and particularly the work of our Regional Contacts. Please let us know if you would like to be more involved in the work of the Commission and if you have colleagues that would like to receive the Newsletter directly.

One final plea – we are hoping to canvas the power of social networking to help grow our community. We now have a LinkedIn group and would encourage you to join us. Click on the link below to join the group – everyone is welcome!

*Clare Brooks, John Lidstone and Joop van der Schee*

## COMMISSION ON GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Progress continues to be made towards our Programmes of Work. In particular, we focus here on three key developments.

### IGU CGE LinkedIn Group

The Commission is keen to promote colleagues interested in geography education to network with each other as well as directly with the Commission. To facilitate growing this network, we hope that you will all join our IGU CGE LinkedIn group. There are no barriers or approvals needed. Just log into LinkedIn, and join the group: [IGU-CGE](#).

### Research in Geography Education

A project team chaired by Ivy Tan, Eje Kim and John Lidstone has designed a web-based template to collect and collate information on Geography Education MA, MEd, EDD and PhD theses around the world. Creating this collection will greatly enhance our knowledge about geographical and environmental education. The on-line spreadsheet can then be made available for researchers through the IGU-CGE website. We hope that all geography educators with the help of the regional representatives would be able to contribute information on the existing Geography Education theses.

(Geography Education Collection: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nrbVzveqZWDWWdouJfnKAK-ctHDdKwOdt7xxt34mee8/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nrbVzveqZWDWWdouJfnKAK-ctHDdKwOdt7xxt34mee8/viewform?usp=send_form))

### WIKIGEO

On the website [www.igu-cge.org](http://www.igu-cge.org) you see our WIKI Geographical education. It gives information to geography teachers and geographers in education worldwide about geographical education for students between 5 and 18 year old. It also offers the opportunity to communicate about geography teaching in primary and secondary education. We hope that this helps to improve the quality of geography teaching and geographical education all over the globe. As you can see at the website we received contributions from Germany, Scotland, England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Taiwan, Croatia and the Netherlands. Poland will be added soon. We invite geographers in education to inform us about the geography education of 5-18 year olds in their country answering the questions in the questionnaire which can be found on the website. In addition we would like to receive good practices of geographical education to help geography teachers in other countries. Thanks in advance.

*Henk Trimp & Joop van der Schee*

## IGU CGE CONFERENCE NEWS

We look forward to meeting many of you at our next meeting which will be in: **2014 Krakow, Poland (as part of the IGU Conference) from 17-22 August 2014**, see <http://www.igu2014.org>. More than hundred colleagues have sent papers or posters for one of our sessions on geography education. We are very grateful to our Polish colleague Anita Bokwa and her colleagues who are doing a wonderful job in organising a professional and exciting programme.

The main theme of the conference is **'Changes, Challenges, Responsibility'**.

The Commission on Geographical Education has planned four streams:

- 1) Changes, challenges, responsibility in the school geography curriculum;
- 2) Changing practices in geography education: meeting the challenges of the future;
- 3) Research findings and challenges in geography education; and
- 4) IGU, EUGEO and EUROGEO, a challenging network of geographers in education.

The meeting in Krakow starts on **Sunday August 18**. The full programme is available here:

[http://www.igu2014.org/programme\\_detailed/programme.html](http://www.igu2014.org/programme_detailed/programme.html).

The sessions of our Commission are planned from Tuesday August 19 until Friday August 22 in room B5 and room B6.

**Highlights include:**

A workshop on : "Improving your presentation skills: a video-training for young geographers"  
[http://www.igu2014.org/index.php?page=programme\\_workshops\\_04](http://www.igu2014.org/index.php?page=programme_workshops_04)

**Commission business meeting A is on Monday August 18 from 9.00-11.00 AM in room A9  
And our Second Commission Business meeting B is on Friday August 22 between 13.30 and 15.30 PM in room A5. Everyone is welcome to attend.**

The meeting will discuss:

- Declaration on Research in Geography Education
- Updating the Charter
- CGE Programmes of Work
- Following on from Malta

In addition, we have a very special session planned to discuss the proposals outlined in the paper following on from the meeting in Malta. You will be able to find the paper on the IGU-CGE website <http://igu-cge.org/>

The special meeting will take place on **Friday August 22 from 11.15-13.00 AM in room A3**. The special meeting is organised by IGU, EUGEO and EUROGEO.

Future conferences include:

- **2015 Moscow**, Russia (as part of the IGU Conference) Dates have now been set for the Moscow Regional Conference for 17-22 August 2015. Our thanks go to Alexander Sebentsov who has agreed to act as the liaison for our Commission.
- **2016 Beijing**, China (as part of the IGU Conference)
- **2017 Lisbon**, Portugal

In addition the IGU-CGE UK Committee are planning a **London Conference in 13th-15th April 2015** in association with the Institute of Education Geography Team (and MA in Geography Education). The conference theme is **The power of geographical thinking**.

The London conference is held every four years and attracts an international audience of geography educators. This year we are hoping the conference will contribute to the recent discussions on powerful knowledge in geography education, and how geographical thinking relates to spatial thinking. The conference will explore the following themes:

- How does geographical thinking differ to spatial thinking?
- How can teachers support the developing of geographical thinking, and what does it look like for a student to make progress in geographical thinking?
- What roles do both physical and human geography play in the development of geographical thinking?

The Call for Papers will be announced in October 2014.

## The IGU Olympiad

High-achieving students and geography educators from around the world are gearing up for the 11<sup>th</sup> International Geography Olympiad, taking place in Kraków, Poland from 12 to 18 August. Thirty-six teams will participate: Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, China-Beijing, China-Hong Kong, China-Macau, China-Taipei, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, United Kingdom and USA. With official observers from Argentina, Armenia, Iran, Switzerland and Thailand also attending, we look forward to more countries participating in the future. See [www.igeo2014.pl](http://www.igeo2014.pl) for more details on the 2014 iGeo, or [www.geoolympiad.org](http://www.geoolympiad.org) for general information. If your country is not already participating and you'd like to start a conversation about this, please contact Kath Berg at [admin@rgsq.org.au](mailto:admin@rgsq.org.au).

## IGU-CGE Treasurer's report

### IGU-CGE Treasurer's report

As Commission Treasurer, Michael Solem manages a checking account held at Wells Fargo Bank in Washington, D.C. As of July 1, 2014 there is a total of USD 4,150.21 available in the Commission's account.

The new balance reflects two recent transactions:

- 1) A reimbursement of USD 82.20 to Joop van der Schee for participants' meal expenses incurred at the February 2014 joint meeting of EUGEO, EUROGEO, and IGU in Utrecht.
- 2) A reimbursement of USD 505.77 to Clare Brooks for travel expenses incurred from participation in the February 2014 joint meeting of EUGEO, EUROGEO, and IGU in Utrecht.
- 3) An additional USD 35 in banking fees (wire transfer service) was charged to the account as a result of these transactions.

## Other conference announcements and news

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

#### **COPERNICUS Alliance Conference "Education for Sustainability: Building capacity in higher education" Friday 3 October, 2014 at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic**

This international Conference is taking place in the year the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-14) comes to an end and the Global Action Programme on ESD is taking shape. The Conference will review major trends and changes in higher education towards sustainability over the last ten years, with an emphasis on whole-of-institution approaches, curriculum change, university educators, ESD competences and quality enhancement. A state of the art report which maps existing ESD professional development opportunities for university educators in Europe will be presented at the event. This report has been developed as part of a newly funded European project entitled *University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD)* coordinated by CA. For further information, abstract submissions and registration details please refer to the [Conference Brochure](#) attached to this email and the [conference website](#). **REGISTRATIONS and ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE is Tuesday 15 July**

#### **2015 EUGEO Congress**

We would like to inform you that the **2015 EUGEO Congress** will be held in Budapest from 30 August to September 2015. The theme of the Congress is *'Convergences and Divergences of Geography in Europe'* and we very much hope that you will be interested in participating. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Circular attached to this letter you will find further information regarding the Congress. If you are interested in **proposing a session** please use the attached session proposal form, and do not forget the **15 October 2014 deadline!**

#### **Geographical Association's Annual Conference**

The GA's 2015 Annual Conference will include sessions focusing on and reporting recent research into geographical education. Deadline for abstracts 5 September.

<http://geography.org.uk/cpdevents/annualconference/manchester2015/getinvolved/>

#### **NoFa5 – The 5th Nordic conference on subject education**

27–29 May 2015, Helsinki, Finland. Theme: "Changing Subjects, Changing Pedagogies: Diversities in School and Education"

NoFa (Nordisk fagdidaktisk konferens) is a biennial meeting of researchers on subject education. The responsibility for organizing the meeting rotates between the Nordic countries, with Finland hosting the 2015 conference, NoFa5.

The conference aims to bring together senior and junior academics and graduate students to discuss their research on the topical issues of education and teaching. Participants from outside the Nordic countries are also warmly welcome. The conference language is English. There will be special sessions on geographical education and some sessions where geography education is connected with other subjects. One of the keynote speakers of the conference will be Professor David Lambert (Institute of Education, University of London, UK). More information: <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/nofa5-2015/> or by email: [nofa-2015@helsinki.fi](mailto:nofa-2015@helsinki.fi)

### **Nordic Geographers' Meeting (NGM)**

15–19 June 2015, Tallinn & Tartu, Estonia

The Nordic Geographers Meeting is a biennial meeting of originally Nordic geographers that has grown into a considerable international event and for its 6th meeting expand its geography to include Estonia. Previous meetings were held in Lund, Sweden (2005); Bergen, Norway (2007); Turku, Finland (2009); Roskilde, Denmark (2011), and Reykjavík, Iceland (2013). The conference theme is "Geographical Imagination: Interpretations of Nature, Art and Politics". Both human and physical geographers are encouraged to participate under this broad heading but the organisers aim at highlighting the connections between nature (climate) and imagination, culture contacts between East and West (across and beyond the Baltic to the Far East, the Americas and Oceania) including geographical explorations and the issues of interpretation and politics (including being lost or found in translation). The conference language is English. There will be special sessions on geographical education, ! too. More information: <http://www.tlu.ee/en/NGM2015> or by email: [ngm2015@tlu.ee](mailto:ngm2015@tlu.ee)

### **2015 AAG Annual Meeting: Chicago, Illinois**

The 2015 AAG Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois from April 21-25. A call for proposals will be issued on July 31, 2014. For more information visit <http://www.aag.org/annualmeeting>.

The AAG Annual Meeting draws thousands of geographers, GIS specialists, environmental scientists, and other leaders from around the globe for the latest in research and applications in geography, sustainability, education, and GIScience. The meeting will feature over 5,000 presentations, posters, workshops, and field trips by leading scholars, experts, and researchers.

### **SEAGA Conference**

The Southeast Asian Geographers Association (SEAGA), established in 1990, is a regional association of geographers and other academic, education, government, and private sector professionals in related fields. SEAGA is organizing the 12<sup>th</sup> conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia from **25 to 28 November 2014** and the conference theme is "Geography that matters: Unraveling the destiny for environment, society and people in Asia". The aim of the conference is to advance the discourse on the issues of environment, society and people in Asia, so as to inform the decision-making and actions of society, private enterprise, and governments. Details of the conference can be found at this website: <http://www.seaga.info/events/forthcoming-events/seaga-2014/>

### **AGTA Conference, 11–16 January 2015, Rotorua, New Zealand**

#### **New Zealand and the Australian Curriculum: Geography**

Geography teachers and academics are invited to be a workshop presenter at the conference. Workshops will be conducted on Monday 12th and Thursday 15th January 2015. The focus of workshops is on Geography Education and should be classroom focused. Teachers are welcome to share how they might deal with some of the issues of implementation regarding the Australian and New Zealand Geography related curricula and for international geography teachers to share their teaching experience with Australian/New Zealand colleagues.

Information on the conference programme, fieldtrips and pre and post tours can be found at: <http://agta.asn.au/Conferences/conf2015/index.php>

### **ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS, PAPERS AND REGISTRATION OF EXHIBITS FOR 32<sup>nd</sup> EEASA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2014**

This year Namibia is hosting the 32<sup>nd</sup> EEASA 2014 annual conference in Windhoek from the **9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2014**. The conference organisation is coordinated by the University of Namibia, Namibia Environment Network (NEEN) and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The Lead facilitator and host institution is the University of Namibia. Full detail of the *press release* can be downloaded from the conference website at [www.eeasaconference.com/content/press-release.pdf](http://www.eeasaconference.com/content/press-release.pdf)

## Further announcements on Geographical Education

### **SOUTH AFRICA - NAMIBIA JOINT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH**

North-West University and the University of Namibia are involved in a project "Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (with focus on climate change)" in schools. The project started in 2014 and will end in 2015. This project is funded by a joint research grant from the National Research Foundation in South Africa and the Research Science and Technology Directorate of the Ministry of Education in Namibia. Reciprocal visits have already taken place in this year with workshops and meetings of the researchers and teachers of the schools in both countries as part of the joint research project.

### **THE NEW FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES IN BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO NIGERIA**

The recognition of the role of geography in environmental studies in contemporary times has led many universities in Nigeria including Bayero to expand the old Geography department into a new faculty of environmental studies to incorporate other environmental courses with geography being the founding department and the other departments are Departments of : environmental studies, regional and urban planning, and Remote Sensing .

### **GeoCapabilities update**

GeoCapabilities is an international collaborative project researching the purposes and values of geography in secondary schools. It is based on Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum's ideas for a "capabilities approach" to human welfare development. Through international comparative methods, the project seeks to identify the ways geography education is contributing to human potential and wellbeing in diverse contexts.

Funded by the European Commission's COMENIUS program, the project is currently engaged in research activities with teachers and teacher educators in several countries. Preliminary findings from this research will be reported at the IGU Krakow conference in August 2014.

In the coming months, project staff will begin work on an online platform that will host a teacher-training course consisting of four modules. The course will prepare geography teachers to apply the capabilities approach to curriculum making in schools.

A new website is now available at [www.geocapabilities.org](http://www.geocapabilities.org). Visitors to the website can also access and subscribe to the official (and free!) GeoCapabilities newsletter.

### **London Geography Alliance**

The IOE Geography team are working with academic geographers and London teachers in developing the London Geog Alliance . A website is being developed and will be launched in the next newsletter. In addition, London is developing a London Curriculum: details can be found here: <http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/young-people/education-and-training/gla-education-programme/london-curriculum>

Joseph Kerski has created 3 videos reflecting on the top 5 skills needed for a successful career in GIS, with implications for geographic literacy, skills, content knowledge, and perspective, beginning here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOfZl6yPrjo&list=UUdShBEYmIgoDn34bi1vVA9w>

This is part of the channel <http://www.youtube.com/geographyuberalles>, which contains 1,900 videos about spatial thinking, geography, place, hazards, GIS, fieldwork, and more.

### **Learning progressions workshop to be held in Washington, D.C.**

The GeoProgressions project is sponsoring a workshop designed to provide training and support for doing research on learning progressions for maps, geospatial technology, and spatial thinking in K-12 education. Although the application period has closed, details about forthcoming publications and activities are still available at [www.ncrge.org](http://www.ncrge.org).

### **Geco-Lab – Competence Center for geo-ecological space exploration**

The Geco-Lab offers geo-ecological courses for school and university students as well as teachers in Heidelberg (available in German or English). A current focus is the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt-funded project ReKli:B ("Learning to evaluate regional climate change") using learning modules that combine field trips, lab analysis and experiments/ models. For more information: contact Prof. Dr. Alexander Siegmund (University of Education Heidelberg, Germany): [siegmund@ph-heidelberg.de](mailto:siegmund@ph-heidelberg.de)

## Publications

New article: Kerski, Joseph J. 2014. Earth Inquiry: Investigating the Earth using web mapping tools. *Interaction: Journal of the Geography Teachers Association of Victoria (Australia)*. 42(1): 9-17.  
[http://www.gtav.asn.au/Interaction/Archive/vol\\_42.php](http://www.gtav.asn.au/Interaction/Archive/vol_42.php)

Dr. Shimshon Livni, Haifa presented a paper at the last meeting of ICC&GIS, Riviera, Bulgaria. "On the way from the Globe to the Maps of our Land": <http://en.mymaps4you.com>.

Newly published by the Geographical Association, **Geography Through Enquiry: Approaches to teaching and learning in the secondary school** by Margaret Roberts is a key resource for all connected with secondary geography education. It is available in digital and print formats at [http://www.geography.org.uk/shop/shop\\_detail.asp?ID=748](http://www.geography.org.uk/shop/shop_detail.asp?ID=748)

REINGFRIED, S. & TEMPELMANN, S. (2014): The Impact of Secondary School Students' Preconceptions on the Evolution of their Mental Models of the Greenhouse effect and Global Warming, *International Journal of Science Education*, 36(2), 304-333. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09500693.2013.773598>

Bosschaart, A., Kuiper, W., Schee, J.A. van der & Schoonenboom, J. (2013) The role of knowledge in students' flood-risk perception. *Natural Hazards*, vol. 69 (3), pp. 1661-1680. DOI 10.1007/s 11069-013-0774-z.

Favier, T. T. & Schee, J.A. van der (2014). The effects of geography lessons with geospatial technologies on the development of high school students' relational thinking. *Computers & Education*, 768, pp. 225-236.

Schee, J. A van der (2014) Looking for an international strategy for geography education. *Journal of Research and Didactics in Geography (J-READING)*, vol. 1 (3), pp. 9-14.

Schee, J. A van der (2014) Algumas consideracoes sobre como feedback e estrutura podem ajudar crianas a aprender geografia. *Giramunda*, Rio de Janeiro, 1 (1), pp. 7-14.

(Special thanks to Simon Catling for compiling the following list of recent and relevant publications)

### Geographical and environmental studies

Anguelovski, I. (2014) *Neighbourhood as Refuge: Community Reconstruction, Place Remaking and Environmental Justice in the City*. Cambridge: MIT.

Coles, R. & Millman, Z. (eds.) (2013) *Landscape, Well-Being and Environment*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Dorling, D. (2013) *The 32 Stops*. London: Penguin Books.

Gieseeking, J. & Mangold, W. (eds.) (2014) *The People, Place and Space Reader*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Kingsbury, P. & Pile, S. (eds.) (2014) *Psychoanalytic Geographies*. Farnham: Ashgate.

Lee, R., Castree, N., Kitchen, R., Lawson, V., Paasi, A., Philo, C., Radcliffe, S., Roberts, S. & Withers, C. (eds.) (2014) *The SAGE Handbook of Human Geography*, Volumes 1 and 2. London: Sage.

McClay, W. & McAllister, T. (2014) *Why Place Matters: Geography, Identity and Civic Life in Modern America*. New York: New Atlantis Books.

Morrissey, J., Nally, D., Strohmayer, U. & Whelan, Y. (2014) *Key Concepts in Historical Geography*. London: Sage.

Richter, K.-F. & Winter, S. (2014) *Landmarks: GIScience for Intelligent Services*. New York: Springer.

Roller, D. (2014) *The Geography of Strabo: An English Translation with Introduction and Notes*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Whitehead, M. (2014) *Environmental Transformations: A geography of the Anthropocene*. Abingdon: Routledge.

### Geography/Cartography

Bonnett, A. (2014) *Off the Map*. London: Aurum Press.

Bray, H. (2014) *You Are Here: From the compass to GPS*. New York: Basic Books.

Obrist, H. (ed.) (2014) *Mapping It Out: An Alternative Atlas of Contemporary Cartography*. London: Thames and Hudson.

Sumira, S. (2014) *The Art and History of Globes*. London: The British Library.

Talbert, R. (2014) *Rome's World: The Peutinger Map Reconsidered*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### **Geographies, Literature and Illustration**

McGuinness, P. (2014) *Other People's Countries: A Journey into Memory*. London: Jonathan Cape.

Tally, R. (2013) *Spatiality*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Visual Editions (2013) *Where You Are: A book of maps that will leave you completely lost*. Visual Editions.

### **Geographies of Education**

Hemingway, J. & Armstrong, F. (eds.) (2014) *Space, Place and Inclusive Learning*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Mills, S. & Kraftl, P. (eds.) (2014) *Informal Education, Childhood and Youth: Geographies, Histories, Practices*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

### **Geographical and environmental education**

Best, B. & Padget, S. (2014) *Secondary Starters and Plenaries: Geography*. London: Bloomsbury.

Dolan, A. (2014) *You, Me and Diversity: Picturebooks for teaching development and intercultural education*. London/Stoke-on-Trent: Institute of Education Press/Trentham Books.

Gersmehl, P. (2014) *Teaching Geography*. London: Guildford Press. [3<sup>rd</sup> edition]

Hicks, D. (2014) *Educating for Hope in Troubled Times: Climate change and the transition to post-carbon times*. London: IoE Press.

Hung, C. (2014) *Climate Change Education: Knowing, doing, being*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Lieberman, G. (2013) *Education and the Environment: Creating Standards-based Programs in Schools and Districts*. Cambridge: Harvard Education Press.

Maud, A. (2014) *Understanding and Teaching the Australian Curriculum: Geography for Primary Schools*. Moorabbin: Hawker Brownlow Education.

Robertson, J. (2014) *Dirty Teaching: A Beginner's Guide to Learning Outdoors*. Bancyfelin: Independent Thinking Press.

Schmeinck, D. & Lidstone, J. (eds.) (2014) *Standards and Research in Geography Education: Current Trends and International Issues*. Berlin: mbvberlin.

## **Spot light on: Geography Education in Poland**

### **Meet our local contact in Krakow:**

**Danuta Piróg (PhD)** is an assistant professor in the Pedagogical University of Kraków (Institute of Geography; Department of Didactics of Geography). D. Piróg is an author and co-author of 95 papers in scientific journals (for example in journals: Educational Studies, Studies in Higher Education, Journal of Geography in Higher Education), chapters in monographs and books. Her research interests are focused on:

- intercultural education, European education, practical preparation of students – candidates for the geography teaching profession and the effectiveness of geographical studies in the context of the needs of the labour market. Now her the most important scientific activity is devoted to leading the research project entitled "Graduates of geography studies on the labour market in Poland and in selected European Union countries" financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

### **Geography Education in Poland**

In Poland, geography is not taught in primary school, but the subject "science" contains some geographical topics. Science is taught for 9 teaching hours per week in a period of 3 years

**The gymnasium** is an institution, which was introduced in the school year 1999/2000, offering 3-years of full-time general lower secondary education for pupils who have completed the reformed 6-year primary school. It is compulsory for all pupils. Study covers grades 1 to 3 (pupils aged 13 to 16) and it is not divided into stages.

In gymnasium there are 4 main aims (in the core curriculum):

*Using various geographical knowledge resources*

*Identifying the relations and explaining geographical phenomena of processes.*

*Using geographical knowledge and skills in practise*

*Creating an appropriate attitudes*

Gimnazjum: Geography is taught for 4 hours in a period of 3 years (one hour per week in the first class; one in the second, two hours in third class)

The most important theme taught is Geography of Poland

**General upper secondary** education (post-gymnasium schools are open to candidates who have successfully graduated from gymnasia) -- • *liceum ogólnokształcące* (3-year general secondary school) offering 3 years of fulltime general upper secondary education for students aged 16 to 19. It offers the Matura examination necessary for admission to higher education

On this stage the aim of geography is:

*Using various data for the analysis and interpreting current environmental, economic, social, cultural and political problems*

*Formulating and verifying hypothesis concerned current problems of the world*

*Understanding the relation people-environment-society in global and local scale*

Liceum: Geography is taught for 3 teaching hours per week in a period of 3 years

The position of geography is decreasing dramatically. The situation of geography in Poland on primary, secondary and in higher education level is presented in these papers:

Piróg D., Tracz M. (2003). The status of geography in the Polish education system. *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education*, 12(2), 164-170 (<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10382040308667526#.U6qUgLGuSSo>)

Charzynski, P. Rodzios, J. (2005) Geography teacher training in Poland. *Planet*, Issue 15, 44-45. DOI: 10.11120/plan.2005.00150044 (<http://journals.heacademy.ac.uk/doi/abs/10.11120/plan.2005.00150044>)

Tracz, M., Hibszer, A. (2013). Geography studies in Poland after 1989 — selected issues. *Miscellanea Geographica – Regional Studies on Development*, 17(3), 19-25. (<http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/mgrsd.2013.17.issue-3/v10288-012-0042-1/v10288-012-0042-1.xml>)

However, the main challenge for geography education is the permanent decrease in number of geography lessons, low prestige of this subject in the society.

Concerning research, there are currently no national scale geography teaching projects, but there is one project focused on geography teaching in higher education. It is: "Graduates of geography studies on the labour market in Poland and in selected European Union countries" (no N N114 076739)

More information on Poland's geography education can be found here (in English):

Piróg, D. (2014). Do geography studies facilitate a smooth transition to the job market? Reflections of working and jobseeking graduates. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 38(2), 155-174

DOI:10.1080/03098265.2014.901301

(<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03098265.2014.901301#.U8L4NbH-KSo>)

Piróg, D. (2014). Destinations of geography graduates on the labour market in Poland and other countries. *Geographia Polonica*, 87(1), 95-112

(doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7163/GPol.2014.6>) (<http://www.geographiapolonica.pl/article/item/9407.html>)

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And further information can be found here: <http://www.men.gov.pl/> and <http://www.ptg.pan.pl/>

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