



IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education, Training & Technology Transfer (COGE)

CoE contribution on the EGU Strategy Document

(by Chris King, IUGS-COGE Chair)

The Council of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) has recently approved the document prepared by its Committee on Education (CoE) entitled: '*Strategy for Enhancing Geoscience Education*' with its strapline of '*Inspiring, updating and supporting geoscience teachers and educators*'. The budget for 2019 was approved and indicative budgets for the years until 2023 were noted.

The strategy will develop support for the following five groups:

1. **Teachers of geoscience in schools and colleges with strong geoscience backgrounds** by:
 - a) Maintaining the high profile and successful Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) conferences/workshops including: annual Vienna GIFT conferences; GIFT conferences offered in tandem with international conferences, such as the International Geological Congress; 'capacity building' GIFT conferences in less economically developed countries and 'Dynamic Earth workshops.
 - b) The coordination of international and national geoscience educator organisations across Europe through the formation of an EGU/IGEO European Chapter.
2. **Teachers of science or geography with some geoscience in their teaching, who have weak geoscience backgrounds** by:

Appointing EGU geoscience education field officers in four European countries who will offer professional development to teachers of science and geography at regional and national teachers conferences. If the 2019/20 pilot is successful, the initiative will be extended to more European countries in future years.
3. **Teachers of geoscience in Higher Education** by:

Appointing new members to the Committee on Education to devise initiatives to support the professional development of geoscience teachers and lecturers in Higher Education across Europe. These will be included in the EGU CoE budget for 2020 and beyond.
4. **Providers of informal geoscience education** by:

Working with the EGU Outreach Committee to support this large and diverse group.
5. **Researchers into geoscience education** by:

Since there are few geoscience education researchers across Europe, in comparison with the strong geoscience education communities elsewhere in the world, during 2019/20 research will

be carried out into this group to find how they can best be supported. Proposals developed from this research will be included in the EGU CoE budget for 2020 and beyond.

The IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education (IUGS-COGE) and the International Geoscience Education Organisation (IGEO) are devising a strategy to build on the EGU initiative in a global context. The strategy report will be submitted to IUGS Council in January 2019.

