

# *the European Geographer*

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# Colophon

The EGEA Magazine is a publication from the European Geography Association for Geography students and young Geographers. The EGEA Magazine is published twice a year. The magazine is meant for the EGEA community, EGEA partners and all others interested in EGEA, Geography and Europe.

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# United we stand

*All that I know most surely about morality and obligations, I owe to football." - Albert Camus*

We all have one thing in our lives that has a huge effect on everything that we do. This thing might change during different stages but there is a framework for our thoughts that remains. At the moment, the one thing that defines me is EGEA. It means I am a Geographer, a young European and someone involved in developing a common playground for many others like me to play in. EGEA takes a lot of time but it also gives a

great deal back. Not only do I get many new friends and colleagues but also experience with dealing with people and many official matters.

In every football team there is one big star, the one who makes most goals, gets most girls and gets his face in a L'Oreal advertisement. But without all the rest of the team, he would be very, very lonely in the field. There is always someone who passes the ball to him, always someone who accidentally makes the opponent's defence players fall and in the end, there is the goalkeeper

without whom the star's efforts in making goals would be useless. It is not very different to play in EGEA. Sure, someone is the one who signs the papers and has a fancy title, but there are always the people behind that one person, people whose work is just as important, but not always so visible to the public.

Visibility should not, however, be the reason for doing anything. The reason for playing football is the passion for the game, the will to do what you love doing and to give the people who are interested in the game something great to experience. The same reasons should motivate people to work for EGEA. I know that's why I am here, writing this story for you. The idea about connecting young Geographers throughout Europe is a good one and definitely worth working for. We need passion for this and we should all be doing it for this community and ourselves as parts of the community. Some people do more than others but in the end the common goal is to create a foundation that welcomes everyone to be a part of it and to contribute in whichever way they find most natural to them.

So dear Egeans, let's have another great EGEA year! Surely, there will be bad moments as well as good ones, but in the end, all the efforts are for us. We have a good team here!

Heli Rekiranta, your chairwoman 06/07



# Die Welt zu Gast bei Freunden –

## *the World Cup in Germany 2006 from a geographical point of view*

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**A**t the 6th of July 2000 whole Germany was thrilled – the World football association FIFA decided to give the World Cup tournament 2006 to Germany. In a close decision the outsider got the tournament vs. the favourite South Africa. That moment in Zürich changed Germany for the next six years. The challenges for being a city of venue, to host teams and media started. Infrastructural projects had to be planned and speeded, stadiums had to be built or renovated. Concepts for tourism, cultural programs and security had to be started. The whole country should be ready for the expected millions of guests.

The competition for holding the games was the first one to be started. 15 cities tried to fulfil the criteria to host the matches. Beside Berlin, all cities, which wanted to be part of the 11 remaining venues, sent their candidature. Keeping in mind, that Germany is an extreme federal state, there was soon a battle of the Bundesländer to have venues. A huge discussion followed why for example Hannover got a match and Bremen remained empty handed.

The qualification marks to host a match were: a football stadium with minimum 30.000 seats, a good infrastructure for public transport, good hotels and a tradition in football. Beside that the local government had to agree to sign a contract with the FIFA, transferring authority to it during the Cup and obliged the cities for specific measures to be taken and standards to be kept.

The decisions made did not show big surprises. Dortmund and Gelsenkirchen, with their huge stadiums and living football culture were a must. Munich,

Hamburg and Cologne got it, because of the city size. Frankfurt got it because of the airport and because it is home to the German Football Association (DFB). Other places had to be taken due to federal reasons, like Stuttgart and Kaiserslautern. In Nordrhein Westfalen, the most populated Bundesland, Düsseldorf, Leverkusen and Mönchengladbach had ambitions, big stadiums, and the will to do it. But due to already three venues in Nordrhein Westfalen, they had no chance. Leverkusen withdraw its candidacy already before the decision in 2002, hoping for hosting the German national team instead. A second rivalry had been the location for the second venue in the North, where the decision had to be made between Bremen and Hannover. Bremen had more arguments on its side: the stadium, Werder Bremen and its infrastructure. Bremen has more knowledge how to deal with big football events. Hannover, which football club played at that time in the second league, did not have a modern stadium and no money to rebuild the old one. The decision went finally for Hannover. By paper because of the bigger experience with huge events (in 2000 there was the World Expo in Hannover), the bigger hotel capacity, due to the huge fairs hold in the city, and the better location in the train network. Soon the local football club Hannover 96 was taken over by some sponsors and out of nothing they promised a new stadium. Nevertheless the rumours say, that the former chancellor Gerhard Schröder put some words in favour for his place of residence.

The most famous and open discussion was about the location in East Germany. When got the organisation of the world cup, it was clear that at least one venue

should be in the East of Germany (the interesting fact is, that Berlin doesn't count in as East Germany in the German perception). The dilemma was that East Germany became a football desert after the reunification. Most clubs lost their players to the west and got bad advice back. Beside Rostock, there hasn't been any huge stadium in use anymore. Cities like Leipzig and Dresden neither had money, nor sponsors, nor clubs, for whom it would be advisable to build stadiums with more than 30.000 seats. Leipzig nevertheless became the "symbolic" venue in the east. On the one hand, just like Hannover, it has the hotel capacity due to fairs. Additionally Leipzig prepared at that time the candidature for the Olympic Games 2012. It was a must to support the only German candidate, and so, to impress the IOC, there was suddenly money from a federal Olympic support programme. The decision was made to build a new football stadium in Leipzig. The result, from a geographical point of view, was a success, keeping in mind that the idea was to spread the locations equally all over the country. On a map it is easy to see, that nearly every region in Germany was not too far away from a venue.

The question and rivalry remaining was, till March 2004, where the final and the opening match will be. Berlin and Munich had a long struggle, till the decision was made in favour of Berlin for the final. There was never an open statement why Berlin was chosen. The fact was that Munich got instead not just the opening ceremony, but as well the World Cup Media Centre, where most of the journalists broadcasted from. More than 10.000 reporters let the hotels and restaurants in Munich make their profits. After the venues had been settled, the preparation of the organisation committee started. The World Cup in Germany should have become a sustainable one. The motto of the "Green Goal" was announced. It was connected with the aim to transport most of the fans by public transport (50%), to use environment friendly and energy efficient building materials and to introduce recycling systems. Further to support and stimulate the social aspect by involving local football clubs in the organisation. The aim was to create a climatically emission neutral tournament. Connected with that the waste around the stadiums, the energy and water used in the Stadiums should all be reduced by 20%. All stadiums fulfilled these guidelines already

before the World Cup. Additionally the Deutsche Bahn became one of the main sponsors and the biggest investor for the World Cup. All venues have been connected by a tight high speed train network of ICEs. The regional transport was increased and big infrastructure investments have been speeded up or build earlier than originally planned. The biggest investment has been the new main station and the north-south tunnel in Berlin. New high speed lines have been build, with additional funds from the federal government. Like for example the ICE routs between Berlin and Hamburg, Berlin and Leipzig, Nurnberg and Munich, Cologne and Frankfurt. Stations have been renewed like in Cologne, Gelsenkirchen and Kaiserslautern and additional S-Bahn lines (light city railway) have been built. On the other hand investments in other parts of the network have been cancelled, like the new station in Dortmund or the tunnel concept in Stuttgart. In transport sectors new traffic management systems have been introduced, like in Berlin and the Ruhr area, where new systems help to navigate in a new kind of multimodal way. The information from public transport and individual transport are



combined. Every individual can easily get its personal connection, with all relevant data. You easily can check it on [www.ruhrpilot.de](http://www.ruhrpilot.de). Further on the tickets for the matches could have been used for two days public transportation at the venue location; special train tickets have been introduced. The sustainable World Cup didn't stop here. The stadiums had to be built or be renovated in energy efficient ways. Solar panels are included, block thermal power stations provide the needed temperature for the stadiums and the pitch, deposit and recycling concepts have been added to the gastronomy sector. This sustainable part of the World Cup was the most present and most not recognizable part of the Cup. Small examples represent the fact: Most teams used during the world cup not the famous buses or planes, they have been shuttled by train. The Brazilian football federation, made a contract with the DB, that all their fans should have special shuttle trains, transferring them from the official fan hotels in Cologne to all the other venues. The result was that the fans of Brazil usually came like a big wave to a station close to the stadium and disappeared soon after the match again. 5000 Brazilians used the special trains and the Deutsche

### Dancing the samba with Brazilian women in Berlin

The idea of going to the World Cup got in my mind when I choose to do my Erasmus period at the Utrecht University in the Netherlands. As we all know Germany and Netherlands are neighbouring countries and the opportunity to get to Germany from the Netherlands is easy of course. The combination of cheap travel costs, an EGEA network and time were some of the parameters that made me to book my tickets immediately. The city that I choose to go to was Berlin, especially because of the match between Brazil against Croatia on 13<sup>th</sup> of June. From the first time that I arrived in Berlin I felt the atmosphere of the World Cup in my skin. I was able to hear so many different languages in the streets. Football fans from all over the world were singing and dancing. The streets were full of small shops that sold souvenirs and football apparel of the teams. During my walk to the inner city I understood that whole Berlin was living to the rhythms of the football. From the one hand the Germans were trying to take advantage out of this great event to make some good profit and from the other side the visitors wanted to combine the pleasure that football offers with sightseeing. On all the big squares across Berlin events and shows were organised. Beer and sausages stalls were all over showing us the haute cuisine of Germany. I was very lucky during my stay there because I succeed to live with the best way to experience the hot atmosphere of the matches. I watched two matches (Brazil vs. Croatia and Germany vs. Poland) in two different famous beer-gardens. These places were full of supporters drinking and screaming for their teams. During my night walks I met crazy and drunk people celebrating their victory while singing their national songs or football slogans. In all big avenues of Berlin were cars that pressed their horns in order to make a strange celebration noise. The day that I will always remember was on 14<sup>th</sup> of June when Germany won against Poland 1-0 a little bit before the end. Thousands of crazy Germans were on the streets celebrating their anxious victory with every way that they could, from singing till breaking everything that they could found in front of them! All these happenings reminded me the unforgettable Euro 2004 in Portugal. (where Greece won, in case you forgot). **Alex Ziogas - EGEA Mytilini, Greece**

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Bahn transported 15 Million additional passengers during the World Cup. But the real heart piece were the stadiums. Beside Leipzig, all the venues are home of a first league club, using its big stadium. Due to that fact, the stadiums had been there and actually in no location it was necessary to build new stadiums. In Berlin, Kaiserslautern, Nürnberg, Dortmund and Stuttgart a modernisation took part. Gelsenkirchen and Hamburg just got new stadiums and in Munich the new stadium was planned already for a long time, but was fast realized due to the world cup. Hannover, Frankfurt and Cologne decided to build a new stadium at the same location, integrating some parts of the old stadium, transferring them into pure football arenas. The only location of a new build stadium was Leipzig. The old *Zentralstadion*, build by the GDR for huge propaganda events, had been tiered down. It was long time abandoned and with potential 100.000 places much too oversized. Inside the old stadium the new pure football arena was build. Planed as a part of the future Olympic aerial, the sense for using it was unclear, no football club better than 4<sup>th</sup> league plays here and the athletics lost their stadium.

The years went by and Leipzig didn't even become candidate for the Olympics. The preparations went on invisible for most of the population, till suddenly in 2005 all over Germany countdown clocks appeared telling how many seconds it still is till the opening. The venue cities raised the World Cup flags and started to prepare the cultural side program. The German national team went from one stadium opening to the other.

The highlight was the start of the ticketing system, actually designed to block the black market, with the additional function of annoying fans all over the world. Till the start of the World Cup there was no bigger discussion, than about the ticketing system. Personalized tickets and the data every fan had to give was one problem, problem with the servers another. The next problem was with returned tickets. The whole story became so big that even the FIFA criticised their own wanted child. Finally the FIFA decided not to use such a sys-

tem anymore for the next World Cup. The ticketing system failed actually with both subjects. The black market wasn't there on the first matches. But after it was clear that there aren't too many personal controls, the black market bloomed all over Germany. It was even possible to get tickets for the final in front of the stadium. Sponsor tickets or those of federation officials, haven't been personalized, unlike those for the average fan. These tickets went almost all directly to the black market. Beside that the security reason was lowered. The control who will or who won't be in the stadium, designed to prevent hooliganism, became an illusion soon after. The whole ticketing system seemed to be only there to annoy fans on the Internet.

The security matter was anyway still the most discussed subject before the World Cup. The yellow press draw the picture of hooligans from all over Europe coming to Germany, to destroy "our World Cup". Additionally the hooligans would have been accompanied by terrorist, bombing and kidnapping. The right-wing politicians from the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) even called for the army to serve and protect the Cup. The venue locations asked for additional police forces during the Cup from other regions. Big events have been cancelled and airspace at the stadiums and fan festivals have been closed. The Schengen treatment was postponed and the neighbouring countries have been enforced to open a transnational hooligan data base to introduce effective controls. Just like with the ticketing system, the reality became 100% different, surprising the politicians positively. The fans that came, turned out to be the normal drunken English, nice polish girls and enthusiastic, friendly people from all over the world. The Bundeswehr stayed in the barracks, watching the games from there and the police had not much to do, besides telling the way and let themselves be photographed. The hottest discussion during the world cup was, if police cars should be allowed to have a German flag in support of the German team, or if that is violating their neutral position.

Nevertheless, the fans celebrated victories or suffered from defeats on the fan

festivals and public viewing points, they made their parties anyway.

The fan festivals, as everything initiated by the FIFA, had been watched carefully. The so called *Fan Meile* was arranged in every venue location somewhere in the city centre. At the *Fan Meile* the locals could share the World Cup atmosphere, everybody had a chance to see the matches on huge screens and fans and locals could meet and have parties together. The biggest one happened in Berlin, just around Brandenburg Gate. At the beginning planned for more than 100.000 people per day, the mile exploded from fans and great events. At the end the whole festival had a capacity for 750.000 people at once, providing 9 gigantic screens. The public viewing became such a great success, that these events will be repeated at upcoming Championships and other events. In Frankfurt the matches have been transmitted on screens on boats at the Main river. In Gelsenkirchen the old Schalke pitch was transformed in a big party area. In Stuttgart it was at the castle, in Munich the Olympic stadium – every city tried to provide another stunning experience for the guests. A Cultural Program was added and many shops could open till midnight. To leave a good impression and to let guest willing to come back, train, bus and tram drivers had to learn English. Friendliness campaigns had been started and a "host a fan" network was established. Reverse a lot of countries opened a kind of "football embassies" in different cities. In Berlin you could watch the match in the "Karlovacko Fan Corner", with Cavapcici and Croatian TV, you could go to the Swedish house, or in Cologne to the Brazilian fan base. The Dutch brewery Bavaria sent their promotion teams to Leipzig, where they could meet colleagues from the Serbian MB brewery. Germany became as well the place of national promotion campaigns, from other countries. Ecuador, Costa Rica and Brazil started huge campaigns, blasting their national tourism budget for the whole year.

Interesting is that most of the promotion and commercial overkill was ignored and the fans concentrated on the matches. The salesmen on the fan festivals have been left alone with low

profits and a couple of empty plastic beer bottles on the street.

The race for being a place in the World Cup was restarted, when it was clear which team will play where. Especially small towns saw their chances for their 15 minutes of fame, when the national teams had to decide where to stay during the world cup. 110 locations had been accepted by the FIFA in the first round. The conditions have been that the hotel should have an airport around; reachable in half hour. And that it should have a high standard training possibility. After the end of the qualification the teams choose themselves one of the locations. Towns like Rothenburg an der Wümme became Trinidadian, Celle went for Angola and as well Bremen finally got its part with the Swedish national team. The motivation was for a lot of towns: the news. Reporter and fans, so the local authorities hoped, will transport a bit of the town into the world. The towns with teams from smaller countries adopted them and identified with them, Celle, a town close to Hannover raised Angolan Flags. Wangen at the Bodensee, arranged a big party for Togo on their market place. Just the towns having the "big" teams, haven't been that happy. When the US team went through Hamburg, streets have been closed. The Brazilian players never left their hotel. The English players just went to Baden-Baden to see their wives, who had, as if they would have been their own national team, their own "team hotel".

Although it had to be expected, the towns have been here a bit disappointed. Köngstein, the place of the Brazilian team, arranged special bus shuttles to the hotel, arranged some big Brazilian festival, and prepared itself for a big number of visitors. The only thing which didn't work out was that the Brazilian fans didn't come. Baden-Baden suffered from the paparazzi, who followed the girl fraction of the English team and uncomforted the high society, which use to spent the summer here. Other towns made their profit. Bremen was filled with Swedish and the Dutch wanted to be close to their team too and filled quite soon the camping sites of Hintertarten in the Schwarzwald.

### **One time Leipzig and twice to Berlin**

Like any World Cup Football I always get excited while watching barely all matches during the tournament. This year's WC brought along similar feelings of excitement. Since this great event was hosted by my German neighbours it was the chance to experience a bit more of the whole 'circus' a bit nearby.

Although we as Dutchmen have quit some stereotypes on our Eastern neighbours, in my perception all in all we do see them as friendly neighbours. But when it comes to football and Holland-Germany clashes we can get quite fanatic. Nevertheless, the question still was whether the Germans were capable to make a great and successful performance in terms of organizational matters. According to my personal experiences Germany succeeded in organizing a wonderful football event with a brilliant atmosphere, in and around the stadiums.

I paid two visits to Germany during the World Cup. The Netherlands' first match against Serbia & Montenegro promised to be a great party with tons of Dutchmen travelling to 'nearby' Leipzig. I was told there would be several public places where one could watch the match on a big screen. Since I could not obtain any tickets this sounded perfect to me, I presumed it was a considerable compensation to watch the match with hundreds or thousands of fans in the open air of the centre of Leipzig. Leipzig was overwhelmed by the 'Orange Invasion' from the evening onwards. One may obviously assume that the whole atmosphere in the aftermath must have been great simply due to the fact that the Netherlands made its first victory; and indeed it was great. Anyhow, I still was amazed by the great number of fellow countrymen – ca. 30,000 fans transformed Leipzig into an 'Orange Bath' of celebrations. In addition I should mention that I was very pleased with the kind of hospitality and organizational affairs.

The established public places, and all inclusive, to watch the live match contributed to a pleasant atmosphere. Furthermore it was clearly noticeable that there was plenty of room for celebrations in the centre, such as I have seen later on in Berlin as well. I believe that particularly the city of Leipzig, lacking a Bundesliga team, was very pleased to host the WC both politically and economically. Additionally I have noticed surprisingly at least tens of Germans shouting and celebrating as well in favour of the Dutch team. Such as is at a WC football tradition the Orange celebrations lasted until the early morning...

As I only returned to Berlin two days later, I could notice that, though the Orange Invasion quickly had faded away, the public opinion on Leipzig's first live football match was a very positive one. What can I tell you about Berlin? Apart from being a fantastic metropolitan city, I truly believe that Berlin was the centre of football during the WC. It may has to do with the planned WC final and its status as capital, however, one could observe countless places breathing football. Striking places were for instance the field in front of Reichstag transformed into the so-called Adidas-Arena, the avenue of several TV screens and other activities at Straße des 17. Junis (in between Siegessäule and Brandenburger Gate), and not forgetting the plenty of beaches (in contemporary Berlin a popular phenomenon) near the river side.

Berlin was as well the place to host millions of football addicts from all over the world gathering for this special event. The same counted for EGEA football addicts. Subsequently EGEA Berlin had the task to take care for them. As a result I found myself together with my host Martin and EGEA Mytiline and Zagreb watching Brazil-Croatia at a particular location fully covered with Croats and Karlovacko beer! Already hours before the kick-off one could observe plenty of Brazilian and Croatian fans wandering and shouting around simultaneously. Obviously during the match it was only the tensed Croatian atmosphere which was noticeable.

However, I would like to express my appreciation for the fact that, apart from the great public places to watch matches all over Berlin, there were plenty of possibilities as well to watch live matches at particular sites, such as this example, with a bit of patriotic atmosphere.

My last visit to Berlin took place, not accidentally, at the of the WC final, July 9<sup>th</sup>. For me it was a perfect moment to finish my research stay in Cracow, Poland, and move back westwards via Berlin. Despite the bizarre elimination of the Netherlands – in Cracow as well there were some nice places to watch thrilling matches though obviously not comparable to Germany – I was at least motivated and excited enough to taste a bit of the 'crème-de-la-crème' of football: the World Cup Final. I saw it at the Fan Meile, this should be the 'place-to-be' referring to the one million crowd after the German victory against Argentina.. After a decent security control I got amazed by the number of people and the mixture of nationalities. Obviously there was a great majority of Italians and Frenchmen, but it seemed to me that the whole bunch of football fans of all other countries had remained as well. Regarding the match one may assume that the bizarre pace of development of the match and tension kept until the end reflected the atmosphere at the Fanmeile. Nevertheless, to me it was a great satisfaction to experience all of this. In particular the aftermath was special to observe: Overwhelming celebrations of Italians along main avenues in hooting vehicles, fans dancing and bathing in fountains, and Italian flags everywhere marked the end of this big event.

To sum up, according to my personal experiences, the World Cup was a great event having only winners. Thanks to the professional setting of outdoor facilities, such as large TV screens and catering services, and hospitable services Germany succeeded to create a pleasant atmosphere for the football fans, in particular the ones who could not get any ticket. For this reason I think that in this perspective, apart from the football performance, the WC was a considerable successful event. Let us hope that next World Cup in South-Africa would become a similar success as this year's... **Rogier Offers EGEE-Utrecht, studying in Krakow**

If there should be a conclusion the biggest one might be: even though most of the Germans at the beginning had been sceptical, due to the feared commercial event of the FIFA, the concept worked and put a whole nation for 6 weeks in a kind of great, nice, relaxing summer party, with a lot of guests from all over the world. It was a more relaxing, easy going feeling everywhere and not just the major papers asked: couldn't it be always World Cup?

The other, a bit sadder conclusion is: It was the world cup of West Germany. The East had beside Leipzig as one location for matches and Potsdam, as accommodation for the Ukrainian squad, no places to be. Berlin still is not considered as a location in the east, and additionally the Olympic stadium, the hotel of the German national team and the fan festival have been located in former West Berlin. When the feeling was present all over West Germany the East remained outside of it, but sharing at least the profit of a better, faster infrastructure. After billions of Euros are spent the other question is, what remains? The answer is hard to give so shortly after the event.

For sure the infrastructure is that what remains: newly build high-speed rail



### **Football, Fans, City, Party and Atmosphere – experience of a Polish couple**

An Unforgettable and great experience – that's the 1<sup>st</sup> thought which comes to our minds if you ask about World Cup Final in Berlin. We did not expect that we will enjoy the weekend so much! Football, fans, city, party, atmosphere and even weather were perfect (oh... – maybe except heavy rain on Friday). So, let me just mention about the few most memorable things we have experienced during the weekend between the 7-9<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

*Football* – main reason we came for. We wanted to be as close as it is only possible to the greatest sport event of present times. And we were: just in front of Brandenburg gate, watching final with so high blood pressure and excitement in our hearts.

*Fans*: There is no better opportunity to meet so many football fans than during World Cup Final. The best is that they are not only at the stadium but everywhere you go – singing, dancing, waving flags and supporting their teams.

*City*: It wasn't our first time in Berlin but we felt like it was – people from every corner of the world changed this city into one colourful football planet.

*Party*: No matter where you go football party was just waiting for you. It was only your decision which one to choose. During "small" final we enjoyed party at the street soccer stadium and later on the streets of Kreuzberg. After "big" final we stayed at the 17 Juni strasse dancing and having fun till late night.

*Atmosphere*: All things I have mentioned above came together into a great atmosphere we touched in Berlin. Atmosphere reserved only for World Cup Finals. Atmosphere we want to (and I'm sure we will) feel again... **Tomasz Figurski**

lines, renovated stations, airports and motorways. The bitter end are for those regions and areas far away from the venues. They didn't benefit directly from them or even have been disadvantaged, due to limited funds for their own infrastructure. The venues and the whole country even, will profit from the better image and the raise in incoming tourism which is expected. Studies confirmed that countries gain tourists from big, global events, because people are interested in seeing where things happen. A tourist might add Berlin on the travel plan, to see the place of Zidane's head-butt. The stadium of Nürnberg will be known for the 3 yellow cards of Simunic and Stuttgart will be known as the place where the battle between Portugal and Netherlands took place.

The economy went up, as hoped by the German government. Not just the service industry and breweries made a big plus, the mood went up and the consumer went shopping. The Federal Agency for Employment, calculated a gain of 50.000 sustainable jobs, due to the World Cup, not be counted all the temporary work.

The last thing remaining is the will and the knowledge to arrange other big events. Hamburg wants to go for Olympic Games in 2016, Berlin wants to apply for organising the Champions League final and as well the other venues search for events, that could bring back the emotions of this passed six summer weeks where the world was a guest.



# How to sharpen a nations identity in a positive way?

*Klinsmann succeeded where the 'you are Germany' campaign failed  
A comment on the 'new patriotism' in Germany 2006*

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**C**an one coach and four weeks of soccer change a whole nation? Some critics still pretend that this is impossible. After this amazing summer-time with public viewing and car flags in black-red-gold almost everywhere, I don't agree with them.

Preparing myself for the EGEA-Seminar in the polish Tatra-Mountains in May 2006 I was confronted with the question of nationalism in my country. I took part in the workshop "National Identity vs. European Union." It dealt with the nationalism in Europe since 1848, the birth of national identity and the way to the European Union until today.

How to present your national symbols if you were taught in kindergarten, school

and high school not to be patriotic? Nationalism and national pride in Germany is a taboo. The black-red-golden flag was connected with right-wing extremists.

Everyone agreed that there is no reason to be proud of being born in a certain country. This happens accidentally. If you feel belonging to your home-city, to a certain federal-state, to a whole country or if you feel European was discussed in the seminar.

Many Germans have a "problem" to consider themselves as German due to the black chapters of history and the education not to feel national pride. Many years have gone since WW2. The country was splitted and reunified. And now, even 16 years after the reunion there is still not a strong national identity.

[picture by Maren Gleisberg] Discussion about National Identity in the Tatra Mountains during the Workshop "National Identity vs. European Union" at the EGEA-Tatra-Seminar (May 2006, Poland)



Therefore a year ago a private campaign was established, to sharpen the German identity. "You are Germany" was the slogan. This meant that every person in the country is part of it and can contribute something to our economy and cultural life. The main intention was to work on a positive self-image of German citizens. Advertisements and TV-spots with emotional sound should reach the people and create a national identity and identification. According to the statistics, 98% of the population was reached, 21 times on average. But did it really reach the people?

I presented this campaign during our meeting in the Tatra. My workshop-colleagues couldn't right believe, that a political and economical as strong considered country ("Made in Germany", industry, EU-founding state, democracy, ...) needs such a campaign to sharpen its citizens' own identity? Lot of people in Germany also thought this campaign – which came not from government, was kind of useless or absurd.

### *A campaign, a motivating coach, his team and black-red-gold everywhere?*

This summer, 99% Germans (according to my personal statistics) felt really German. And not because of this campaign. In June and beginning of July Germany was hosting the World Championship of soccer. „Time to make friends – die Welt zu Gast bei Freunden“ was the slogan. Initially this motto was a bit sniggered at. But in the bottom line it was exactly like this. I watched the amazing opening match with friends in a public viewing area together with 5.000 people. The German team, formed and motivated by Klinsmann and Löw, infected us by playing attractive soccer with team-spirit with the wave of happiness and party and this until the last game. Almost 5 weeks of positive energy not only in the football-stadiums and public viewing areas but everywhere.



[picture by Karsten Schacht] EGEE Münster celebrating with a crowd of soccer-fans in the innercity of Münster (June 2006, Germany)

One morning I was travelling towards Munich in ICE speed train. Normally in these trains you have an impersonal business-atmosphere. This time, at seven o'clock in the morning the train was crowded, football fans from at least six different countries started a dancing in the wagons. The staff (usually very formal and correct) was smiling and partying with them. I had to think twice, if we were really in Germany, the country of grumbling and pessimism? Yes – Germany in Summer 2006!

So. What's left after the WM2006 now the public-party-summer is over? Klinsmann left the team. Are the German flags gone with the wind also? No, a few weeks after this hot summer there are still some black-red-golden flags on the cars and in the house windows. People are used to use their flag. That's new – and ok. As the flag was some kind of taboo because it was abused by neo-Nazi's and right wing-extremists, almost no-one had a national flag, cause it would have connected you directly to the right-wing. When EGEE-Muenster goes to an egea-event we bring our city-flag and not the Germany-colours.

If I would go to a congress with a work-

shop about national identity after the WM2006 I would definitely do another type of presentation about my national identity. Not because I am more patriotic now. Not because the Klinsmänner reached the third place. It is more because there is finally a relaxed use of the national flag. The three colours became – at least for me – also a symbol for happiness and a great time with international guests all over our country.

As far as I can say, there is no new patriotism in Germany. At least this change in Germany took place. The Colours of the flag became a symbol for happiness and fun. This is a first step – others have to follow. By now it's really nice to see some flags at cars and houses. But if it's only connected to sports it will not contribute much. If the citizens will not start considering themselves as member of this German society, but only see the state as an institution to provide them with benefits it will not bring us further on.

But every journey begins with a first step. The campaign could not stimulate this step – but Klinsmann and his team initialized it.

Further info the campaign [www.du-bist-deutschland.de](http://www.du-bist-deutschland.de)

# Between racism and success:

## *the French football team and the integration of minorities*

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**O**f the 22 players picked by the French coach for the World Cup in Germany, 14 were either born in Africa or were descendants from families of African origin. Another player was of Indian origin, although he calls himself black, while another has Argentinean parents. For France, all but four of the 14 players used in the final game were children or grandchildren of Africans from both sides of the Sahara. By contrast, Italy's line-up had no players of immigrant origin (although Mauro Camoranesi's grandparents had left Italy for Argentina) and the Azzuri were, to put it bluntly, the whitest of the Western European teams at the World Cup. So, the final game was the confrontation of two different political orientations and the result of specificities. It could be interesting to look more deeply at the reasons of the French particularity and to identify its exact significance on the level of the population of the country.

First of all even Germany, which always used to have an all-white football team, now lines up players of African origin like Odonkor or Asamoah both of Ghanaian origin. Two other German national players were born in Poland: Klose and Podolski. Polish immigrants have played for Germany since the fifties, and Argentinean players have defended Italian and Spanish colours, but African migrants have marked an increasing presence in the European national football teams in the wake of an upsurge of migration and radical changes in football legislation.

The black dominance of French football arises from its colonial past in Africa and the continuing French jurisdiction over some Caribbean and South Pacific territories. The national origin of the players covers the map of the former French empire except Indochina: The West In-

dies (Martinique, Guadeloupe, Guyana), North Africa (Algeria), West Africa (Mali, Senegal) and Equatorial Africa (Congo), but also some other countries are sources of migrants to France. Ethnic diversity in French football is not entirely new. When France won the World Cup in 1998, its slogan was "Black, Blanc, Beur" (black, white and North African), a play on the words describing the tricolour. However, only 3 of the 11 players in the starting line-up were black, in contrast to the seven in the World Cup 2006, plus there was the presence Zinedine Zidane: the son of two Algerian parents, but born in Marseille.

When France won the World Cup in 1998 at home, it was not just a sporting achievement; it was also a social phenomenon. Here it happened that the country's very first World Cup was brought home by a generation of players that were hailed as the representation of multicultural France. This team was the ultimate proof that integration had been a success. There was nothing that prevented the children of immigrants succeeding in French society. However, paradoxically, black football players in the French team have risen because of discrimination and not because of the absence of discrimination. Job discrimination against black people leaves only sport, especially football boarding schools managed by professional clubs, as the sole chance for young immigrants to get out of the dim housing projects they inhabit. Nine members of the French team grew up in Paris immigrant suburbs. It is exactly in these suburbs where France endured weeks of rioting by minority youth at the fall of 2005. The riots were a protest against deep-seated discrimination and lack of opportunities, particularly in housing, employment and education. These events continue to symbolize the failure of French republicanism to absorb immigration.

When it comes to supporting the national football team, many minority members say they put hard feelings aside while the team represents multi-ethnic France at its finest – even though it underscores the country's failures in other areas. It's putting a face that people like, respect and admire on something that does not truly exist. Make no mistake, integration in France, if it really happened at all during the previous waves of migrants, is not actually the resounding success people would like you to believe.

The same young people looking up to Zidane and other French football players are the ones burning cars in suburbs of France major cities. Their dream is to be like Zidane, but their every day reality is much harsher. They live in slums, they have problems to get a job and the future looks bleak.

The riots which were raging in France have been built up for a long time. The suburbs where the violence was occurring are the product of the 60's and 70's; of a period where France opened its doors to immigrant seeking work and built low-cost housing for them. It was a period of relative prosperity in France and the standards of living for the immigrants were better than what they were leaving behind. The majority of them were of North African origin and their ties with France go back to the finishing days of hexagonal colonialism. This history is part of the problem. France has a hard time coming to terms with certain aspects of its past, ranging from World War Two to the violent separation from its colonial possessions in North Africa and Indochina. All that baggage continues to weigh heavily on the current social dynamic. The result is that as time has passed and the standards of living in the suburbs have degenerated, the theory of integration has turned into the practice of exclusion. These immigrant communities have become a scapegoat for society's inability to digest its past. Now, distanced from the culture of their parents and grandparents but also from the culture of the country where they were born and lived all their lives, these young people are rebelling. French society has created this phenomenon and

French society will have to find a solution. The success of the French national team in 1998 and of 2006, and the success of players like Zidane and Thuram, is a proof that something positive can come out of these marginalized communities, although it cannot be used as a political slogan for the success of integration. The power of these young people, if harnessed constructively, can make France stronger and closer though to its ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity.

We could also hope that it can help to stop racism, which is also one of the causes of discrimination and exclusion of this young people. Even if sport is just a first step to integration, you have to start somewhere; and if sports are the most immediate channel for the expression of the diversity, so be it. The irony of thousands of French whites who inundated the Champs-Élysées for the victories of the "bleus", defining their identity through the faces of people such as Zaire-born Makelele and Senegal-born Vieira, is striking enough to merit recognition. Let us hope not all of this will be lost in France's and Europe's minds in the months and years to come, especially in the time of the upcoming elections in France, where the far right candidate, who has gone to the second round of vote for president with 17% in 2002, confirmed that racism remains deeply rooted in French society.

Unfortunately you can be a fan of Henry, Vieira and Thuram and at the same time have a racist behaviour. The supporters of the French football team are not saved of such attitude. Racist incident among fans have waned in French stadiums in recent years, even as they proliferated in other European countries, in particular in Germany, Italy and Spain. There, the spectators have pelted black athletes with bananas and screeched at them like monkeys. Analysts say this kind of behaviour mirrors growing concern about migration across Europe. This year's World Cup has been largely free of racist incidents. An exception was monkey chanting by Spanish fans before France's June 27 game against Spain. France won the game: 3-1.

The Zidane-Materazzi head butt incident in the final and its aftermath served as a symbol of the larger issue of Europe's struggle with its emerging multicultural identity: even though both players denied it, international media speculated for days about the presence of a racist element in the exchange, observing that the Italian team had no minorities. We must also remember that the Italian football has long been a magnet for fascist nostalgia of the far right. Festivities following the triumph of Italy were marked by Swastikas spray-painted on the walls of Rome's historic Jewish quarter, while also a former minister of the previous government of Berlusconi commented that Italy had triumphed over a team of "negroes, communists and Muslims."

Not surprisingly, for many of the same ghetto residents he calls "my people", Zidane's head-butt of Marco Materazzi was a source of pride rather than shame. Kids on the streets of France's suburbs told reporters that defending his honour was more important than the World Cup.

The entire Zidane episode may well have been the reminder of the limits of sports to transform society. As much as the so-called beautiful game would like to represent a colour blind and cosmopolitan ideal of a multi-cultural society, the reality off the field – and occasionally on the field – is a lot uglier.

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# The game that was never played

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**I**t was a sunny afternoon during the World Cup in Germany: the match between Argentina and Serbia and Montenegro was about to start. The players were standing on the field and soon the anthem *Hej Slaveni* spread across the stadium. To an uninformed observer nothing was unusual with this picture, but to some folks in the Balkans, it was the non-sentimental last good bye to what ever was left of Yugoslavia.

Two decades before this Yugoslavian team was on the make. Having won the U-21 World Cup in 1987, it seemed that the future for the country's football prodigy was going to be shiny. Fanciful and effective, the team made of young stars such as Robert Prosinecki, Zvonimir Boban, Davor Suker and Predrag Mijatovic scored on average 2.44 goals per match, upsetting Brazil on their way to the finale against West Germany. *Hej Slaveni* sounded proudly at the award ceremony when Yugoslavian players lifted the trophy. They were indeed the future of the game. But events that followed transformed the situation into a 'what might have been' story when Yugoslavia violently started crumbling into pieces. And nowhere else but on a football stadium.

The (in)famous never-played match between Red Star Belgrade and Dinamo Zagreb on May 13<sup>th</sup> 1990 amongst Croatian football fans is widely considered to be the date of the conflict kick off. After a violent rampage across Zagreb, Croatian supporters of Dinamo (called Bad Blue Boys) and Serbian supporters of Red Star (Delije) entered the Maksimir stadium. Soon Delije started tearing plastic seats and throwing them at the Dinamo supporters, alongside with bottles and stones. When they tore down the fence which was separating them from Dinamo supporters, the conflict spread to field with Serb-dominated police helping Delije in beating Dinamo supporters. The captain of

Dinamo Zvonimir Boban came to help the Bad Blue Boys and famously attacked one of the police officers which a kung fu kick which made him an icon of the independence movement. The battle lasted for 70 minutes, police came back with reinforcements, many people were wounded, many arrested and the stadium burned. Zvonimir Boban was suspended from the national team for six months and missed the 1990 World Championship where Yugoslavia lost in the quarterfinals to – Argentina. The battle from the Maksimir stadium soon continued in trenches, and the borders drawn on the maps divided the Yugoslav football team into six successors leaving many unanswered questions. What would become of the 1987 World champions, could they indeed fulfill their potentials or would the ethnicity and political situation within Yugoslavia influence the game? All we know is that except for the 1998 World Cup third place won by Croatia, so far none of the ex-Yugoslav teams left a mark in football history. Serbia and Montenegro continued to (ab)use the name Yugoslavia for a few years alongside with the national anthem and football teams of both Zagreb and Belgrade were used in sharpening the nationalistic sentiments. Dinamo soon changed the name to more "appropriate" Croatia Zagreb under the strong patronage of Croatian president Franjo Tudjman and Red Star supporters become one of the strongest and most powerful pillars of Slobodan Milosevic regime.

Montenegro opted for the independence several weeks before the World Cup start, and the game against Argentina was the last to be played for an already nonexistent country. *Hej Slaveni* was sent to history with a final score of 0-6. And after all what was said and done during the nineties in the name of football, nationalism and land, it seems that nothing was more appropriate and more deserved than such a shameful and a pathetic good-bye.



**W**ith regard to the extent and the number of consumers, the FIFA World Cup 2006 was the most popular and important sport event in this year. Escaping from this event seemed to be impossible. Before and during the World Cup the newspapers, magazines and TV channels were overcrowded with news reporting, background stories or portraits of individual actors. This is of course the day-to-day business of many media and due to lacking on-air time or missing place many of these reports were not able to show sufficient complex connections and contents.

Therefore it is that books as *Global Players – Kultur, Ökonomie und Politik des Fußballs* (Culture, Economics and Politics of Football) exist. Beyond all daily papers or sport shows on TV this book has a critical look behind the sceneries of global soccer. As a result few known and sometimes also few pleasant aspects of this sport are discussed. This does not amaze, due to the fact that this book was published in the series *Historische Sozialkunde/Internationale Entwicklung* which already clearly presented social, historical and third world policy connections and issues in previous books.

In this edition 14 authors in 12 papers give their attention to the subject soccer. Some of these texts could thematically absolutely be subdivided into certain categories. Gertrud Pfister offers a historical and society-sociological approach for instance. She asks first of all *Wem gehört der Fußball?* (*To whom belongs football?*) and describes both the origins of the event and also its circulation in Europe starting from Great Britain. One finds similar theoretical approaches with more specific considerations in three other papers. First of all, Roman Horak concerns with the Austrian soccer and its double codification in Vienna in the period between the two world wars. Mikós Hadas writes about the social context of the soccer in Hungary between 1890 and 1990. This is especially interesting because he also describes the political- ideological function of the sport during the communist regime. Finally Matthias Marschik con-

## Behind the scenes of soccer

*a review by Kevin Borchers*

siders Mitropa, which means constructions of the region of middle Europe with regard to the sport. He especially analyses on a cultural level the space which took the sport in that time as well as the "Mitropacup", which was the predecessor of European soccer events we know nowadays. These three papers investigate very exactly the respective societies and set one historical- sociological connection between the evolution of the societies and the soccer. Kurt Wachter and Richard Giulianotti research into the soccer in Africa respectively Latin America. Though, both texts are based on different aspects. Wachter considers the soccer in Africa with regard to the (post-) colonialism. He describes in historical- sociological manner the transformation of soccer as an instrument to discipline the native population to a form of resistance against the colonialists. However, Giulianotti manages in an impressive way to analyse the history of Latin America since the 17th century on the basis of the globalization theory of Roland Robertson to bring it then into an economic and political connection with the organisational structures of the soccer on the continent.

The economical aspect of soccer, which apparently becomes more and more important, is picked up by Gerald Hödl in his text *Zur politischen Ökonomie des Fußballsports*. (*About the political economy of football*) He describes the increasing economical globalization of soccer and the modifications contiguous with that. With regard to it, a regional case study in Japan by Wolfram Manzenreiter analyses the combinations between economy-political interests and soccer. The role of the media complex in the process of the economical globalization of soccer becomes very clear in the paper *Think global, act local, kiss football* written by Georg Spalter and Lukas Wieselberger. The two authors research the relation between an event like the Soccer World Cup and the label sponsoring.

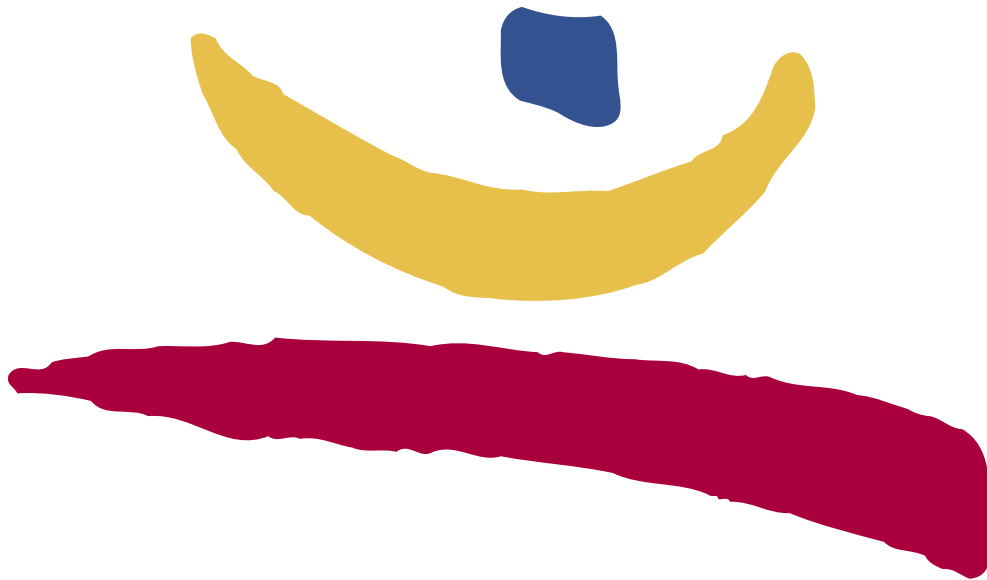
*Fußbälle aus Pakistan* (*Footballs from Pa-*

*kistan*) by Joerg Zimmermann, illustrates the transnationalization and economical evolution of the sport. He describes the circumstances under which footballs are produced in development countries. On the one hand the text represented the working and living conditions of the victims of the profit maximizing – in this case the workers in Sialkot/Pakistan. On the other hand a deep view into the (economical) strategies of the sport article producers is given.

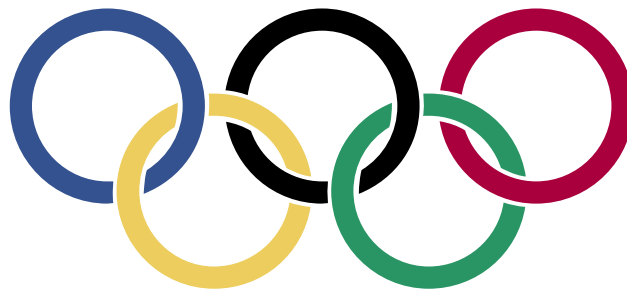
Finally the book deals with two other very important topics: racism and gender! In the text *Frauenfußball in Zeiten der Globalisierung* (*Women football in times of Globalisation*) Rosa Diketmüller reports about the potentials and problems of women soccer. In her context she describes the role of women soccer and the woman as a potential consumer of soccer, as product with regard to the profit maximizing in the soccer economy. Michael Fanizadeh and Markus Pinter analyse the connection between soccer and the increased number of anti- racism- campaigns at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their investigation makes clear that soccer leads to both, a strengthening and decline of racism and xenophobia.

For all soccer fans who like to have a detailed look behind the daily reporting and merchandising sector but as well as for all who critical tackle with the process of globalization and its impacts, this book is highly recommendable. General researches where useful and the overview is given. This is supported by interesting and well investigated case studies. In fact the first edition is from 2002 and the historical consideration ends with the World Cup 2002 in Japan/South Korea. Nevertheless the second edition from 2005 did not loose anything of its topicality and explosiveness.

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## Barcelona '92



# How to make a big event a big success?

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**B**read and games, that's what the people need. The Roman emperors found out early that the organisation of a big event pays back twice. On the short term, it will make the subjects happy, which causes a higher popularity among the people. On the long term, it will be a perfect way to show the countries capabilities, by building huge sports accommodations and infrastructural projects. The dozens of still remaining arenas in all recesses of the former Roman empire are the ultimate proof of that.

Nowadays, every city or country organises its own events. People are having more and more spare time to spend

and use more time for entertainment. This results in an abundance of events, organised everywhere in Europe. It still works out to be one of the best ways to keep the subjects confident, and the organisation of a mega event as the World cup football, has everything to do with politics. But what about the second advantage, do big events really leave something tangible behind on the long term? What should a city do, to be sure that years later, the event still contributes to a better image of the city? These questions are tried to be answered in the workshop "Big events" on the Western Regional Congress in Maria Laach, in March of this year. The participants brought from all over Europe a big diversity of examples of events with them: The Olympics, the World cup football, world expos, cultural capitals of the year and smaller sports- and music events as the Vierdaagse, the Exit festival or the Giro d'Italia. Events in all sorts and sizes, but with two major agreements: all events are organised with a specific goal and all the events influence the image of the city or country for a



shorter or longer time. The reasons for organising a big event differ. Some events exist already for dozens of years and here the reason for organising originates from a long tradition. Other events are held on a different location every time, and the choice to participate in the race for assignment of the event is a conscious one. Nevertheless, every city has one thing on purpose: The event should promote the city and the city's image should be improved or at least conserved.

The impact of sport on a city's image can be made clear by the following example. The city Groningen tried to improve their image for years by showing television commercials and advertisements in papers, which cost millions of euros. Recently, some investigators concluded that the surprisingly good results and the attractive play of the local football club FC Groningen in the last season, contributed more to the image progression, than all the commercials in the last years together.

Though, not every event is a guaranty

for a successful image improvement on the long term. Most famous example is Athens, which has two years after the Olympics, still no clue what to do with the sports accommodations. Because of the big organising problems in advance the city's image probably more deteriorated than improved. Another example is the world expo in Hannover. From the terrain, where in 2000 millions of people admired the most beautiful buildings, is hardly anything left yet. Simultaneously with the buildings, the people's memories of Hannover as expo city disappear.

Of course, there are also good examples and Barcelona is the most famous one. At the perfectly organised Olympics in 1992, Barcelona showed the world its beauty, and the city became a place in the row of hot cities with London, Rome and Paris. Because of the huge rise of tourism, all the investments made for the Olympics have returned. Another successful example is the world expo in Paris in 1889. The Eiffel tower, built for this expo, developed into the symbol of Paris and France, and it will last for centuries.

What should a city do, to make a big event a successful story on the long term? In the first place, it's important that in an early stage there must be thought of what will be done with accommodations after the event. In Barcelona was the Olympic Village designed with such a high quality, that after the Games, it could be easily transformed into expensive apartments and hotels. The village is worth a visit for many tourists, because of the special architecture of some buildings. In the second place, it is important that inhabitants of the city feel solidarity with the event. A way to achieve this is to let them participate in the event, for example as volunteer.

Looking to the future, it's nice to think of which event will last for millennia and which building will be the Colosseum of our time. Will it be the Millennium Wheel? La Grande Arche? Or maybe the Allianz Arena? Franz Beckenbauer as Roman emperor? Hard to imagine...

# 'Dutch hate against Germans diminishes in a bigger Europe'

*Cultures mix during World Championship*

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**UTRECHT – Even the Dutch had a difficult time keeping up their critical attitude towards Germans during the World Championship. With my face painted in the colours of the German flag and surrounded by Germans in a so called 'beergarden' I enjoyed the friendly party atmosphere. The Germans supported their team more openly than ever. Unexpected, but for many Germans a relief.**

In the major cities in Germany thou-

sands of people came together to watch the matches of Der Mannschaft. The main squares were changed into black-red-yellow party centres, with big screens and 'banal nationalism': flags, painted faces, strange hats, clothes etc. I saw in Germany many signs of a 'new nationalism'. A shameless enthusiasm to use flags, to sing the national anthem and to be proud of it's country. An honest attempt to be and feel German.

Since the Second World War, Germans are not used anymore to be so strong in showing this nationalism. The question whether this was 'ok' became a national issue, although everybody knew the an-

swer was 'yes'. I saw a country that was celebrating its team, that performed better than expected. (Remember the discussion before the World Championship, when Klinsmann went too much to his home in the USA.) Germany was confident that they would win, the Germans were proud of their team and country. The left-winged party PDS in Saksen was not amused of the nationalism in "the country of the unique crimes of the national socialism"<sup>1</sup> and offered T-shirts to supporters who handed in German flags. It wasn't a big success.

With the group of students from Utrecht we went several times to a so called





'biergarten' (beergarten), where the regular beer size is the one liter glass. People sit outdoor by long tables watching the match together. The atmosphere is relaxed and social. At some point, we found ourselves drinking beer with a group of about 15 Japanese supporters. The Japanese were having a good time and were singing and dancing. When the group received their next beer, the Japanese came to our table to cheer on the World Championship. After this friendly greet they performed an impressive dance with music and screaming. Then we felt we had to make an effort too, and the Dutch EGEA group performed for them our famous 'Hoofd, schouder knie en teen' dance. (Head, shoulder knee and toe). The Germans were watching us and were surprised by this social affair.

I don't mind rivalry between The Netherlands and Germany. We share a special history. A history of wars, but also one of football drama's (1974, 1988). Further, who doesn't remember Rijkaard spitting

on Voller, and 'Der Lothar' (Lothar Mat-teus) claiming penalties that were never fouls etc. (Sorry here we see I am Dutch).

#### **Europe enlargement**

The aggressive and nasty sentiments that divide the Germans and Dutch were not as present as before, although I was surprised by the reactions in Germany when the Dutch lost in the 1/8 final. The rivalry between Germany is still there and will probably always be there. Dr. Friso Wielenga is chairman of the Centre of Netherlandstudies at the university of Münster. In a Dutch newspaper he points out the traditional side of The Netherlands versus Germany: "A small country like The Netherlands needs distance to show it's own identity towards their big neighbour. Germans shouldn't think that The Netherlands is their 17th state." Wielenga also sees a connection between the extension of 'Europe' and the diminution of rivalry between the two countries. "The Dutch should compare better the current political and cultural structures within

Europe, because bigger countries tend to get more influence in Europe in favour of the smaller ones like The Netherlands. When we want the big countries to listen, we shouldn't raise our finger too much and say that the Germans are making a mess".<sup>2</sup>

On the website of EGEA I read that one of the goals of EGEA is to organise exchanges to learn from each other's culture and share geographical knowledge. The exchange of EGEA Utrecht with EGEA Munchen in June this year really supported these goals. I speak for myself when I say that the participants had a great time with each other in Munich and in Utrecht. I'd say that we made a good effort to learn from each other's culture.

<sup>1</sup> Trouw, 8-7-2006. Duitsland hoort zichzelf juichen.

<sup>2</sup> Dagblad van het Noorden, April 27, 2000

# Being Chairman...

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**T**he last year, 2005-2006 was probably the longest of my 26 years. It was a year in which I got to know myself better. It all started in mid-October 2005, in a small Greek village, my backpack loaded with changes and decisions concerning my study and personal life. Pelion was where a big crowd of young geographers came together for attending the 17th Annual Congress of EGEA, organized by EGEA Mytilene. The weeks preceding the congress were quite busy. I made an important decision for my future, quitting my work at a traffic planning bureau in Vienna, and instead becoming student assistant at the Department of Geography and Regional Research at the University of Vienna. My regular study was over and I began to think of an interesting topic for my final thesis. But more and more I was thinking about "Migration in Europe" – the title of the workshop I was preparing together with Flo, my dear Bavarian friend with whom my whole personal EGEA story is strongly connected.

Connected like the story of EGEA Munich and EGEA Vienna, connected for the first time by the organization of the EGEA Alps Seminar in June 2005. But 2005 paled in comparison with 2006. During the crazy trip that followed the Germany Weekend 2005 on Sylt, we agreed on trying to organize the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of EGEA together. The proposed location was the Salzkammergut region in Austria – my home region. The only thing that was missing was a positive vote in the General Board Meeting (GBM) in Greece. Hard to believe that I was looking forward to an even more important issue at the GBM. After some conversation with the Western Regional Contact Persons (WRCP) of 2003/04 and 2004/05, Kathrin and Andrea, the idea of applying as WRCP in 2005/06 grew on me. This all made Pelion – aside from the unique Greece and its café frappe – so important for me. And yes, I also still had somewhat of a private life (to say it was not egea-connected wouldn't be true) but this is not so interesting here.

During the ACo5 I felt like – quoting an "egea teacher" of me – "in a movie". So I better continue the story right after returning from Greece. When I came back to Vienna, my entity colleagues started to call me "president" and Bad Aussee got well known in the EGEA community. Soon I had the first uneasy feeling if it was the right decision to apply for BoE. From the start me and my BoE partners Anna, Flo, Sandor and Voja were confronted with important tasks. But we were not alone. Especially EGEA legend Gert, director of the newly established EGEA European office in Utrecht, and the previous chairwoman Vita helped us with our start-up.

Protocol of EGEA Art. 11 point 1.2: *"The chairman ensures the good connections of the Board of Executives members."*

Looking back, this was an easy task. I am glad I had the opportunity to work in this team, people with different characters and different attitudes but with one common ideal, doing the best they can for EGEA and its members. The time between ACo5 and ACo6 was a very intensive one which required a lot of energy and endurance.

The EuroMed Congress in Slovenia in April 2006 was a turning point in my



function as chairman. There I had the honour to sign the contract with the EU-Youth-funds, later not known as the Zrece-contract (one of my not realized proposals). This contract over 34.000€, finalized by Gert, was a milestone for egea and the beginning of a new era. At least this was what I thought. Since that time I was dealing with the principles that give egea its shape and basis more than ever before. I was confronted with the weird situation of having the feeling to really have helped to do something great to egea and parallel had to deal with many critical voices that were afraid of the future development of egea because of the step towards professionalism. Being chairman is not always easy. But many moments were really great – for example my first EGEEA event after Greece. At the New Year's Party in Croatia I was welcomed like a president and – I must say – this was a new and very nice feeling. During the year I could strengthen my “masterole image” what I always see from the funny side even sometimes it can be recognized as chauvinism. I am glad to have the possibility here to make this clear. I was lucky to experience many special moments during this egea year. It is probably not so important and interesting to mention them now all. Maybe you, my dear reader, and I will have the opportunity to exchange some stories while having a beer together some day. Sometimes fast like an ICE-train, sometimes slow like ThomasW in a Drinking Contest (sorry for the insider joke) the year passed by. Now, shortly before ACo6 I feel like preparing for the final match. Attending and co-organizing the Annual Congress at my home place. With passion I am looking forward to the GBM where the whole work of my BoE-group will be evaluated. I know that many points can be seen from numerous sides. The most important for me are the results of this BoE-year as well as the strong connection that I have with EGEEA.

And yes, the rest is also going fine. I am still an assistant at the Department, I found a cool thesis topic, started writing and I also have still some private life (to say it is not egea-connected still isn't true). I wouldn't exchange my experi-



ences as chairman of EGEEA for anything. And I have the feeling that the many things I learned and experienced will only benefit me late in my life, even though I know I still don't fully realized everything that happened this year. Thousands of small and big things where happening at once, things to think over, and sometimes I think what had happened had I done things differently. Switching between ambassador, negotiator, player or 2<sup>nd</sup> class pop-star, it is hard to conclude my final impressions. To borrow the words from another “egea-teacher” of me helps me to talk about my EGEEA future after ACo6: I always was used to be either at the very top or at the very back in a social net. So as ex-president I'll probably will be online on the forum time by time and enjoy it to see egea growing and developing – offering my support to egea at

any time of course.

Those who know me better are aware of my tendency towards pathetic formulations. I would really love to finish this paper with the sentence “EGEEA is my life” but I try to make use of the experiences I made while being president and see things cool. Should I say “For me, life is more than EGEEA”? This sentence is really more realistic and has even a special truth in it. But finally I want to finish with saying thank you to all people (and especially my entity Vienna) that crossed my way in 2005/06. “Thanks a lot! It was my pleasure! You made it an unforgettable time in my life!” – again pathetic, I just can't control myself!

Yours,  
Masterole

# Trading Places

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**Sandor Kreuze is treasurer of EGEA, Anna Bienasz is secretary of the organisation. Sandor studies Human Geography in Utrecht and went as Erasmus student to Lodz in Poland. Anna followed the opposite way, she went from Poland (Krakow) to Utrecht. I meet them in the Basketbar at the Univeristy complex in Utrecht to talk with them about studying abroad and their EGEA work.**

**Why did you decide to study abroad? And why did you choose Utrecht/Lodz?**

Sandor: "I decided to study abroad for some positive change in my study life: to experience something different. My choice for Lodz in particular was because of my general interest in Central and Eastern European transformation countries and more in particular because I wanted to write my master thesis about foreign direct investments in Lodz."

Anna: "In practise I had no choice: Utrecht was the only – English speaking – University with which my University has an agreement and there was a place available..."

But whole idea of going for Erasmus started in Utrecht; during the EGEA Annual Congress in Baarlo 2004. The last day took place at Utrecht University – then I decided that i want to study there. And after the congress the UU

send me mail with folders about the University... and that made me thinking."

**Anna, can you understand Sandors choice for the city of Lodz?**

Anna: "Yes I can..it is close to Warsaw haha (Sandors girlfriend is from Warsaw). But I would never like to study in this city. I have never been there but I really can't understand why he likes this city so much. It is second largest city of Poland but it has many social and economical problems. For foreigners from western countries it might be exotic and entertaining... but for me it just an underdeveloped city without many perspectives."

**How was your experience abroad?**

Anna: "It was interesting to learn all kind of things about the Netherlands and to be far from home for a long time."

Sandor: "Studying abroad means more experience in managing your life in a strange country, in my case a country where not everything is as well arranged as it is in Holland and where culture is in a way different."

Anna: "I am looking forward to be back in Krakow for a year to enjoy the stability and normality of being home for a while. But I am definitely going abroad again just after this period! I would just add that half a year is too short and too long as well. It is not long enough to learn the language and get to know a country really well but allready too long to be satisfied with the basics. Next time I would decide to go for period of maximum three monts or at least a year."

**What are the differences between Poland and the Netherlands?**

Anna: "There are many differences, in general it is a European culture, so there is nothing what is really extremely strange or shocking but in details countries are very different: culture, food, sense of humor... but what I realized as well that what is average for the people in EGEA Utrecht is not necessarily average for the Netherlands as a whole. The discussions I had with the Dutch people gave me new insights and changed my view on the situation in Poland."

Sandor: "Organization and Poland is something that doesn't go together. Bureaucracy is big, probably also be-



cause I do not understand it and in most instances they cannot explain you how things work, since they do not speak English. An example of the organization of Polish life is how the accommodation in dormitories works. It is not like in Holland that you can just walk in and out of your house or room; in Poland everyone needs to pass a reception where they check if you really live there or not. Going inside as a guest is restricted. With promised facilities you need to wait and see if you will really get them, but I can assure you now that it is possible to live without fridge"

Anna: "Bureaucracy in the Netherlands is not a pleasure either. I experienced that the health care system for foreigners is a disaster. And as a foreign student it is allowed to work in the Netherlands, but I did not succeed in getting a working permit."

#### **And how about the differences in studying?**

Sandor: "Studying in Poland for a foreign student means in general a very lazy life. Not so many foreign students are coming to Poland and in particular to Lodz, so they probably want to attract them also by offering easy courses. Life in Poland means for a Dutch student a cheaper life and a life with more alcohol and opportunities to spend your free time.

Anna: For me that was very different. I really had to study in Utrecht; follow classes, writing papers! Classes are organised differently, and I would say much better than in Poland. Lectures are more like seminars, you can/should ask questions, and there is a month for individual work in a specific subject. At geography in Krakow lectures are mostly for listening, questions are very rare. And the way how a semester is organised makes you doing nothing for 3 months and then everything in the last weeks (all papers and exams). In Utrecht you are busy all the time, which I like, as I have problems with self motivation.

#### **You are both Executive Board members of EGEA (BoE). Could you combine studying abroad and your work for EGEA?**

Anna: "When I was in Krakow I couldn't put too much time for egea, I was

studying at two faculties, being a board member of Kolo Geografow (student organisation in Krakow) till December. That period I had only time for the most important EGEA issues.

When I came to Utrecht I had more free time. I had to skip one class in second period but only because I was traveling too much. I went to congresses in Moscow and Slovenia, back to Poland for the Tatra seminar that I coorganised, to Vienna for a board meeting and to Muenchen for an exchange with EGEA Utrecht. And I joined the EGEA-Utrecht introduction weekend, the 'Bendelux' weekend and the EGEA Germany weekend."

Sandor: "Studying abroad and working as BoE member is as a result of modern internet technologies not so hard anymore. We had many meetings via Skype. The only thing that I could imagine is that the Erasmus lifestyle leaves you less time for doing BoE tasks. I enjoyed my time in Lodz very much, I went out every night. This can have had some effect on my productivity during the day "

Anna: "Actually studying abroad in Utrecht helped me to work more efficiently on my BoE tasks. I had all the EGEA dinosaurs to help me. In Krakow I am the oldest active EGEA member so I couldn't get any help from my colleagues there. I was meeting with the other European board members and other EGEAns quite often so I had lots of inspiration and motivation to put time into EGEA.

Because of traveling so I had only little time left for studying, so my papers were a bit week...

To conclude I would say that I couldn't find a better place for working as egea Secretary than Utrecht, because the European Office is located there. In the summer I was working at the European Office almost every day."

#### **Do you think egea should promote studying abroad? What can egea do about that?**

Anna: "Yes! EGEA is about international connections and there is no better way to get to know another country than to live there for few months!

EGEA is unconsciously promoting it already, when you travel a lot, meeting international students you feel encour-

aged to go abroad for a longer period. You can check with EGEA if you feel comfortable with using English, make an exchange with students from a University you think you want to study (as I have done with an EGEA exchange between Krakow and Utrecht)."

Sandor: "I agree, I think promoting studying abroad should be one of the main aims of EGEA! It is exactly what EGEA is about, namely getting acquainted with live and culture in foreign countries. EGEA could support studying abroad just by organizing events where people from other parts of Europe participate in. If I would not have gone on exchange with EGEA to Warsaw (and other parts of Poland) I might well not have developed such an interest in Poland. Also, EGEA can function as a gathering place of information on opportunities to study abroad. People from everywhere in Europe can bring information materials to congresses for example on opportunities to do a Master at their Universities."

#### **Sandor you are already back in Holland, Anna, you are going back soon. Do you ever want to go back to Poland/The Netherlands?**

Anna: "Yes, definitely! Maybe at the EGEA European School in Utrecht, maybe with an exchange with Krakow to Amsterdam, maybe the Western Regional Congress on Ameland. EGEA offers many possibilities!" Netherlands is one of my favourite countries in Europe, I like most of the things about it and I feel really well there. I am thinking about doing a Master in a foreign country, and the Netherlands is one of the options

As there are many masters available in English and it would be much easier to in country a where English is not the native language. But if I will improve my English significantly I would rather consider Scotland as my next foreign destination."

Sandor: "If I will go back to Poland?, yes for sure! Maybe next week already."

# Getting to know Europe and the Tatra Mountains

## *The Tatra Seminar, May 2006*

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I was sitting in my car, looking at the landscape moving behind the window. I was thinking if I remembered to take everything. Maps, notes, pictures, notebook... Together with Blazej we were leaders of one of the workshops at the Tatra Seminar/EGEA European Summer School - Blazej? – I asked my friend, who was driving -did I take everything. I was sitting next to him, but I was still observing what's happening on the road. I wasn't used to sit on the passenger's chair. It was about three weeks since I had an operation on my knee and I still can't walk normally, neither drive... But I didn't give up the Tatra Seminar project. I liked the idea from the beginning. And there was one reason – the Tatra Mountain. Magic Mountain, extolled by poets, existing in million draughts of paintbrushes, described in thousands books... but always swaddled by mysterious aura. We were driving through 'Zakopianka' – the road leading to our destination point – winter capital of Poland: Zakopane. After several sharp bends, driving

uphill and downhill, there is a wonderful viewpoint, which we were waiting for. But this time weather was so nasty, that we couldn't see anything. When we arrived at the place where participants of Tatra Seminar were staying, we heard happy voices. Polish, German, Dutch, English... languages were mixing together. We came inside to shake hands with everybody and to take bags to our room. At the evening, after dinner, began the official opening of TS. Leaders of workshops presented themselves and the program for the following days. Later we had a party. Waking up was hard... But finally everybody managed to do so. Efforts with standing up were compensated by gorgeous view. The Tatra Mountain revealed its beauty... Majestic, snowy peaks looming at horizon in morning fog delighted everybody. First part of that day was designed for official speeches in the Tatra National Park headquarter. A worker of the Tatra National Park familiarized participants with facts about the Tatras and National Park. Then we had time for working in



groups. My workshop was about tourist influx on highlander traditions, so together with Blazej we presented some tasks of this theme. Then we went to a short trip illustrating nowadays problems of Zakopane. Because we managed to do everything before the time we planned, we decided to take participants of our workshop to Gubalowka. There are two ways to get there: by foot and by railcar. I can't walk, so I decided to take the second way. But I wasn't the only one... Only two persons were determined to go zoom uphill – Blazej and Stasa from Slovenia. From the top of Gubalowka you can see a picturesque view of the whole Tatra Mountain. But you can also... eat pizza, drink beer and buy some 'typical' souvenirs from Zakopane. When Stasa and Blazej came, I named some characteristic peaks and then we opened our maps to tell something about the Tatras.

The Tatra Mountain (in Polish and Slovak: Tatry) are the highest section of the Carpathian Mountain with an area approximately 785 km<sup>2</sup>. They are mainly divided into three parts: the High Tatras (with culmination of the Tatra Mountain: Gierlach 2655 m), the Western Tatras and the Bielanskie (Bielskie) Tatras. Scientist often distinguishes a fourth part – the Regiel (Subalpine) Tatras. This division is connected with geology, relief and landscape. The High Tatras have Paleozoic crystalline basement, so they are build by igneous rocks such as granites and granodiorites. The Bielanskie Tatras



are build by carbonates, for example limestones and dolomites, whilst the Western Tatras are mixture of many rock types. You can find there metamorphous rocks (gneisses, amphibolites) and granites, limestones, conglomerates, sandstones etc. From the geological viewpoint the Tatra Mountain are a relatively young mountain range. They were folded by mountain building movements in the late Tertiary, i.e. 5-20 million years ago, in alpine orogenic movements.

"Enough!" said Blazej, "you will see more during field trip on Saturday" I looked at him with a smile. He knows that I can talk and talk about the Tatras, but not everybody might be interested about it.

Next day was designed for a short field trip in workshops, so everybody has

gone somewhere, also Blazej with our group. I had the whole day for myself. Because I didn't want to sit in the pension I proposed my friends going to the Slovak part of the Tatra Mountains. Three of them decided to go with me. The atmosphere in the car was fantastic, mainly because Landryn's excitement about his first visit in Slovakia. Poland and Slovakia are now in the EU so we need only identity cards to cross the border. It divides the Tatra Mountain into two parts. Integration between them in one of the major assignment for the Euroregion 'Tatra' came into existence in 1994. Whilst the Euroregion mainly works on economy and regional development, environment protection is a sphere of the National Parks in both countries. They were established after World War II (in 1948 Slovak, in 1954 the Polish national park), because it was sure that something has to be done to protect the unique environment from the increasing number of tourist. The aim is to discover and protect the natural resources of the Tatras, although there are still projects to change beautiful slopes covered by pinus carpinetum into ski parks.

We were driving through a road called "Road of Freedom", from which you can admire beautiful views. Two years ago the road was hidden in deep forest, which disappeared from the earth surface in few hours. The landscape still reminds about this catastrophic wind. But behind fallen trees with roots over the ground, sharp crags and snowy peaks shine in the rays of the spring sun. One of the peaks arrest attention – small box



was trying to overcome a huge precipice to reach the top. It's Lomnický štít. I won't 'travel' in this way with a cableway... Yes, I'm afraid... of the high price. What's more... I'd rather go trekking. On a sunny Saturday morning the participants were divided into two groups. One went to the Gasienicowa Valley, the second to the Koscieliska Valley. Both groups see the Tatras, but both another. As I said before, the Tatra Mountains are not monotonic, but parts of it have different characters. The Gasienicowa Valley lies in the High Tatras, where you can observe relief modeled by glaciers. The present shape of the whole Tatras has been determined by Pleistocene mountain glaciers. Thanks to them the crystalline part (the High Tatras) features a post-glacial erosion contouring with numerous well preserved formations such as glacial kettles and troughs, hanging valleys and old river valleys which have been transformed. One of the landscape features of the High Tatras is their numerous lakes and tarns, the biggest of which, the Eye of the Sea covers nearly 35 ha, whereas The Great Lake is over 79 m deep. The Western Tatras, where the Koscieliska Valley is, were also modeled by glaciers, but due to their geological structure, glacial forms are rarer. On the other hand, geological structure of the Western Tatras determined occurrence of karst. Caves and potholes are a special attraction for tourists. Nearly 700 of them have been discovered in the Polish Tatras, with a total corridor length over 110 km. The largest system is The Great Snowy Cave and The Great Litworowa Cave, over 22 km long and with height difference of 824 m. Special hydrographic features of the carbonate part of the Western Tatras are the swallow-holes, the dry stretches of the valleys and karst springs. In the evening the Polish team organized a Polish Party. We presented some tasks of highlander's culture (for example traditional songs) and we prepared something to eat and of course to drink. Next day nobody wanted to go back to real life. Sunday was the last day of the Tatra Seminar, so after breakfast every workshop group presented a short scene connected with their workshop topic. Afterwards we got the certificate of participation and we made a photo

of the whole Tatra Seminar group. And that was the end... Some of us stayed in Zakopane to hike in mountains, some went to Krakow and some went directly home.

For me the Tatra seminar was a great opportunity to share knowledge with other geographers and also to learn something new. I hope that the idea of the Tatra Seminar will be continued in future, not only in Poland. Every one of us, young geographers, knows his homeland, but this knowledge is worth nothing, if it's only in our heads or on sheets during exams! There are so many beautiful mountain chains in whole Europe and, what's more, all are unique, all different, all have own climate, all are inhabited by other ethnic groups... You know it. But what about the whole rest? So what you think about Dolomite Seminar? Schwarzwald Seminar? Pindos Seminar?

See you soon on mountain trail!

#### **Official page of Tatra Seminar:**

<http://www.tatraseminar.end.pl/>

#### **If you are interested about the Tatra Mountain: official websites of the Tatra National Park:**

[http://www.tanap.org/en/\(Slovak\)](http://www.tanap.org/en/(Slovak))

[http://www.tpn.pl/\(Polish\)](http://www.tpn.pl/(Polish))

#### **about the Tatras etc.:**

<http://www.geoportal.tatry.pl/portal/>

[http://www.mos.gov.pl/kzpn/en/tatr\\_gb.htm](http://www.mos.gov.pl/kzpn/en/tatr_gb.htm)

<http://www.staff.amu.edu.pl/~zbow/ph/pnp/tatr.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatra\\_National\\_Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatra_National_Park)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatra\\_Mountains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatra_Mountains)

<http://www.tatry.net/>

<http://www.tanap.sk/>

#### **photos:**

<http://www.trekearth.com/gallery/Europe/Poland/East/Malopolskie/Tatry/>

<http://www.pbase.com/czsz/tatry/>

<http://www.pbase.com/czsz/tatry/>

[http://www.earth-photography.com/Countries/Slovakia/HighTatras\\_intro.html](http://www.earth-photography.com/Countries/Slovakia/HighTatras_intro.html)

# Mines, Caves and Riverstreams around Krakow

*Exploring your own country with an EGEA exchange*

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**I**n EGEA young people are traveling to far away places in Europe. People from Valencia travel to Estonia and Amsterdam visited Minsk. Often we even know foreign places better than our homeland. At a geography conference in January 2006 in Krakow students from Poznan met people from EGEA Krakow. Soon after that EGEA Poznan was established and three months later they had their first exchange with their experienced compatriots from Krakow. Agata Warchalska from Krakow describes the physical surroundings of Krakow and why you do not necessarily have to go to a far away country to explore something totally different.

The whole program in Krakow was planned for just one weekend, but we

wanted to make the most of these three days, so the preparations were really intensive. Krakow, the former capital of Poland, is a very popular (even "compulsory") place for school trips in our country and we were sure that our guests had been there before. So the idea of this exchange was not to show the museums and monuments in the centre of the city, but rather some interesting geological and geographical details in the Krakow region. In this purpose, we asked for the help of two instructors from our Institute.

## **Zakrzówek**

The exchange began on Friday morning, 31.03.2006. Almost straight from the railway station we took the young inhabitants of Poznan for a first trip to a place called "Zakrzówek" – an area





ogy of the Ojców National Park, we also climbed the second higher “summit” of the whole Kraków-Częstochowa Upland (502 meters high), called “the Rock 502”, which is situated near the Park’s border, in the village of Jerzmanowice. We visited a beautiful church and saw two medieval castles. Our friends seemed impressed; they took one photo after another.

Writing about the Ojców National Park, I would like to mention an action in which many Krakow geography students (most of them EGEAns) take part: monitoring of illegal refuse dumps in the Park. Although the Prądnik Valley has so high ecological value, inhabitants of villages located close to the Parks’ forests seem not to have ecological consciousness. From our research it is known that the number of illegal waste dumps in the area is not changing.

### Vistula River

The last day started about 10 o’clock, when we met the second of our instructors, Bartłomiej Rzonca, a hydro geologist. He showed us Krakow from another point of view, the one characteristic for his specialization... During this three hours of „hydrological walk” we learned a lot about changes of stream beds of rivers crossing Krakow city centre: the Vistula, Prądnik, Rudawa and Wilga. The most visible and important for the city was of course all that concerned the Vistula river. In the beginning, during the Middle Ages, a dam was built across the river in order to make the water flow between Krakow and Kazimierz (today – two Krakow districts, but separated cities in the past). At the time, a river flowing very close to the city walls had defensive as well as economical significance. That’s how a stream-bed called the Old Vistula appeared. However, the Vistula were spoiling the dam during every flood and finally, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the dam was completely destroyed. The river returned to its former stream-bed, also adopting a part of stream-bed of its right affluent Wilga. The Old Vistula changed into a wet ditch where all city impurities were thrown. Although, obviously, that caused a constant epidemic danger, it was only in the eighties of 19<sup>th</sup> century that the Old Vistula was filled up

of a former quarry where they could make some geological observations (limestone rocks) and see the view over whole Krakow. The most characteristic part of this area are the ‘Twardowskis’ Rocks – it’s a hill built of Upper Jurassic limestone. The hill itself, like many others in the surroundings, dates back to the Pleistocene. At the time, during the glaciation (the Riss), the area of present Krakow was situated in the periglacial zone (the zone by the ice sheet) – in a pradolina (ice-marginal valley). The fluvio-glacial water separated limestone horsts (made during the Carpathean orogeny) from the loam of Miocene – Twardowskis’ Rocks hill is one of these horsts. Within Zakrzówek you can find some characteristic karst formations like, for example, short caves (we visited two of them). As for human influence on this area – the former extraction of limestone in the quarry – its result is nowadays a picturesque lake by the rocks. Our guests were really surprised that you could find such objects close to the city centre... Then, after a dinner, we arrived at our Institute because our EGEA friends wished to accompany us during lectures. We attended a lecture of geomorphology about palynological methods of quaternary deposits analysis.

### Ojców National Park

The second day of the exchange was

even more intensive. We spend it in Ojców National Park, were one of our academic instructors, phd Janusz Siwek, lead a trip and a lecture on geomorphology and hydrology of the area, famous for its Jurassic limestone rocks. The Park has the smallest area among Polish National Parks: 21.46 km<sup>2</sup> (including 5.28 km<sup>2</sup> of forested land and 2.51 km<sup>2</sup> strictly protected), but the tradition of protecting the environment there is very long – it dates back to the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Park was established in 1956, approximately 16 km north of Krakow, in the Kraków-Częstochowa Upland. It consists of two river valleys (the Prądnik and Sąspówka) and few hills, gorges and ravines. The Ojców National Park is especially known for limestone monadocks (called e.g. Hercules’ Club) and more than 400 caves (two of them, the Lokietko Cave and the Dark Cave, are accessible for tourists). A diversified configuration of the earth’s surface and local climate features influence the Park’s biodiversity. You can find there approximately 5500 species, including those under strict protection: needle grass (*Stipa Joannis*), hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), stoat (*Mustela erminea*), European beaver (*Castor fiber*), European kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) and 15 species of bats that hibernate in Ojców’s caves during winter.

As I have stated above, our excursion concerned hydrology and geomorphol-



and the Dietel Street was formed there. As for the river Rudawa, there again, the man interfered a lot in the Nature. Between 1910 and 1912 the course of that part of Rudawa's stream-bed which crosses the city centre was completely changed; the new, artificial channel is located a few hundred meters to the west. Afterwards, the river debouched into Vistula between the Wawel Hill and Dębnicki Bridge, which consisted a difficulty for developing city and intensified the danger during floods. The story of another of Vistula Krakow effluents, the Prądnik River, is even more interesting. Until the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century this small river flew just outside the eastern side of the city walls. And then, during the Polish-Swedish war in 1655, the Swedish lead the current through another stream-bed, further to the east, in order to deprive the besieged city of drinkable water. What is worth mentioning, this "Swedish" Prądnik stream-bed exists still in the modern times. The characteristic location in the large valley of winding river with many effluents causes that the history of Krakow is a history of floods followed by a human struggle to protect the city from the high water. In the thousand years period, the former capital of Poland were

under water probably even a hundred times. From the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century till the Second World War in the surroundings of Wawel Hill the anti-flood works were intensified, high dams along the banks were built. Later, in the 1961 the decision of building another dam, across the river Vistula in the eastern part of the city was made. As a result, the level of water was heightened, the deepening of the stream-bed was stopped and the man gained the possibility of regulating the flow. However, despite of these investments, Krakow is not 100% safe – in the 1997 it was only 90 cm from a tragedy.

In the city of Cracow you can come across many "hydrological traces" of the past: names of many streets and squares (e. g. ul. Starowiślna (The Old Vistula St.), ul. Dolnych Młynów (The Lower Mills St.), Plac Na Stawach (On The Ponds Square), Plac Na Groblach (On The Dams Square)), river bridges that are now above the streets, plates on old buildings marking the level of floodwater in the past. Moreover, in one of the parks, Błonia, you can recognize the profile of old stream-bed of the Rudawa River. During this "hydrological walk" we saw also a few of the city public "springs" – artesian aquifers with the drinkable

water from the level of Jurassic rocks (80-100 m under the earth surface). All that was very interesting – for the Krakowians, too!

Afterwards, for a good end of the exchange, we went by tram to Nowa Huta – a very famous industrial district of Krakow, famous for its unique socialist architecture.

The weekend was intensive and rich both in scientific and social activities. It proves that an 'intra-national' exchange can be very interesting, ad not only for the visitors from the other side of the country. Even as hosting groups you can still learn new things about your own region.

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Photos 1 and 3 by Bartosz Hawelka

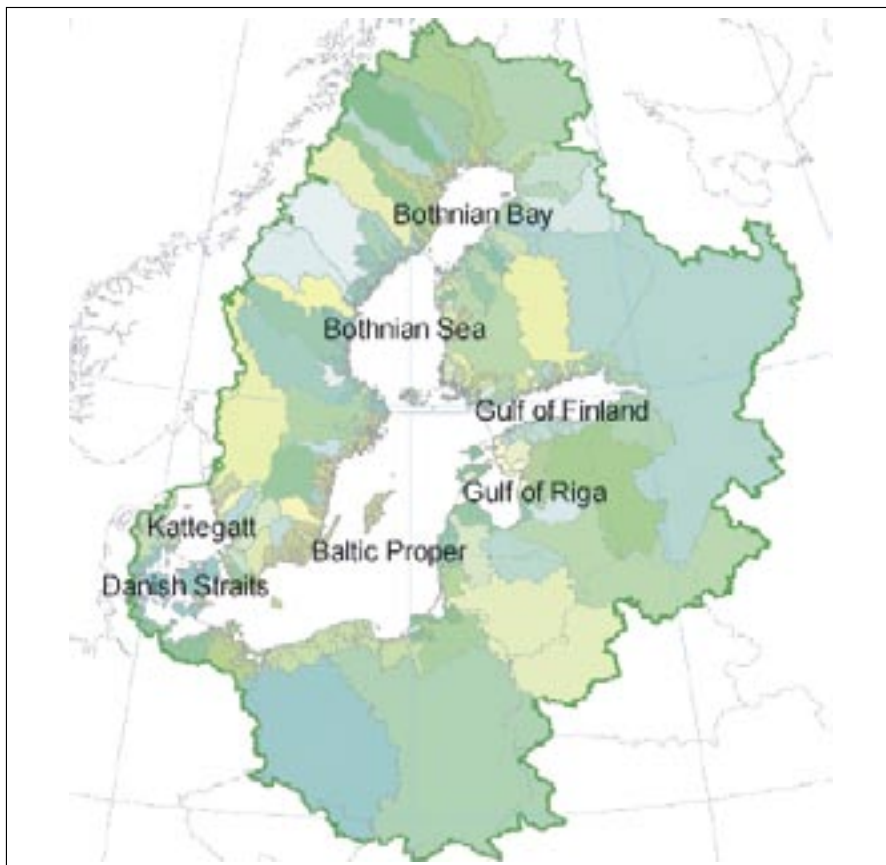
# New hope for the sensitive Baltic ecosystem

From the fifth till the ninth of March 2006 the EGEA Northern and Baltic Regional Congress took place in Lammi, Finland. It was organised by EGEA Helsinki. The theme of the congress was the Baltic Sea region. There were workshops about Hansa towns, Transportation, tourism and planning. One workshop concentrated on environmental issues in the Baltic Sea. One of the main problems is the eutrophication. Polona Rozman, student from Ljubljana that did her Erasmus year in Sevilla and a Leonardo da Vinci training in Helsinki, has hope for a good future for the Baltic Sea.

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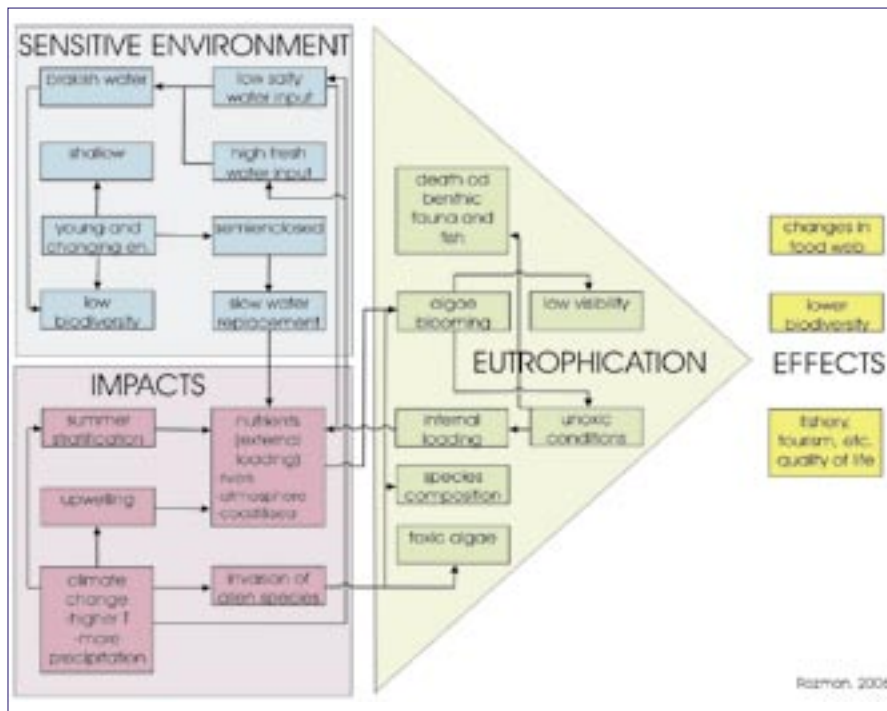
**T**he Baltic Sea is about 1610 km long in an average 193 km wide semi-enclosed sea bounded by the Scandinavian Peninsula, Danish islands and European mainland. It is the largest brackish water area in the world with a variety of very special marine and coastal environments. Its unique natural conditions unfortunately also make it very sensitive to the pollution and overexploitation pressures generated by over 85 million people living its large drainage area.

Fig.1: Baltic Sea and its drainage area (HELCOM).



Since it was formed in glacially scoured river valley the Baltic Sea is very shallow and in average reaches only 55 m of depth. The surface area of 415 000 km<sup>2</sup> is supplied by fresh water from 1.74 million km<sup>2</sup> of drainage area. About 450 km<sup>3</sup> of fresh water annually and slow and only occasional inflow of salty water from the North Sea makes the Baltic Sea the largest brackish water basin in the world. Its water is a mixture of salty water from the ocean and fresh water supplied by numerous rivers. In the Southern Baltic Sea salinity is as high as 20 ‰, but it is as low as 6 ‰ in the Northern Baltic Sea. The water is almost fresh in river estuaries, for example near St. Petersburg (FIMR). The water from the Baltic Sea is flowing slowly through narrow and shallow straits towards the Northern Sea and it typically takes about 25-30 years for all the water in the Baltic Sea to be replaced (HELCOM). The sea is also very young and since its formation after the end of the ice age (only about 10.000 years ago) it has been changed into a lake and back to the sea for several times. Along with its brackish conditions, which require special adjustments of the sea organisms, the short history and its changing environment the Baltic Sea are reflected in relatively low biodiversity of the sea.

The Baltic Sea is surrounded by a considerable number of cities, towns and harbours. Furthermore all of the countries in the drainage area are heavily industrialised, agriculture and forestry are carried out over large areas. In average forests cover about 54% of the drainage area, agricultural land 26%, wetlands 20%, and built-up areas 4%. But there is an obvious difference between southern part where as much as 60 to 70% of the area consists of farmland, and northern part where forests, wetlands and lakes make up between 65% and 90% of the basin surface. Apart from an excessive amount of nutrients and other pollutants, which come to the sea by rivers, considerable amounts are imported also by atmospheric deposition and activities like fish farming traffic etc. Latter also encourage venue of alien species. Additionally hardly predictable climate changes, which will probably bring temperature rise up to



**Fig. 2: Eutrophication in the “net” of complex interactions between natural conditions and human impacts.**

few degrees centigrade (especially in the northern part), more precipitation and more windy weather (BALTEX) will influence the sensitive and vulnerable marine ecosystem as well. Among environmental problems that affect the Baltic Sea eutrophication is one of the greatest. Since the 1800s, the sea has changed from an oligotrophic clear-water sea into a eutrophic marine environment. Between 1930 and 1980 the transparency of the sea water in the Northern Baltic decreased by as much as 3-4 metres. Eutrophication is a series of interlinked processes, beginning with excess input or production of nutrients and organic matter and leading to far-reaching effects in the marine environment. Enrichment of seawater by nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus does not represent a direct hazard to marine life, but it stimulates

**Fig. 3: Algae blooming in the Northern Baltic Sea on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2006 (MODIS/Terra True Color image, 250m, author: Mikhail Itkin, St. Petersburg Center for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring).**



the growth of algae which leads to imbalanced functioning of the system (HELCOM, FIMR).

In the case of the Baltic Sea short-lived filamentous algae (especially cyanobacteria) have grown more common and in several areas out-competed other algae. Offshore, the production and abundance of phytoplankton has increased creating surface accumulations and decreasing visibility. Decomposition of sedimented algae consumes oxygen and is a factor contributing to the creation of anoxic bottoms. Many species of fish and benthic fauna in general suffer from the lack of oxygen, which in addition to this dissolves sediment-bound nutrients elevating nutrient levels even further. Total fish biomass generally increases with eutrophication but species richness decrease; cyprinid species thrive but species requiring clear and well-oxygenated waters become scarce (FIMR). The process leads to decrease in biodiversity and disturbances in the food web. Finally eutrophication does not affect only marine ecosystem, but as well dependent human society. While direct impacts are visible overall in fishery and tourism, influences can be spread also on other activities and influence the life quality in the effected regions.

Although there was an agreement between the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea to take a common action towards improvement of the ecological state of the sea already in 1974, when the Helsinki Convention was signed by all parties and obliged them with the 50 % reduction targets for nutrient emissions, there were no drastic improvements in the Baltic Sea scale ecosystem (HELCOM). In 2005 the algal season was one of the most excessive ever. Very powerful algal blooms were observed in the central and northern parts of the Baltic Sea Proper basin and the blue-green algal blooms were widespread in the Bothnian Sea, which usually experiences milder occurrence (FIMR). In the last decades however the problem has been detected, monitored and researched by scientific institutions all around the Baltic area. The research has brought us to better understanding in



the complicated system of interactions between different factors that influence the phenomena.

As eutrophication is a complex phenomenon with many influencing factors also the solution for the problem should be complex and integrate collaboration between different parties. A good example of action is also the new Ecosystem Approach initiated by HELCOM (short for Helsinki Commission, the governing body of the Helsinki Convention) is the basis for the Baltic Sea Action Plan putting the ecosystem at the centre when deciding on management option. Ecosystem Approach emphasises long-term sustainability and it integrates human activities and conservation of nature. It includes political, economic and social values, and should propose solutions, which are socially acceptable. First the health status of the Baltic Sea wanted in the future should be described. As a part of that HELCOM is aiming at the Baltic Sea that is unaffected by eutrophication. Based on the desired status and targets to be defined the required reductions of current input levels of nutrients should be assessed and further cost-effective measures needed should be identified.

With the new approach the new hope for the solution of the eutrophication problem is arising. How to support a sustainable development of the region that would improve ecological conditions and bring better life for the people living in the Baltic Region? The challenge is opened for all of the experts in the environmental, economical, social and planning field. Contribution of geography in understanding complicated

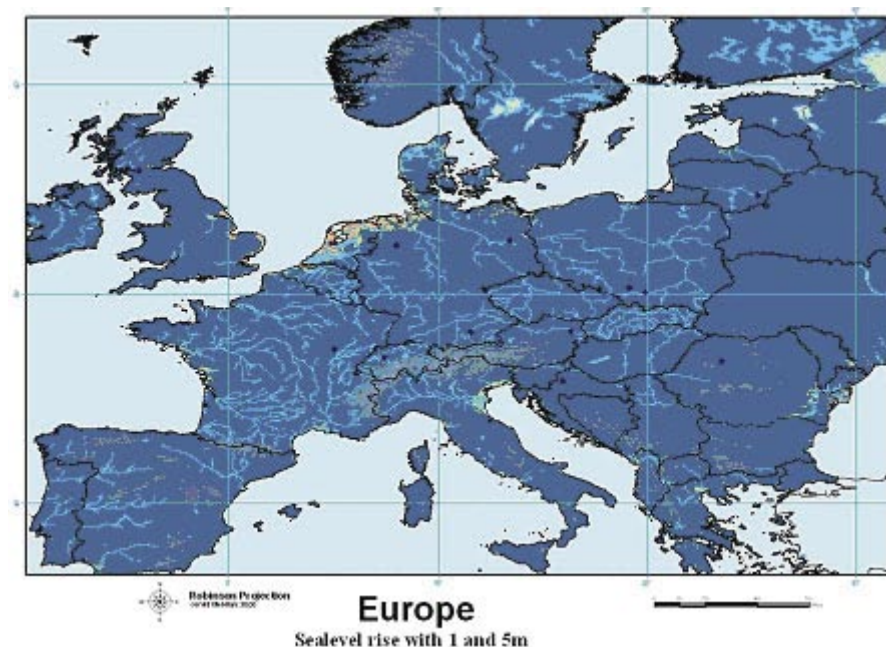
interactions and suggesting solutions on regional, country and local basis would bring an important value to the future work.

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- Baltic Sea Experiment – BALTEX, <http://www.baltex-research.eu/>
- Baltic Environmental Atlas, <http://maps.grida.no/baltic/>
- St. Petersburg Center for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring

# Climate-driven changes in the hydrological cycle

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*This article from Stefan Fritz has been published before on the Internet website of the EGEA Annual Congress 2004. The theme of the congress was water. Stefan Fritz led together with Sczepan Zurek a workshop about climate change and changes in the hydrological cycle. At the congress an international panel on climate change was set up by young scientists from several European countries. Stefan Fritz is the EGEA specialist on climate change and glacier retreat. At the Alps seminar in Austria he led a workshop about glacier retreat. At the Annual Congress 2006 he will look to remains of the Ice Age, again in the Alps.*

## Introduction

**This article aims to analyse the major hydrological problems related to climate change in Europe. The seriousness of the situation is still not fully understood, although climate change has a potential to head into catastrophic proportions. Recent events, such as the Odra and Elbe river floodings in 1997 and 2002 respectively, painfully show the devastating effects of climate change and human mismanagement.**

## Theory

The 20th century is characterized by a significant rise in temperature, explosively increasing from the mid-seventies onwards. Clear trends have been recorded by weather stations throughout Europe. According to temperature measurements published in the European Climate Assessment & Dataset (KLEIN TANK et al., 2001), Paris experienced an increase of 0.75 °C between 1910 and 1970, and 1.05 °C between 1970 and 2000. For the same periods, Vienna recorded a warming of 0.69 °C and 0.97 °C respectively; and St. Petersburg 0.47 °C and 1.09 °C. From these facts, one may conclude that temperature increase is more and less uniform throughout Europe. As a direct result, the face of the earth is dramatically changing. In terms of ecology, extinction threatens vegetation and wildlife unable to migrate or to adapt. In terms of economy, the energy and water consumption rises extremely due to long hot summers. In terms of hydrology, desertification endangers the Mediterranean region, and coastal regions find themselves threatened by sea level rise. Glaciers are declining rapidly.

Global average sea level is projected to rise by 0.09 to 0.88 m over 1990 to 2100, with a central value of 0.48 m (IPCC, 2001). A simple calculation on a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of Europe (ESRI, 2003; USGS, 2003) shows that sea level rise of 1 to 5 m may have a severe impact on Europe. It can be observed from figure 1 that river deltas are the most vulnerable to sea flooding. Most of these areas are densely populated and have an important economic function. Inundation of these areas would be national disasters. The problem of sea level rise has been recognized, but little action has been taken up to this date. After a number of damaging floods, the cities of Venice and St. Petersburg have taken the initiative to construct large protection dams. Another vulnerable area, the Netherlands, has been encapsulated successfully by a series of dikes and dams since the destructive flooding of the southwestern part of the country in the early fifties of the 20th century. Nonetheless, European coastal areas have been affected badly, as beaches have suffered a great deal from erosion by maritime surges. In some cases, the situation has been aggravated due to upstream river damming, resulting in a lower deposition of sediments on the beaches.

It is beyond doubt that a long term process as sea level rise is fairly easy to monitor and to take protection measures against in time. Therefore, it may be assumed that the biggest threat to environment and society is being posed by extreme events. Extreme events can be defined as lengthy periods of heavy rainfall that ultimately lead to inundation, flash floods, torrential streams, landslides and other hazards. The unpredictable character of an extreme event makes that its danger is often underestimated. Human misinterpretation and ignorance, however, made the destructive power of extreme events to grow a multiple times during the 20th

century. Construction of settlements in risk areas; canalisation of rivers; and deforestation in mountain regions all have contributed to this. As an example, the damage caused by the flooding of the Elbe river in 2002 would have been significantly lower if natural floodplains alongside the river were not endiked and built upon. Estimates place the total costs of this flood at a minimum of 20 billion Euro.

According to precipitation measurements (KLEIN TANK et al., 2001), northern and central Europe have become more wet and southern Europe has become drier over the past 100 years. This has led to higher river discharge rates and an increase of floods in central Europe, and more frequent droughts and wildfires in southern Europe (see Figure 2). The increasing number of calamities urge to develop strategies to tackle the problems that come along with the changing climate. To an increasing extent, plans are put into practise, such as the restoration of floodplains near rivers, reforestation in mountain regions, and setting up early warning systems in areas prone to wildfires. A more permanent solution to mitigate climate change and its implications is thought to be found in reduction of the emission of greenhouse gases, and a more durable use of energy and natural resources. Conflicts on a political level, however, obstruct global prevention measures. Proposals at the Kyoto conference were only supported by a distinct part of the world community, including Europe. As a result, European industries and companies will have to meet more strict environmental laws. Alternative energy sources and strategies to preserve nature will be further developed.

One must realize that these well-intended measures are far from suffice. For a greater part, households are responsible for energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emission. It may be considered a fact that a direct relation exists between the rise of emission of greenhouse gases and industrialisation, large scale cultivation, and the enormous expansion of the world population over the 20th century. Therefore, a collective consciousness needs to develop that climate change is man-induced and it is

in ones own interest not to let it run into catastrophic proportions. Less frequent use of the heating; taking a bike for short distances instead of a car; shutting down the computer when it is not used; etc, all will contribute to a more livable environment.

### Conclusion

Climate change poses a serious threat to environment and society. Nature disasters have not only grown in numbers, but they have become more destructive as well. This is not merely the result of climate change only, but also partly due to cultivation. Although the statistics and predictions are alarming, the implications of climate change are still underestimated. A collective mind-switch is necessary to realize that climate change is not in the interest of mankind at all, and action is needed worldwide to overcome the problem.

### Discussion

Discussion on nature disasters with a location specific appearance has been of great importance reviewing the influence of climate change on different scales and levels. At the workshop in 2004 different cases, scenarios and solutions have been presented for specific regions in Europe. As well, historical events, human interference in natural environments, and the effects of industrialisation, have played a prominent role during the debates. Several panel members have contributed to this with a presentation:

- Effects of marine flooding and the increasing power of tidal waves on the city of Saint Petersburg (by Mikhail Itkin, Russia), and on the Lithuanian coastline (by Irma Janauskaite, Lithuania)
- The occurrence of snow avalanches in the Swiss Alps and the development of snow avalanche detection devices (by Rebecca Hiller, Switzerland)
- Drought and wildfires in the Croatian coastal zone and their effects on nature, wildlife and tourism (by Petra Radeljak, Croatia)
- Detailed description of causes and results of the Odra and Wisla river floods in Poland (by Szczepan Zurek, Poland)
- Climate change in Europe during the transition of the Late Glacial to the

Holocene and its relation with the present-day situation (by Stefan Fritz, the Netherlands)

- Energy production and consumption; strategies to come to a more environmental-friendly situation (by Thomas Wanderer, Germany)

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# Agenda EGEA activities

## EGEA Winterschool

'Our Europe' the view of young geographers towards European integration and the role of the EGEA network'

December 18th – 21st 2006

Organised by EGEA-Utrecht

Utrecht University, The Netherlands

## EGEA Western Regional Congress

'Nature for sale: the struggle between environment and economic growth'

March 12th – 16th 2007

Organised by EGEA-Groningen

The Island of Ameland, The Netherlands

[www.ibnbattuta.nl/wrc](http://www.ibnbattuta.nl/wrc)

## EGEA Eastern Regional Congress

The modern identification of East European countries. The European choice of Ukraine

April 29th - May 3rd 2007

Organised by EGEA Kiev

Kaniv, Cherkasy Region

## EGEA Moscow The Baikal Lake Expedition Summer 2007


June 28th - July 8th 2007

Organised by EGEA Moscow


## More information about EGEA and its activities on the website:

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<b>Environmental and Innovation Sciences</b> Science and Innovation Management Sustainable Development (Prestige Master with scholarship possibilities)	<i>For more information: <a href="http://www.uu.nl/internationalmasters">www.uu.nl/internationalmasters</a></i>