

# **EGEA Newsletter**

for geography students  
and young geographers

**vol. 42, May 2002**

Hi all Egeans!

This is the spring edition off the newsletter, with off course articles about the regional congresses and more information about the annual congress next autumn. Furthermore there is an article about an exchange between some Dutch and some Greek students and Asia has been analysing languages.

Have fun reading and please send a lot of articles for the next newsletter.

**Heidi, EGEA-Utrecht**



## **Agenda and announcements**

### **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress:**

September 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> in Dijon, France  
*(more information on the homepage)*

### **EGEA mailing list:**

We have a mailing list that you can all use when you want to mail everybody.

To subscribe:

send a mail to [majordomo@lists.ut.ee](mailto:majordomo@lists.ut.ee), write nothing on the subject line. For the content of the mail: subscribe egea-l <your mail>.

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## **Annual Congress 2002**

**8-14 September, Dijon FRANCE**

For first time in EGEA history the annual congress will take place in France. All EGEA people and more generally all student or young geographers from Europe are invited to take part to this event organised by the EGEA entity of Dijon.

This congress will take place in Dijon, the capital city of Burgundy between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2002. As each year, this annual congress would be the time of many geographical activities, like different workshops, excursions, or colloquium. But Annual congress is also the time of discovery of unknown region and right place for meeting: meet "old" EGEA friends, meet new people, and have together working times as more relaxing times.

The homepage of this congress is online, to give some more details about this week of congress. So you would just have to check the EGEA homepage to be informed of the last news. Each entity of EGEA would receive an information document in

next weeks. Else you could for sure contact the annual congress organisation team by mail: [EGEA-Dijon@wanadoo.fr](mailto:EGEA-Dijon@wanadoo.fr)

Just remind the registration time to have possibility to take part to this congress: 20<sup>th</sup> of May to the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. More information soon. Welcome to France, welcome to Dijon.

**Sylvain, EGEA-Dijon Chairman  
Annual Congress Coordinator**

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## **Utrecht and Amsterdam visiting Mytilini**

The first exchange of EGEA Utrecht this year, organised together with EGEA Amsterdam, led the six of us to Lesbos, a large Greek island near the coast of Turkey. Together with four students from Amsterdam we made the boat trip of 13 hours from Athens to Mytilini. The group of Greek students with whom we would spend the rest of the week welcomed us very friendly and enthusiastic.

Greek hospitality has no limits, they led us sleep in their own bed, while they themselves had to sleep on a couch. The lunch was a highlight on its own. First delicious salads and Greek cheese and after that different kinds of meat, of course with more than enough red wine. When everybody had eaten enough, music and singing started and

there was dancing on the chairs, and all Dutch were persuaded to join.

Each day an excursion was organized by bus to ever changing locations. We visited the Theophilos museum with the strange, but beautiful paintings of Greece's most famous painter, and also picturesque Greek villages. Related to excursions, however, the most amazing was the Petrified Forest. This was more than a two-hour drive away, but certainly worth it. It's made up of trees, which have been buried with ash and lava more than 15 million years ago. Now some of them are beginning to appear because of the erosion caused by water. It was strange to see an area with hardly any vegetation and sometimes a huge fossil on an island that is covered by forest. The biggest petrified tree stood 7 meter and is considered to be the biggest fossil in Europe.

Mytilini, the small capital, where we stayed, was easy to get familiar with and a real student-town, so it was easy for us to feel at home. An old castle, Turkish baths and decayed mosques are among the sights. Besides that, there are also plenty of cafes and bars, of which we keep good memories.

We've had a very good time on Lesbos and got to know a little bit of Greek culture. Especially the friendliness and the relaxing way of living appealed to us. In the beginning of July the Greek students come to the Netherlands and we are really looking forward to that!

## **Mysteries of Croatian language**

When we left to Croatia for an exchange (in October 2000) we were a bit nervous, but very happy. We were looking at the map trying to guess what are we going to see in Croatia and trying to read names of the cities, rivers and islands. "Krk, try to read it!" "How? Kyrky?" "Try this one: Zrmanja" "Come on, it's impossible!" "What about Vrbovec?". Then with a nose stuck to the bus-window we were trying also to read every inscription on the street. We saw some advertisement on the bus stop "...brzo!" (it means fast). It was the first contact with new language. We were shocked, because we were all sure that polish and croatian languages are very similar. And suddenly this 3-4 consonants which seemed rather difficult to read We were very interested in how does croatian language sound live.

And then next shock. When we met our friends they were talking lots of soft words "kuća, ici, doći, Šibenik..." (letter "ć" should be pronounced like in "ciao"). We were surprised - after hard version now it's time for light version.

We were speaking English of course (as official language of EGEA). Every EGEAN's should know English, so we also practised it during an exchange.

But sometimes we missed some english words. And these moments were the funniest. We were asking each other "Hey, people, how to say japonki in English?" (now we know that "japonki" are "mules") "A, japonki!" - the other group said and it turned out that it is the same word in croatian as in polish. And we found the third key - if we don't know some word in english we can use polish one. In 99% it will be the same. So we have "kamień - kameń" (stone), „ mgła - magla" (mist), „zalew - zaljev" (bay), ' grablje - grabie" (rakers), "prsten - pierścień" (ring) and thousands others.

Of course it is not so strange, because polish and croatian belong to the same language group (Slovak), but look at the map, there's a Hungary between us. But despite this fact, lots of words and grammar - rules stayed the same. It is fascinating to play words - game! You never know...

## **Asia, EGEA-Warszawa**

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### **Western regional congress**

As a new entity, the entity of Trier, we went off with great expectations: Off to the cities of cities, city of lucky mushrooms and space cakes: Amsterdam!! Well, actually it wasn't Amsterdam, but a little sweet suburb, Muiden. Next to the water we and the other entities from Poland, Finland, Slovenia, Germany, The Netherlands,

Estonia, Portugal and Yugoslavia could find us back in a mysterious fortress.

Like geographers are, the party started immediately and didn't stop until the very early morning. And after hardly any sleep we all went off to our first excursion to IJburg, an island totally new made, the harbour of Amsterdam and to Weesp to visit another Fortress. Although we were very tired, we got very interested and amazed by the process of winning new land. Also the great architecture of the harbour in Amsterdam was great. Even more tired and starved we got back to our fortress. Fortunately there was a great team of cooks, so that we had a delicious meal to get new energy as the next party was starting.

On Wednesday the program said workshops to very different topics. One of the groups had the pleasure of going out and doing hard work. Those were very lucky of being in the sunshine and getting very dirty by playing mud-fights, as they had to do drillings for finding all the different layers off soil. After finishing the workshops, getting back together and having dinner, we all went to the Muiden Council hall to perform all our results in very different, funny and dynamic ways. When we got back from the oranje-party could start as we celebrated queen's day in advance. Everybody took his orange stuff out, which wasn't that easy, even the Dutch

people didn't all have orange clothes. And then it got pretty difficult, the more beer we drunk, the less we could find the others from Trier, as everybody was nearly looking exactly the same.

The next day, on Thursday, we went on an excursion to the western part of the country. We climbed up the mountains of Holland, and with our last ounce of strength we got on the top!!!! After lunch we had a drilling-contest, but unfortunately only Poland and Germany together with Heidi participated in it, as the others didn't want to get dirty (not the right kind of geographers).

On our way to the next stop we passed the symbols of Holland, tulips and windmills. But the very high spot of the day got the stopping at the North Sea. And so had 40 geographers a funny and cool footbath.

In the evening we had our farewell-party and ultimate drinking contest. Now we could see who really is hard drinking. Amazingly everybody, who participated, was, especially the boys, but also the girls did unexpectedly well. Afterwards the party was continuing, either in-or outside at the fire, where it got very romantic later on.

The last day, Friday, was pretty calm. Everybody was asleep until late, as nearly everybody had a hangover or just needed to catch some sleep!! And for those, who weren't leaving at lunchtime, there was time to visit the

Muiden castle, while it was raining all day. And of we went home, well not all of us, because we had the great opportunity to stay until Sunday in Amsterdam.

We want to say thank you to the organisation team, especially Thomas, Stefan, Floor, Bastiaan, but also our cook Erhard and crew. And all those who made this congress possible.

**Jan, Franzi, Sven, Tina, Stephan und Katrien, EGEA-Trier**

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## **The Eastern regional congress**

The regional congress of EGEA East 2002 took place in beautiful surroundings of St.-Petersburg, in Komarovo from 7 till 10 April 2002. The congress was organized in cooperation with Russian State Hydrometeorological University and Social organization "St. Petersburg geographical association for students and young geographers"- EGEA-St. Petersburg. There were four workshops: Tourism in St. Petersburg, Floods of Europe, Oil spills risks, Global climate change. About 60 students and EGEA friendly people took part in congress. Most of them were from Eastern Europe (one half from Poland!!!). Some exotic entities for Eastern Region were represented there (EGEA-Glasgow, EGEA-Lesbos, EGEA-Munster, EGEA-

Berlin). We also invited one person from "Stumeta"- student meteorological organization of Germany, from Karlsruhe. It was really difficult to receive Russian Visa (a lot of permissions and burocracy in some embassies), but at least 98 % of our participants have managed with it. So, our thanks to all brave geographers.

First day was a very difficult day; some people arrived to St. Petersburg by plane, some from Estonia by bus, some of them by train. Anyway 100% reached place of location in good health and good mood. A big group of participants, who reached Komarovo quite fast went sightseeing and visited the coast of Gulf of Finland with snow and ice after lunch.

On the next day, after breakfast, Rector of Russian State Hydrometeorological University (RSHU), prof. Lev N. Karlin and vice- rector, Head of IRO, Mr. Anatoly I. Bogush, opened the Congress. After that, all leaders introduced their workshops. The day of workshops began.

Participants of "Tourism in St. Petersburg" visited the center of St. Petersburg. They had a small lecture by the head of the Russian-Finnish tourism center in St. Petersburg and listened to some points concerning advantages and disadvantages of tourism development in St. Petersburg. After that, they visited the Russian-German Culture Center, the five stars Newsy Palace Hotel, the tourist firm Prima and

had opportunities to get some information from citizens of St. Petersburg. Brave participant Ola from Warsaw discovered the original hospital during a health incident.

In “Floods of Europe” participants had a big piece of theory, a great excursion to the hydrological laboratory and visited hydrological dam, which crosses the Gulf of Finland near St. Petersburg.

In “Oil spills risks” participants visited the RSHU and took part in the experiment at a special laboratory with modeling of oil spills in Neva River. It was a good opportunity to get to know what has happened after the same situation last year, in live.

In “Global climate change” the workshop leaders organized visiting a special Museum of Arctic and Antarctica. Participant got to know not only about climate of Russian Arctic and Antarctica and climatological changes, but also about history of Russian exploring and discoveries in those regions. After that, they visited the RSHU, took part in discussion about climate change, what is it, human influence or influence of solar changes. After that, they visited weather radar at the University.

The day of workshops came to an end too late with a lot of Russian beer and not only beer.

On the next day, the excursion to Velikiy Novgorod, a beautiful original Russian city has started quite early. It

was a very difficult journey, I mean distances about 250 kilometers outside of our location. We decided to show our participants an original Russian city with wooden houses, orthodox churches, Kremlin and Russian human atmosphere, because almost all participants visited our country for the first time (I think not the last). Some people slept in the bus after the short night and some people preferred to prolong the experience with drinking different sorts of Russian beer. During the excursion we spent time in a traffic jam in St. Petersburg, in Yuriev monastery, Open-air folk museum and Kremlin of Novgorod, of course. Then we came back and we found some force to present the results of workshop day and to participate in an EGEA party.

On the last day of the congress, after breakfast the congress was closed and we went on an excursion in St. Petersburg, where we visited a lot of beautiful places of our city. But it wasn't the end. After that, a lot of participants stayed in student hostel of our University and we spent several days in pubs and visited some beautiful places of our city. After the congress, the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of exchange between our entity and EGEA-Wroclaw and EGEA-Krakow started. But it was another story. I would like to say special thanks to all participants and especially to Emiko (who felt himself in safety only in the

last night staying in Russia), Daniel and to really good dancers from Poland!

**Alexandre, EGEA-St. Petersburg**

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## **The place where you cannot dance on the road without consequences - Fužine**

You are right, I will write about Southern regional congress, which took place in Fužine, Gorski kotar, Croatia between 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April. In introduction I would like first to thank to congress organisers, especially to the big boss Denis and my workshop leaders Vid and Frane (they are lucky to be mentioned in this article because I am writing it). In my opinion they all (not just these three) did superb job. There were four workshops:

- Applied physical geography in spatial planning,
- Building high-way across the mountainous region (my workshop),
- Multifunctionalism of European rural areas: potentials and threats,
- Seaports and regional development (seaport and city of Rijeka).

I cannot tell you much about other workshops but our. It was in the same spirit as whole congress – lots of ex-Yugoslavians who were speaking for others incomprehensible languages. I

heard a comment: “Sometimes I feel I do not belong here but I like it anyway.” What can we do if we have our own sense of humour, which works only in our language. At least once Dutch or Polish language did not dominate. However, I liked our workshop because we learned something – in contrast to usual workshops on regional congresses (too short to discuss about something serious). We variegated bad weather with excursion to Rijeka where it was warm and sunny – nothing is better than drink a beer on a main square when sun is shining. I guess it was the only part of the workshop where guys from Macedonia participated, otherwise they preferred sleeping. They were real mascot of our team.

Maybe I should write something about main excursion we had to the island Krk. I will not write about its programme because you can read it on the congress web site. My one-word description is: wet – we had fight with water-poppuns on the bus. We had only two of them and some people used bottled water instead of popgun. You can imagine the mess. The whole excursion was very relaxing and it was exactly what we needed after crammed congress programme.

Unofficial programme was good prepared, as well. I guess organisers did not achieve their purpose only with table soccer competition but this is just my opinion, maybe others think

different. Anyway, there happened something very interesting – you know how often you can find gossip in Daily geographer but during this congress was impossible. The main reason was there were too many of them. About 30 people formed about 40 couples. EGEA served one more of its purposes again – to unite geographers from all over the Europe. Words about parties are not necessary because details are not appropriate for everybody. I can say only parties were not missing. Come next time and you will see.

**Rok, EGEA Ljubljana**

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**DEADLINE NEXT NEWSLETTER:  
OCTOBER 31th 2002!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**SPECIAL THANKS**

**To all contributors of this 42nd  
EGEA-Newsletter!**

**Colophon**

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**<http://egea.geog.uu.nl>**

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