

Utrecht University, Utrecht the Netherlands



March 18th, 2015

To all EU (geography) teachers interested in Futures Education

Dear colleague,

With this letter we would like to shortly introduce you to the Geo Future Excellence Project (GFEP). In addition we like to gauge your interest for participating in a special week in June 2015 in Utrecht to train geography teachers to work with the ideas of the Geo Future School project in their home country. Perhaps you know people who are interested to participate in this special week or maybe you are interested yourself.

The Geo Future Excellence Project focuses on creating Geo Future Schools (GFS). GFS is a new, **innovative programme in secondary education for future-oriented education**. In the programme, funded by the EU, students are encouraged to explore major (European) issues of today and the near future, such as energy, food, water, logistics and sustainability.

Geography as a multidisciplinary subject is at the centre of these important themes, but other subjects such as history and science play an important role as well. The programme emphasizes co-operation between schools, companies and knowledge institutes. This is important for young people, because it encourages their understanding of the daily work at these companies or institutions, and their relevance. Students learn by doing, inside and outside the school. This is done through (international) fieldwork and meeting important actors in the field, for example through guest lessons. Students are challenged to think in terms of solutions and scenarios. Another major aspect in the program is Geo-ICT. There is a huge demand of well-qualified Geo-ICT professionals in the near future who can adequately deal with geo-information.

Are you curious to know more? Could this be something to start up in your own environment?

We are organizing a **week for teachers** who are interested in the Geo Future School project. During this week, we will give you input on the content of the programme and the themes. We will introduce you to some important Dutch companies and institutes in the field and we will equip you with tools and ideas that you can apply in your own environment. Participating in this week will result in a curriculum module, good practices and a special training certificate.

The training week will take place from June 8-12th, 2015. We are looking specifically for pairs of teachers from the same school in EU countries. Of course we like to invite colleagues from as many different EU countries as possible. At least one of them should be a geography teacher. All participants must be able to speak and write in English quite easy. It is not possible to join just a part of the programme.

We have a modest **budget** for ten (geography) teachers from different countries to join the program. This budget covers the main costs for travel to a maximum of € 275,- plus subsistence costs to a maximum of €500,-. So all together the maximum EU funding is € 775,- pro person. You will receive compensation for the cheapest travel option up to a maximum of € 275,-. The subsistence costs will be necessary for hotel costs € 330,- as well as for food and drinks and public transport in Utrecht. As € 170,- will not cover all the costs for food , drinks and public transport everything above this budget is for one's own account. The budget can be divided over a larger number of teachers, if you and your colleagues are prepared to pay a bigger part of the costs for yourself.

Please do realize that we cannot invite all of you as our budget is limited. If we have to disappoint you, you can opt to participate the next year. We will have 3 times this training week, once in every school year in the period 2015-2017.

If you or a colleague like this initiative, please apply before **April 8th, 2015** at the latest. As the number of places is limited we will accept only the first candidates that have sent in their applications in a correct way. We will let you know who is selected this year before April 12th. If you want to come, you have to send your personal application by email to: J.A.vanderSchee@uu.nl using the attached form.

We are looking forward to welcome you! On behalf of the GFS-project!
With very best wishes.

Anne van Wijk
Project assistant

Joop van der Schee
Professor for Geography Education

Faculty of Geosciences
Utrecht University
The Netherlands

PROGRAMME

- Monday June 8
- Arrival in the Netherlands before 13.00 hours at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and before 14.00 hours at Utrecht Central Station. The travel time from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport to Utrecht Central Station is 1 hour.
- 14.30 hours: arrival at hotel in Utrecht (info about location will follow; hotel has already been booked for all participants).
 - 15.30 hours: welcome meeting at Royal Dutch Geography Society in the inner city of Utrecht. Information about the programme and the programme of the week. Exchange of future oriented learning experiences.

- 18.00 hours: city walk and diner

Tuesday June 9

9.00 - 17.00 hours: Training session at Utrecht University

- Introduction of the Geo Future School concept and presentation of the Geo Future School format.
- Presentation by representatives of a Dutch Geo Future School.
- Exchange of information between participants about projects in their countries that have similar goals.
- Workshop I with small groups using the Geo Future school format to develop new Geo Future School based curriculum elements for participants' home country.
- Lunch at university mensa.
- Workshop II with small groups using the Geo Future school format to develop new Geo Future School based curriculum elements for participants' home country.

Wednesday June 10

9.00 - 17.00 hours: Training session at Geofort

- Excursion to Geofort and exploring Geofort.
- Discussion about the contribution of Geo-ICT and fieldwork for future oriented learning.
- Lunch at Geofort.
- Meeting with representatives of Dutch companies that participate in the Geo Future School.
- Workshop III with small groups using the Geo Future school format to develop new Geo Future School based curriculum elements.

Thursday June 11

9.00 - 17.00 hours: Training session at Utrecht University

- Debriefing of the work so far.
- Presentation by representatives of a Dutch Geo Future School.
- Workshop IV with small groups using the Geo Future school format to develop new Geo Future School based curriculum elements for participants' home country.
- Lunch at university mensa.
- Workshop V with small groups using the Geo Future school format to develop new Geo Future School based curriculum elements for participants' home country.
- Presentation of results of the five workshops of the training week. Participants present and discuss the Geo Future school module developed for their home country.
- Discussion about an effective and viable follow-up to involve more colleagues in the geo future school project.

Friday June 12
Amsterdam

10.00 - 15.00 hours: Training session at Vossius Gymnasium

- Meeting school leaders, teachers and students of the Vossius Geo Future School in Amsterdam and attending their final day of the 2015 project including presentations. Semi-structured interviews to explore the pros and cons of the Geo Future School project.

- Lunch at school.
- Closing session with all participants of the training week.
Planning of agenda for next steps in the process of disseminating the project ideas.

Departure to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport or Amsterdam Central Station. Travel time from Vossius Gymnasium to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport is 1 hour. Travel time from Vossius Gymnasium to Amsterdam Central Station is 30 minutes.

INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION FORM

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| NAME APPLICANT | |
| FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL OF APPLICANT | NAME SCHOOL: ADDRESS SCHOOL: |
| MOTIVATION TO PARTICIPATE (50-100 words) | |
| ARE YOU A GEOGRAPHY TEACHER? IF NOT, WHAT IS YOUR SUBJECT? | YES/ NO SUBJECT: |
| EMAIL ADRES | |
| MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER | |
| ARE YOU COMING TOGETHER? WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE COLLEAGUE FROM YOUR COUNTRY? | YES/ NO NAME: |
| ESTIMATED TRAVEL COSTS TO COME TO UTRECHT | |
| REMARKS, AND QUESTIONS | 1. 2. 3. 4. |

| | |
|--|----|
| | 5. |
|--|----|