GEO-ACADEMY
GEO-Hub for teachers in Europe

Co-funded by the European Union

EUROPEAN SCHOOL MAP STORYTELLING COMPETITION

GeoVoices: Map Storytelling for Global Sustainability Goals

Tuesday, 11.11.2025

17.00-19.00 CET

KICK-OFF EVENT

https://geoacademy.eu/mapstorytelling-competition/

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17:00 - 17:10
Welcome
The Greek Geo-HUB

17:10 - 17:40
Keynote presentation
Jason Sawle, ESRI Inc

17:40 - 18:10
The GeoAcademy project
Dr. Loukas Katikas, National Technical University of Athens

18:10 - 18:40
The GeoVoices Competition
Alkyoni Baglatzi, Spotin

18:40 - 18:50
Open discussion and questions

18:50 - 19:00
Closing of the event

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Speaker Biographies

Jason Sawle has over twenty five years of experience working with schools and GIS. In 2000 he developed the first Anglo French schools GIS project, funded by the European Union, that focused on understanding and overcoming the barriers that stop schools being successful with GIS. The program delivered GIS software specifically designed for use in schools, along with a wide variety of maps, data and training. .

As a spin out from this European project Jason established a new startup company, Digital Worlds, to specialize in developing GIS software and data designed for use by teachers and students. Digital Worlds was eventually purchased by Esri UK in 2009 and Jason joined the company to lead their education work. At Esri UK he established the successful GIS for Schools program that focused on how different pedagogical models and frameworks could be applied to teaching with GIS. Jason also led on developing the partnership with Black Geographers and the subsequent scholarship program for Black and Black mixed heritage students to study geography or geoscience at undergraduate and postgraduate in the UK. In collaboration with the Learn ArcGIS team at Esri, Jason led the development of the new Teach with GIS Hub site that turned face 2 face teacher training into a digital experience. In 2021 he joined Esri Inc as the Global Industry Manager for Schools and leads on schools work with the National Geographic Society including the development of the latest version of National Geographic MapMaker.

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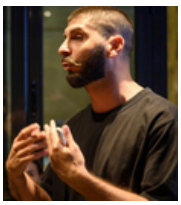

Dr. Loukas Katikas graduated from the Department of Environment at the University of the Aegean and specializes in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Environmental Management. He holds a Master's degree in GIS and Disaster Risk Management and a PhD in Geostatistics from the National Technical University of Athens, Cartography Laboratory. He has participated in numerous EU-funded research projects in the fields of Environmental and Disaster Risk Management, as well as in programs related to Environmental Education, Spatial Skills, and STEM education.

Over the past six years, he has focused on integrating Geosciences and geospatial technologies into primary and secondary education, aiming to enhance Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programmes through project- and challenge-based learning approaches. Since 2024, he has been serving as Laboratory Teaching Staff at the Cartography Laboratory of the National Technical University of Athens and his research activities and latest publications in numerous journals focus on Geostatistics, Spatial Modelling and Multi-Criteria Decision-Making, Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Key Competencies in ESD.

Alkyoni Baglatzi received her Diploma in Rural and Surveying Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens in 2010 and her MS in Geoinformatics from the Institute of Geoinfomratics, University of Muenster, Germany in 2012. For the past 10 years, she has worked as a Project Manager and Consultant on Geospatial Information in Academia, as well as the Private and Public and has been involved in several EU funded projects under different funding schemes (FP7, Erasmus +, LIFE, H2020). She has also worked for the Land Policy and Geospatial section of The World Bank and as Advisor for the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Greece.

She is the founder of Spotlight on Innovation (Spotin) (https://spotin.org), a non profit organization based in Greece focusing on the development of innovative learning activities in various field of actions. Location and geospatial information play a pivotal role in all activities of Spotin whose main focus is on bringing together ideas, methods and people from different disciplines serving as a meeting point. Spotin is the organizer of the Panhellenic Map Competition for Greek Schools.