

# PRESS RELEASE



## **GEO-Academy International Teachers Conference 2026**

### **Advancing Geospatial Education for Sustainability Across Europe**

**Paris, France – 27–29 April 2026**

The GEO-Academy International Teachers Conference successfully took place from 27 to 29 April 2026 at the European Space Agency Headquarters in Paris, bringing together educators, researchers, institutional representatives, and geospatial education experts from across Europe.

Organised as the final major event of the GEO-Academy project, the conference marked an important milestone in consolidating three years of collaboration dedicated to strengthening geospatial education and sustainability learning through Earth Observation, GIS technologies, and digital spatial tools.

The event welcomed 44 participants from several European countries including Austria, Portugal, Cyprus, Greece, Sweden, Bulgaria, and France, alongside representatives from partner organisations such as NTUA, EURISY, Ellinogermaniki Agogi, SPOTIN, PHT, Lund University, CPI, NUCLIO, and the University of Cyprus.

Over three days, the conference combined keynote speeches, expert panels, teacher presentations, and collaborative discussions exploring the future of GEO-education in Europe. High-level speakers from the European Space Agency (ESA), COSPAR, EURISY, and NTUA highlighted the growing importance of spatial literacy and geospatial competences in addressing climate change, sustainability challenges, and digital transformation within education systems.

A central focus of the conference was the presentation of GEO-Academy's practical impact on schools and teachers across Europe. Educators shared innovative classroom projects developed through GEO-Academy training activities, including initiatives on wildfire prevention, urban heat islands, biodiversity, forest monitoring, environmental storytelling, and sustainability education using geospatial technologies and Earth Observation data.

The conference also showcased the GEO-Academy Map Storytelling Competition, highlighting student-led projects connecting local environmental challenges with digital storytelling and spatial analysis. The winning project, "Sustainable Community Living in our School and Beyond," presented by students from Cyprus, demonstrated the strong educational potential of geospatial storytelling in promoting active citizenship and sustainability awareness.

Discussions throughout the event emphasized the importance of empowering teachers through continuous professional development, accessible educational resources, and stronger collaboration between education, research, and institutional actors. Participants agreed that GEO-education represents an essential component of future-oriented education systems and plays a key role in fostering critical thinking, environmental awareness, and digital competences among students.

Beyond the conference itself, the event also contributed to strengthening the GEO-Academy European community of practice and increasing the project's visibility across educational and geospatial networks.



As the GEO-Academy project approaches its conclusion, the conference confirmed the emergence of a dynamic and collaborative European ecosystem committed to advancing geospatial education and sustainability learning across Europe.

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For more information about GEO-Academy and the conference outcomes, visit:  
<https://geoacademy.eu/>