

Night of Geography 2019

April 5, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to wish you a happy, peaceful and prosperous 2019 year.

I take this opportunity to come back to you about the "Night of Geography", a French initiative that has taken an international dimension that has recently interested UNESCO. Indeed, UNESCO offers a branding of the event, along with the International Basic Sciences Programme; IBSP is an international multidisciplinary program established by UNESCO Member States to improve the international cooperation. I presented this project in Quebec last August during the regional conference, that some of you attended.

The "Night of Geography" is an event initiated in 2017 by the French National Geographical Committee (CNFG). In 2018, it's took place in 7 European countries (and more than 60 cities). Now, we would like this event to move up to the world scale.

The purpose of this event is to put forward geography and geographers, to give the greater public a chance to know them better, and make geographical researches more accessible. The proposed events should be organized at low cost and, whenever possible, be free and open to all public. They are organized with volunteers: teachers, researchers, students. In 2018, it is estimated that over 15 000 people attended the various events throughout Europe. To promote the events and to inform the public, digital platforms such as websites, mailing lists, and social media (mostly Facebook) were widely used.

Depending on the context, the events should take place in the evening, and during the night, to welcome various kinds of public (and not only academics). Organizers are invited to put forward unusual, maybe playful, aspects of geographical sciences. Using posters, maps or pictures, ready for use in academic departments, organizing cartographic workshops or games or urban walks on geographical themes... Organizers can present jobs linked to geographical education, GIS software or new technologies, dreams or crazy geographical projects...

I hope I have convinced you of the interest of participating in the next Geography Night. In order to submit our project to UNESCO, it is important to be able to report on "the night of geography" events that have been organized in your country with. **Therefore, I would be grateful if you could send me a short message indicating your intention to participate in the Geography Night 2019, and then later to make a short report.**

For practical reasons, the date for 2019 has already been decided: it will be **Friday, April 5, 2019**. We hope that many of you will be able to participate. However, for 2020, we do need to find date that would rally the greatest number of people.

Please send me your answer to the following addresses:
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Bien cordialement,

Nathalie Lemarchand