

# IGU CGE Geography Education Questionnaire

Country: Germany.....

Name respondent: ...Ingrid Hemmer.....

Email address respondent: ...ingrid.hemmer@ku-eichstaett.de.....

1. What is the aim of geography in primary education in your country?

*Geography is no independent subject in German primary education (age 6-10). Aspects of Geography are integrated in the subject "Sachunterricht" (General Science).*

*Primary goals of General Sciences are to facilitate pupils in constructing an image of the world, in offering methodological tools for the discovery of the world, and to help them orientate themselves in the world. A secondary goal is to prepare pupils for the next levels of formal education based on independent subject. However, General Sciences does not operate according to categories and principles.*

2. What is the aim of geography in secondary education in your country?

*The main goals of Geography lessons are to provide insights into the connections between natural conditions and social activities in different parts of the world, and to teach an associated spatially-oriented competence that can be applied ((German) Educational Standards in Geography for the Intermediate School Certificate, 2007, p. 5).*

*Website:*

*[http://compute.ku-eichstaett.de/hgd/images/content/pdf/Bildungsstandards/geography\\_education.pdf](http://compute.ku-eichstaett.de/hgd/images/content/pdf/Bildungsstandards/geography_education.pdf)*

3. What is the average number of hours of geography teaching in primary education in your country?

*In primary education (6-10 years) the average number of weekly hours for General Science is 2-3. The proportion of Geography aspects is approximately 20%.*

4. What is the average number of hours of geography teaching in secondary education in your country?

*The weekly hours in secondary education vary both depending on the 16 federal units (Bundesland) and on the type of school Geography is taught in. Some federal units incorporated Geography in joint disciplines of social sciences.*

*An average of one or two hours/week is typical for Geography at the lower secondary level? (Sekundarstufe I, age 11-16).*

5. What are the most important themes in primary geography teaching in your country?

*In spite of several differences, common themes in all federal units are map skills, weather, water, forests, local area, foreign places and different life.*

6. What are the most important themes in secondary geography teaching in your country?

- *Topography*
- *regions*
- *economy, energy, globalization*
- *cities and population*
- *climate, climate change*

- *rich and poor (regional, global)*
- *environmental problems, sustainability*
- *hazards/plate tectonics*
- *transportation, tourism*

7. What is the position of geography in the upper levels of secondary education in your country?

*Upper secondary education (Sekundarstufe II, age 17-18) features Geography only as an optional subject. Pupils choosing Geography are offered 2 weekly hours. The number of hours is decreasing.*

8. What is the biggest problem for geography teaching in your country?

- *The independence of Geography as a separate subject is threatened by its progressive incorporation into joint subjects.*
- *The number of hours for Geography in the secondary education is decreasing.*
- *Media and politics dedicate more attention to History than to Geography.*
- *Geography is not compulsory in the upper levels of secondary education.*

9. Mention one or more good practices or very successful projects of geography teaching in your country.

- *Education based on skills (according to the (German) Educational Standards).*
- *Thinking through Geography (VANKAN, ROHWER, SCHULER)*
- *A lot of different projects (e.g. GIS, Internet)*
- *Bilingual geography (CLIL)*
- *Geo science and Cool classrooms (polar regions)*

10. Mention research projects in the field of geography teaching in your country.

- *GEOKOM – Geography educators develop skill-models on base of the (German) Educational Standards in Geography for the Intermediate School Certificate (subject specific knowledge, spatial orientation, methodological skills, communication skills, evaluation skills, action skills).*
- *EKROS – an interdisciplinary project of Geography educators and psychologists researching which children can orientate themselves successfully with a map*
- *ESD – several projects*
- *GIS, Internet – several projects*
- *Global learning – several projects*
- *Fieldtrips/Excursion didactics – several projects*
- *Student interest- several projects*
- *Conceptions and conceptual change – several projects*

Websites: [http://compute.ku-eichstaett.de/hgd/dissertations\\_statedoctorates](http://compute.ku-eichstaett.de/hgd/dissertations_statedoctorates)

And [http://compute.ku-eichstaett.de/hgd/research\\_projects](http://compute.ku-eichstaett.de/hgd/research_projects)

**Attention!** These are websites from the association HGD presenting **not exclusively** German projects.

11. Mention publications or websites with information in English about geography teaching in your country.

<http://compute.ku-eichstaett.de/hgd/index.php?section=news>

12. Mention contact addresses for information about geography teaching in your country.

- *Association of School Geographers (VDSG)*  
*Dr. Frank Czapek*  
czapek@erdkunde.com  
Sonnentauweg 5  
30916 Isernhagen  
Telefon (05 136) 9714696  
Fax (05136) 9713594
- *German Academic Association for Geography Education (HGD)*  
*Prof. Dr. Ingrid Hemmer*  
[ingrid.hemmer@ku-eichstaett.de](mailto:ingrid.hemmer@ku-eichstaett.de)  
Professur für Didaktik der Geographie  
Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt  
Ostenstr. 18  
85071 Eichstätt