

The Geographical Society of Finland improving communication

The Geographical Society of Finland (GSF) is developing the communication modes to improve the services for the members of the Society, for geographers in general and for the visibility of geographical expertise in society. The process was introduced in the Geography Days in Helsinki (October 2012).

Web pages "*geography.fi*"

Improved communication among geographers is one of the primary aims of the Geographical Society of Finland. The new Society web portal "*geography.fi*" was recently launched and the contents and layout are under a collective construction process. The following contents for the portal have been discussed:

- geography units in Finnish universities,
- geographical Journals published by GSF,
- National Atlas of Finland,
- Society introduction and member pages
- other contents for different target groups (e.g. university researchers, teachers and students, school teachers and students/pupils, other geography enthusiasts) and
- news forum, where news can be sent with an e-form; e.g. dissertation news, conferences and other meetings, important publications or events (book launches, exhibitions...), research or other cooperation initiatives and announcements on academic or societal processes related to geography or geographers.

Fennia and Terra

GSF has published two scientific journals - Fennia and Terra - for more than a century. Articles and reviews in all fields of geography are published in these journals. Lately, along with the increased competition in the scientific community, the amount of manuscript submissions has decreased. This may have negative impact on the quality of the journals. Current situation and the possible futures of the journals were explored in the Geography Day session, where Sanna Mäki (president of the Society), Paola Minoia (Chief Editor in Fennia), Tommi Inkinen (Chief Editor of Terra) and Anssi Paasi (Academy professor, geography) introduced their analyses and ideas related to the journals. The session abstract is available here: [Communication and publishing strategy for the Geographical Society of Finland](#)

National Atlas of Finland

One of the corner stones of the GSF publishing is the National Atlas of Finland. First edition of the Atlas was first of its kind in the world and it raised international interest (for example Gold medal in the Exposition Universelle of 1900 held in Paris, France). Since then, cartographic communication and map making methods have changed drastically. The maps of the previous editions are currently taken in of the *geography.fi* web pages for everyone to use and enjoy. We are also planning a new edition to celebrate the 100-year old Finland in 2017. The book edition is planned to be accompanied with an interactive web edition to bring the National Atlas to the modern world of cartography.

Participate!

You are welcome to join the development process! You can participate especially on some of the three cases: the web portal, journals or National Atlas, or just follow and/or comment the development process in general. If you wish to participate, fill the e-form and give us your contact information. The process developments are communicated via e-mail and in the web portal. You will also receive invitations to the brainstorming meetings.

Next annual general meeting of the Society will be held in Helsinki on February 15th 2013 (at 4 pm). It is a good opportunity to meet and discuss the general guidelines. During the spring 2013 more focused meetings are organised related to the web portal, the journals and the National Atlas.

Link to the e-form: <https://www.webpolsurveys.com/S/87B89E7F57221395.par>

In Turku, December 13th 2012

Season greetings,

Sanna Mäki
President of the Geographical Society of Finland