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#### **Fditorial**

# A Year in Review: Key Milestones & Achievements of the European Journal of Geography in 2024

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**Abstract:** The European Journal of Geography (EJG) Annual Report 2024 reflects on the pivotal role geography plays in addressing some of the most pressing challenges of our time, including climate change, urbanisation, geopolitical instability, and the rapid pace of digital transformation. The report highlights how geography continues to offer valuable insights and practical solutions for issues such as sustainable urban development, geography education, and societal transformation. In 2024, the journal published 24 thought-provoking articles spanning topics from urban geography to social inequality, underscoring its commitment to fostering meaningful interdisciplinary dialogue. As EJG's global recognition grows, it continues to attract high-quality contributions and achieve notable success in major academic indexes. Looking ahead, the journal remains dedicated to advancing geographical research that addresses urgent European and global issues, welcoming new voices to shape the future of geography in 2025 and beyond.

Keywords: EJG; Geography; Geographers; EUROGEO

#### 1. Introduction

As we embark on 2025, we reflect on the remarkable expansion of the global geospatial solutions market, projected<sup>1</sup> to reach USD 708.53 billion by the end of the year and anticipated to grow further to approximately USD 2,155.72 billion by 2034. This rapid evolution underscores geography's indispensable role in tackling some of the most pressing challenges of our era, including climate change, accelerated urbanisation, geopolitical instability, and the transformative impact of digital technologies.

Geographers remain at the forefront of global efforts to mitigate the climate crisis, from identifying urban vulnerabilities and promoting equitable resource distribution to advancing climate justice on a global scale. The complexities of urbanisation demand sustainable planning solutions informed by spatial analyses, while the digital transformation—driven by breakthroughs in geospatial technologies and artificial intelligence—continues to open new frontiers for analysis, decision-making, and innovative problem-solving.

In parallel, the shifting geopolitical landscape emphasises the urgency of geographical scholarship. Political geography and geopolitics provide critical frameworks for analysing resource conflicts, migration crises, and the reconfiguration of international borders. Recent global events, such as regional disputes and the redefinition of international alliances, have further underscored geography's vital role in fostering cross-border collaboration and mutual understanding. By examining these intricate dynamics, geographers chart pathways towards more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable futures, addressing the spatial, cultural, socioeconomic, and environmental dimensions of contemporary issues.

Many of these themes have been central to the research published by the European Journal of Geography (EJG), which continues to establish itself as a leading platform for scholarly excellence. The journal has consistently showcased a diverse array of research and review articles spanning physical and human geography, driving forward new spatial insights. These contributions not only delve into critical global challenges but also inspire innovative research avenues. As we look ahead to 2025, the EJG remains committed to fostering interdisciplinary discourse, exploring a broad spectrum of topics such as sustainability studies, GIScience, geocomputation, spatial humanities, tourism, geography education, urban science, transportation, and geopolitics. The breadth and depth of the journal's content underscore its essential role in addressing pressing global issues and advancing scholarly dialogue.

The past year, 2024, further highlighted geography's pivotal role in tackling complex urban and sustainability challenges, as well as advancing geography education, tourism studies, and theoretical developments in urban geography and geocomputation. Articles published in the EJG have consistently provided critical insights and proposed practical solutions to the multifaceted issues confronting our world. By maintaining an interdisciplinary approach, the journal continues to engage not only academic specialists but also broader societal concerns, reaffirming its relevance in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

The following section provides an overview of the 318 pages of articles published in Volume 15, celebrating the rigorous efforts of our reviewers and editors in bringing these important contributions to the attention of our readers and the wider geographical community.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.precedenceresearch.com/geospatial-solutions-market">https://www.precedenceresearch.com/geospatial-solutions-market</a> (19/01/2025)



#### 2. Summary of EJG Articles Published in 2024 (Volume 15)

#### 2.1 Issue 1 (Vol. 15)

The first issue of 2024 featured one editorial (Bartzokas-Tsiompras et al., 2024), one short communication article, and five research articles. Salama & Patil (2024), in their short article, introduced the YouWalk-UOS mobile application, highlighting its significance in bridging urban design and environmental psychology to promote collaborative urban space assessment and design that meets community needs and perspectives. Martinez-Garcia et al. (2024) conducted a comprehensive bibliometric analysis to examine the temporal evolution of publications on the relationship between education and tourism, identifying the main authors, institutions, and countries leading research in this field. Adamakou et al. (2024) uncovered regional typologies in Europe in terms of interregional and intraregional (NUTS 2 level) direct investment flows in 2018 (pre-COVID-19 pandemic) based on an origin-destination (O-D) matrix and tailor-made clustering indicators. Tsavdaroglou (2024) presented ethnographic urban research, discussing the solidarity practices of homeless migrants in Athens' Omonoia Square through the theoretical lenses of the right to the city, critical approaches to homelessness, and urban commons. Panagiotopoulos & Kaliampakos (2024) introduced a methodology for analysing the relationship between accessibility and regional inequality in Mainland Greece, accounting for rural depopulation. Psatha (2024) demonstrated the findings of a comparative evaluation of selected cave tourism destinations in Greece, identifying and disseminating good practices in cave management and capitalisation.

#### 2.2 Issue 2 (Vol. 15)

The second issue of 2024 featured five research articles and one review article. The review article, authored by Botello-Mares (2024), re-evaluated the concept of geographicity within the context of social science discourse, critically examining it as a social construct through theoretical foundations from humanistic geography, phenomenology, and the sociology of knowledge. Rogelj et al. (2024) presented key findings from the Sustainable Mobility in Preschools and Primary Schools project (2019–2021), exploring whether gamified activities could influence students' travel habits and how these habits might change with age. Morote & Hernández (2024) analysed the use, appropriateness, and proposals for geography education among 125 university students in Spain, focusing on the subject "Geography of the World Regions" (2022–2023). Sofianopoulos et al. (2024) proposed a method for collecting, processing, managing, and mapping spatial noise data using Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI) and web mapping technologies. Bengel & Peter (2024) explored how integrating Digital Game-Based Learning (DGBL) features into Virtual Field Trips (VFTs) can enhance understanding of complex geographical topics, promote technological literacy, and foster positive attitudes toward technology. Morawski & Georgakaki (2024) identified the most effective language-aware teaching materials for improving language proficiency and content learning in diverse A Level geography classrooms, offering insights for developing inclusive educational resources.

#### 2.3 Issue 3 (Vol. 15)

The third issue of 2024 presented four research articles and one review article. The review article by Pradana & Dimyati (2024) analysed the latest data, methods, and findings on monitoring and evaluating urban sprawl using spatio-temporal approaches, with a focus on integrating Remote Sensing (RS) and GIS technologies, advanced quantification methods, and recommendations for future research. Lagelouze et al. (2024) employed three statistical methodologies to construct heat vulnerability indices (HVI) for Toulouse Métropole, France, at the census block (IRIS) scale, assessing the efficiency of this approach for evaluating social vulnerability in urban environments. Heidari et al. (2024) investigated the role of metacognition and its alignment with lexical complexity and geographical performance in sketch mapping, offering implications for language-aware geography education. Juergensmeier et al. (2024) evaluated the effectiveness of Virtual Field Trips (VFTs) in university-based geography teacher education for raising awareness of biodiversity loss and fostering intrinsic motivation among pre-service teachers. Zervakou et al. (2024) proposed a standardised geodatabase template for geomorphological mapping at the national scale, facilitating uniformity, data comparison, and integration globally, while providing a foundation for the geomorphological mapping of Greece at a 1:1,000,000 scale.

#### 2.4 Issue 4 (Vol. 15)

The final issue of 2024 featured six research articles and one review article. The review by Wibisono (2024) analysed the governance challenges of implementing smart specialisation policies in EU regions, particularly in weaker regions, and explored governance approaches to address these challenges, offering lessons and recommendations for future research and policy development. Alves & Costa (2024) examined the impact of rising fuel prices during the 2022 energy crisis on public transport mobility across 25 EU countries, identifying contextual factors influencing variations in transit ridership. Boegl & Kounadi (2024) introduced the Regionalization Random Forest (RegRF) approach, incorporating spatial heterogeneity through regionalisation techniques to enhance predictive modelling. Myofa (2024) assessed vertical social segregation in Athens, focusing on two apartment blocks to analyse how internal design influences segregation patterns, contributing to the broader understanding of micro-scale segregation in European cities. Faka et al. (2024) investigated the spatiotemporal variability of cardiovascular disease occurrence in the Attica region of Greece over a 20-year period, identifying spatial clusters and highlighting the need for targeted interventions in urban areas with higher disease rates. Fayad et al. (2024) analysed the daily mobility behaviours of residents in the Republic of Cyprus, documenting travel patterns, commuting habits, and transportation preferences across various age groups and districts. Finally, Söylemez & Koramaz (2024) defined the dialectical structure of rhythmanalysis, linking Henri Lefebvre's theory to urban geography and advancing its application in urban studies.

### 3. Gratitude to Our Authors, Reviewers, Editorial Board, and Supporters in 2024

For all these articles published in 2024, we extend our sincere gratitude to the **75** authors of published articles, **113** unique reviewers (see Table A.1 in the Appendix), **21** editorial board members, and readers whose dedication and expertise have been instrumental in EJG's success. In particular, we wish to acknowledge the significant contributions of our reviewers, who ensure the rigorous quality of our publications. Their collaborative efforts, representing a global network of experts, have been crucial in sustaining the journal's standards of excellence. Additionally, our Editorial Board, composed of distinguished members from various countries and fields of expertise, continues to provide invaluable guidance and support. In 2024, we proudly welcomed three distinguished academics to our board:



- 1. <u>Prof. Dr. Chris Brunsdon</u>, an expert in spatial analysis and the Director of the National Centre for Geocomputation at Maynooth University, Ireland;
- 2. <u>Prof. Dr. Noam Shoval</u>, a specialist in tourism geography and the Director of the European Forum and the Centre for Urban Innovation at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and
- 3. Prof. Dr. Stuart Dunn, an authority in spatial humanities and the Head of the Humanities Department at King's College London, UK. In 2024, we received **128** submissions (see temporal distribution of decisions made in 2024 in Figure 1), out of which **24** exceptional papers were published (acceptance rate **19%**). These submissions reflect the collaborative spirit of the global geographical community, with contributions

were published (acceptance rate 19%). These submissions reflect the collaborative spirit of the global geographical community, with contributions from 342 authors across 39 countries (see Figures 2 & 3). The average review timeline remains efficient, with the first round of reviews typically completed within 7 weeks and subsequent rounds within 5 weeks. This commitment to timely and thorough reviews underscores our dedication to serving our authors and readers effectively.



Figure 1. Total number of EJG decisions made per month during 2024

A significant highlight of the past year was the journal's continued recognition in global indexing platforms. EJG retained its prestigious rankings in Scopus<sup>2</sup>, achieving Q1 in Cultural Studies (Rank 234/1304), Q2 in Urban Studies (Rank 132/279), Q2 in Demography (Rank 68/139), and Q3 in Geography, Planning and Development (Rank 503/821). The CiteScore for 2024 reached **1.9** (current score), reflecting a steady upward trajectory. We remain committed to further enhancing the journal's visibility and impact by exploring new indexing opportunities and expanding our reach within the academic community.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21100301417?origin=resultslist (07/02/2025)



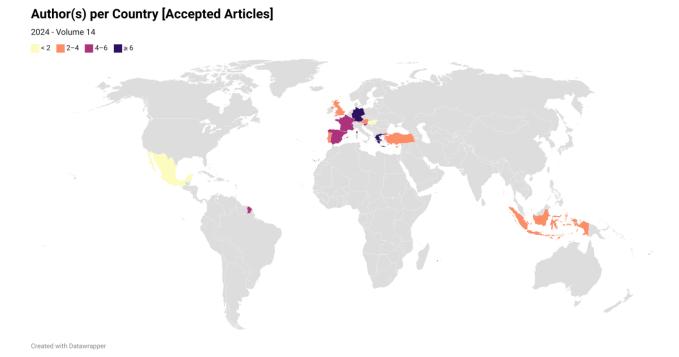


Figure 2. Map visualizing the number of authors who published their work in Volume 14 of the EJG in 2024, categorized by country

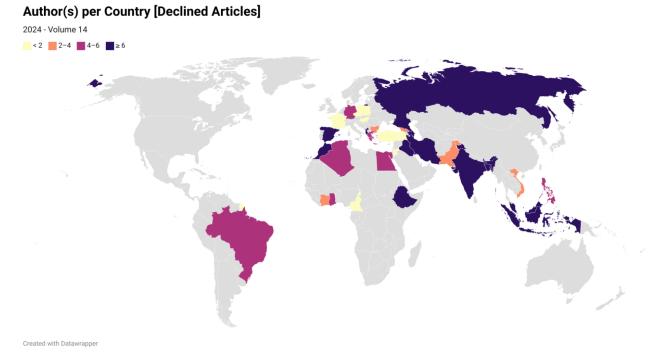


Figure 3. Map visualizing the number of authors whose submissions were declined or desk-rejected by EJG during 2024, categorized by country

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue advancing geographical science as an essential tool for understanding and addressing today's challenges. We warmly invite geographers and researchers to share their innovative work with EJG, tackling vital issues such as environmental sustainability, urban development, cultural geography, and socio-political transformations. In 2025, we're thrilled to present the Spatial Humanities special issue (see some of the accepted articles: Fretwell & Schmid, 2025; Horn et al., 2025; Kiminami & Dunn, 2025; Salimi et al., 2025; Wissen et al., 2025), edited by Dr. Seraphim Alvanides, Dr. Joana Catarina Vieira Paulino, and Dr. Alexandros Bartzokas-Tsiompras. This special issue delves into fascinating topics like GIS, deep mapping, cultural geography, environmental humanities, and historical maps. The articles, based on presentations from the Spatial Humanities 2024 Conference in Bamberg, Germany, owe much to the support of the conference organizers, participants, and reviewers.



We're deeply grateful for your ongoing support and contributions and look forward to another year of meaningful growth, collaboration, and discovery within the European Journal of Geography.

**Acknowledgment:** We sincerely thank all the reviewers, authors, editorial board members, and editors for their invaluable contributions, expertise, and dedication in 2024. We also appreciate the invaluable support of our publisher, <u>EUROGEO</u>, for their continued commitment to the journal's success.

#### **Appendix**

Table A.1 List of Unique Experts Who Reviewed at Least One Article in 2024

	Reviewer	Affiliation	Country
1.	Aleksandar Antić	University of Lausanne	Switzerland
2.	Alexandra Flynn	The University of British Columbia	Canada
3.	Ali Demirci	Vrije University Brussels	Belgium
4.	Amy E. Potter	Georgia Southern University	USA
5.	Ana Plosnić Škarić	Institute of Art History	Croatia
6.	Anamika Shreevastava	California Institute of Technology	USA
7.	Angela Hof	University of Salzburg	Austria
8.	Anita De Franco	Politecnico di Milano	Italy
9.	Anu Rai	Adamas University	India
10.	Apostolia Galani	National & Kapodistrian University of Athens	Greece
11.	Ari Yilmaz	Bandırma Onyedi Eylül Üniversitesi	Turkey
12.	Audur Palsdottir	University of Iceland	Iceland
13.	Blanca Del Espino Hidalgo	Universidad de Sevilla	Spain
14.	Bob Kolvoord	James Madison University	USA
15.	Boštjan Rogelj	University of Ljubljana	Slovenia
16.	Carina Peter	Philipps University of Marburg	Germany
17.	Carlos Lopez Escolano	Universidad de Zaragoza	Spain
18.	Carolina Sarmiento	University of Wisconsin–Madison	USA
19.	Caroline Leininger	Université de Paris	France
20.	Casey D. Allen	The University of the West Indies	USA
21.	Cem Işık	Anadolu University	Turkey
22.	Charalampos Tsavdaroglou	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
23.	Christina Dimitriou	New Mexico State University	USA
24.	Christina Ludwig	Universität Heidelberg	Germany
25.	Christos Chalkias	Harokopio University	Greece
26.	Daniel Rosenberg	University of Oregon	USA
27.	Darra Athanasia	National Technical University of Athens	Greece
28.	Dimitrios Kitsakis	National Technical University of Athens	Greece
29.	Don Lafreniere	Michigan Tech University	USA
30.	Don MacKeen	City of Glasgow College	UK
31.	Doug Specht	University of Westminster	UK
32.	Dunja Demirović Bajrami	Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts	Serbia
33.	Ece Doğantan	Anadolu University	Turkey
34.	Eeva-Kaisa Prokkola	University of Oulu	Finland
35.	Efstathios Margaritis	University of Southampton	UK
36.	Eva Kiss	CSFK Geographical Institute	Hungary
37.	Evangelos Rasvanis	University of Thessaly	Greece
38.	Fadly Usman	Brawijaya University	Indonesia
39.	Fernando Pérez-Rodríguez	Universidad de Valladolid	Spain



40.	Gabriela Narcizo de Lima	University of Porto	Portugal
41.	Gavalas Vasilis	University of the Aegean	Greece
42.	Georgios Panagiotopoulos	National Technical University of Athens	Greece
43.	Gintarė Pociūtė-Sereikienė	Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences	Lithuania
44.	Giorgos Mallinis	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
45.	Hristina Prodanova	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	Bulgaria
46.	lan Cook	Northumbria University	UK
47.	Inês Gusman	University of Santiago de Compostela	Spain
48.	Ingmar Unkel	Universität Heidelberg	Germany
49.	Ioan Sebastian Jucu	West University of Timişoara	Romania
50.	Ioannis Faraslis	University of Thessaly	Greece
51.	Jean-Paul Addie	Georgia State University	USA
52.	Jelena Golijanin	University of East Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina
53.	Jerry T. Mitchell	University of South Carolina	USA
54.	, Jerzy Zasadni	AGH - University of Science and Technology (Krakow)	Poland
55.	, Jia Wang	University of Greenwich	UK
56.	Juha Ridanpää	University of Oulu	Finland
57.	Kamyar Fuladlu	University of Nicosia	Cyprus
58.	Katharina Winckler	Università di Trento	Italy
59.	Keiron Bailey	The University of Arizona	USA
60.	Kirsty Watkinson	The University of Manchester	UK
61.	Klonari Aikaterini	University of the Aegean	Greece
62.	Kristine Juul	University of Roskilde	Denmark
63.	Luke Kelleher	University College Dublin	Ireland
64.	Maarten Van Dijck	Erasmus University Rotterdam	The Netherlands
65.	Mahmood Shoorcheh	University of Isfahan	Iran
66.	Malte Rehbein	University of islandi	
			Germany
67.	Manuel E. Mendoza	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	Mexico
68.	Margarita Martínez Díaz	Polytechnic University of Catalonia	Spain
69.	María-Luisa de Lázaro-Torres	Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)	Spain
70.	Mark Rhodes	Michigan Technological University	USA
71.	Marko Krevs	University of Ljubljana	Slovenia
72.	Marta Gallardo	National Distance Education University	Spain
73.	Maya Manzi	Universidade Federal do Recôncavo da Bahia	Brazil
74.	Meen Chel Jung	Yonsei University	Korea
75.	Michał Suchanek	University of Gdańsk	Poland
76.	Mohsen Momenitabar	University of South Florida	USA
77.	Neli Heidari	University of Humburg	Germany
78.	Nemanja Tomić	University of Novi Sad	Serbia
79.	Nick Naumov	Higher Colleges of Technology	United Arab Empire
80.	Nuno Morgado	Charles University	Czech Republic
81.	Otis Akrasi	Texas A&M University	USA
82.	Pablo Fraile Jurado	Universidad de Sevilla	Spain
83.	Patricia Ferreira-Lopes	Universidad de Sevilla	Spain
84.	Patrick Hagge	Arkansas Tech University	USA
85.	Paulo Teodoro de Matos	ISCTE - University Institute of Lisbon	Portugal
86.	Peter Groote	University of Groningen	The Netherlands
87.	Petr Knecht	Masaryk University	Czech Republic



88.	Phillip Bengel	Independent Researcher	Germany
89.	Piotr Werner	University of Warsaw	Poland
90.	Rebecca Theobald	University of Colorado Colorado Springs	USA
91.	Remus Cretan	West University of Timisoara	Romania
92.	Robert Shaw	Newcastle University	UK
93.	Ruben Garnica-Monroy	Tecnologico de Monterrey	Mexico
94.	Sanju Purohit	Akamai University	USA
95.	Sarah Bednarz	Texas A&M University	USA
96.	Satu Rinkinen	Lahti University of Technology LUT	Finland
97.	Selvinaz Gülçin Bozkurt	Esenyurt University	Turkey
98.	Shisong Cao	Beijing University	China
99.	Sónia Alves	University of Lisbon	Portugal
100.	Stig Roar Svenningsen	Royal Danish Library	Denmark
101.	Stuart Dunn	King's College London	UK
102.	Subham Roy	University of North Bengal	India
103.	Suzel Balez	Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette	France
104.	Tânia Casimiro	NOVA University of Lisbon	Portugal
105.	Thomas Wieland	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology	Germany
106.	Valériane Mistiaen	Université libre de Bruxelles	Belgium
107.	Vasco Barbosa Brandão	Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo	Portugal
108.	Vesna Dragčević	University of Zagreb	Croatia
109.	Vesna Poslončec-Petrić	University of Zagreb	Croatia
110.	Vicente Pinilla	University of Zaragoza	Spain
111.	Warren James	University of Aberdeen	UK
112.	Yong Li	Capital University of Economics and Business	China
113.	Zhiyuan Ren	Northwestern Polytechnical University	China

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