

How EAGE is unravelling the business and research opportunities in the EU

Asli Onar, EU Public Affairs Officer, explains EAGE's initiative to tap into funding and other opportunities available in the EU.

First Break readers were introduced to EAGE Public Affairs Department in the December 2016 issue. Can you refresh our memories and tell us about this initiative?

In today's changing world we cannot stand still. We have to adapt to the ever-changing conditions and continually think of ways to provide additional value to our members. As an important global player, the EU has an impact on a variety of issues such as energy supply, education, environment, climate change and innovation. Tapping into the opportunities that flow from the EU can be beneficial for both EAGE and its members. The policies and funding programmes that are created by the EU have direct or indirect impact on the geoscience professional community. To ensure that policies and funding programmes being developed by the EU properly reflect what's happening in the geoscience field, we see a role for the Association to play. The Public Affairs department was created with this motto, to build a bridge between the geosciences world and policy makers.

Can you tell us about the developments since last year?

We have made some positive steps in our EU journey in a short period of time. In March 2017, we applied for a research and innovation funding call under the Horizon 2020 programme as part of a consortium. We are now eagerly awaiting the results. We have also been looking into differ-



Asli Onar attending a committee meeting.

ent opportunities under the educational funding programme called Erasmus+ currently exploring the possibilities for a project application. Those interested in funding opportunities should check our dedicated webpage at www.eage.org/eu-affairs. Besides digging into funding opportunities, we are expanding our network, participating events in Brussels and connecting with other stakeholders so that we can identify and communicate any interesting opportunities for our members.

What is planned for the near future?

Building on the positive feedback from our activities at Near Surface Barcelona 2016, we will for the first time have a Horizon 2020 information booth at the EAGE Annual Meeting in Paris and look forward to meeting our members and partners. Later

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in the year, we are planning to invite EU representatives to the Near Surface Conference in Malmö in September where they can explain some of the funding calls and 'dos and don'ts of a project application'. We are also planning to organize a professional EU projects brokerage session.

What can our members expect from this initiative?

As this is the first time we have participated in Public Affairs, it is an ongoing journey. We have been on the road for a year now and have a good idea what we can do for our members. Essentially we are trying to create an information centre for EU policies and funding programmes focused on geosciences. Our aim is to build a platform where our members can gather either for project ideas or policy related issues.



Asli Onar at the EAGE Annual Conference explains the Horizon 2020 initiative.

It all sounds like common sense. What are the main challenges?

We would like to identify and highlight the opportunities to our members. This is easier said than done. The geoscience is a very diverse discipline, we find the elements of it under Energy but also under

Raw Materials and even under Transportation. There is no one single department of EU that we need to connect. We are therefore eager to hear from members about their priorities and interests when it comes to EU and policy matters. This will help us to focus on what matters the most to our members.

What is your message to our members?

We are currently establishing a strategic road map. We want to establish what are the main interest areas and priorities of the membership so we can tailor our services and offer support in policy and funding areas. If you are interested in shaping our agenda and Public Affairs activities, you can directly contact Asli Onar at aov@eage.org or meet us at our Horizon 2020 booth #200 in Paris or Malmö.