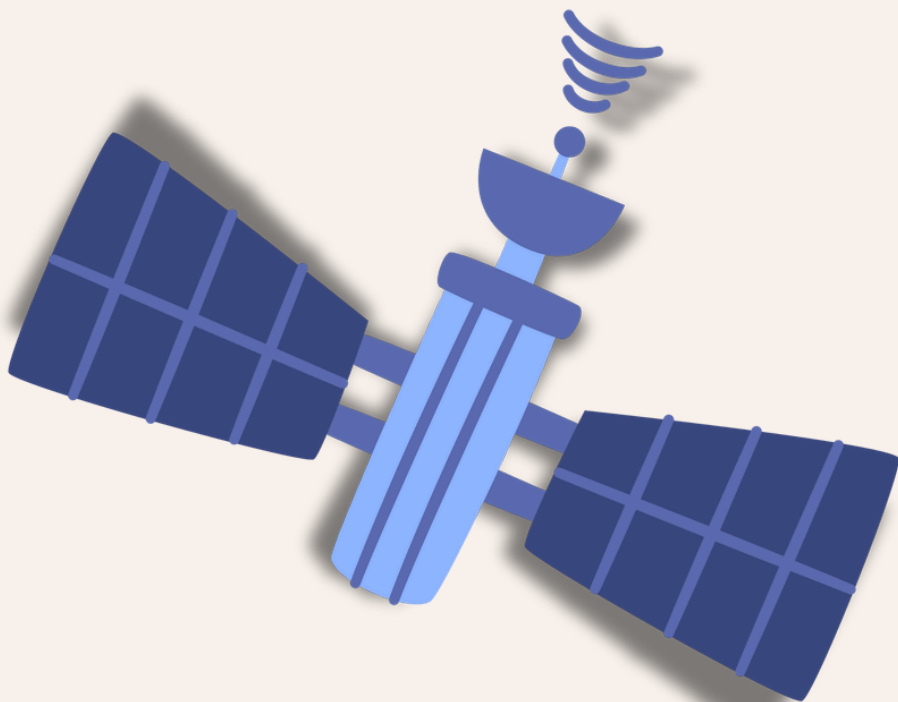


GIMA & NODE

Newsletter | March 2026



WAGENINGEN 2026 CONTACT WEEK EDITION

ASSEMBLED BY EMMA MELIS (VICE-CHAIR NODE) & KATIE FENSTER (GIMA SECRETARY)

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GIMA & NODE

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EMMA MELIS (VICE-CHAIR NODE) & KATIE FENSTER (GIMA SECRETARY)

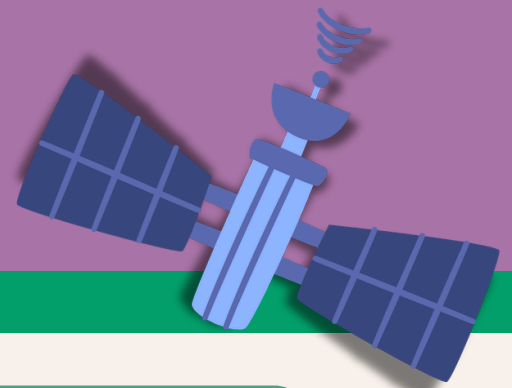
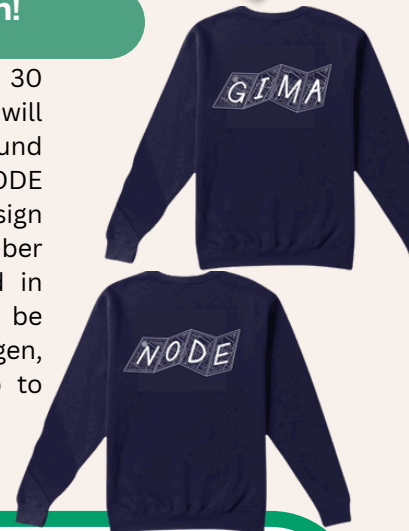


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GIMA x NODE Merch!

Exciting news – nearly 30 students and alumni will soon be walking around donning GIMA and NODE sweaters! After a design competition in November and some orders placed in 2026, sweaters will be distributed in Wageningen, just in time for the trip to Vilnius too!



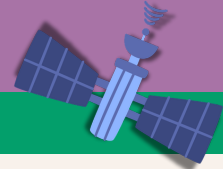
Upcoming Important Logistics & Details

- Wageningen Contact Weeks:
 - **Monday March 16 - Thursday March 26, 2026**
 - **NODE Activities: Schedule to come!**
- Thesis & Midterm presentations/defences:
 - **Wednesday March 18 & Thursday March 19**
- Upcoming Graduation Ceremony & Borrel:
 - **Graduation: Thursday March 19, 2026, 16:30-17:30**
 - **Borrel: 17:30-onwards**
- GIMA Trip to Vilnius: **Friday March 27 - Monday March 30, 2026**



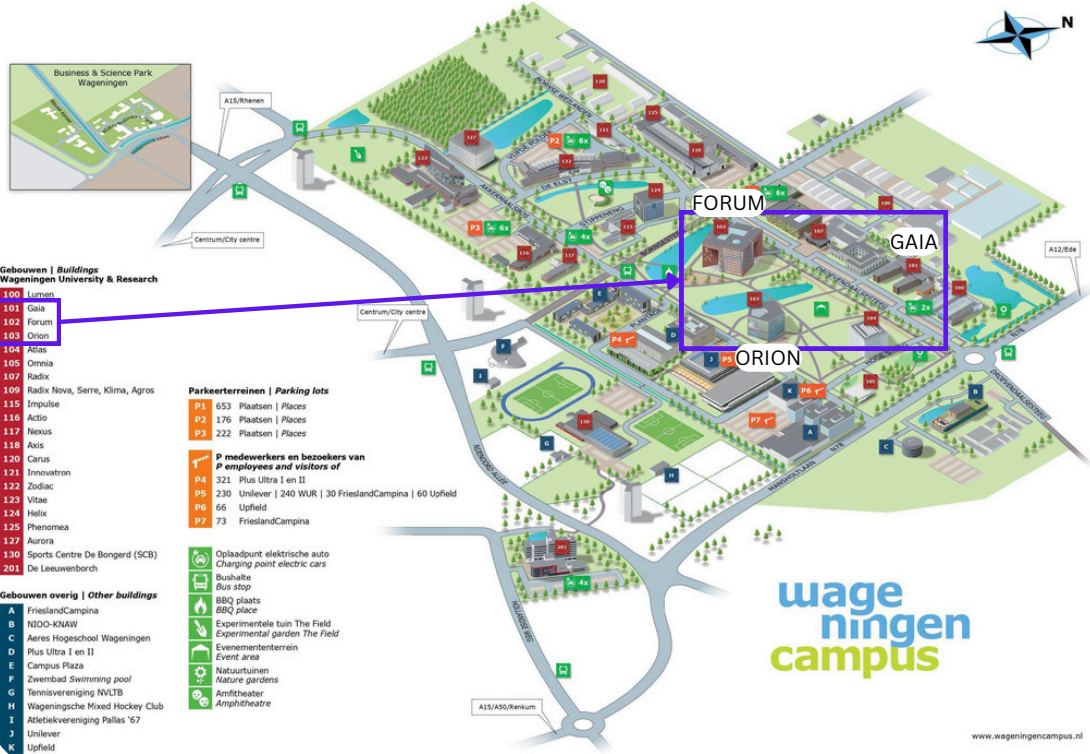
Esri Connect: April 2026

- Don't miss the largest annual GIS event in the Netherlands!
 - **When: Wednesday April 15 - Thursday April 16, 2026**
 - **Where: Beatrixgebouw, Utrecht**
- Check out the detailed program [here!](#)



Wageningen Campus

- The Wageningen campus map shows the three buildings where the GIMA contact period will take place: Forum, Orion, and Gaia.

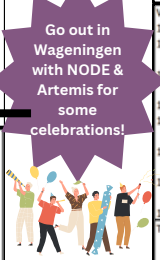


Contact Week Schedule (to date)

Week 12: 16-3 / 20-3			
Monday 10:00-11:30 11:30-13:00 13:00-14:30 14:30-16:00	16-3 Module 2 Poster presentations Lunch Break Course Evaluation Supervision meetings (optional)	Lecturer	B0432 (Forum)
Tuesday: 9:30-10:00 10:00-10:30 10:30-11:00 11:00-11:40 11:40-12:20	17-3 Module 2 GI Research @ WENR Monitoring soil carbon sequestration and Recognizing herb rich grassland in the Netherlands using Remote Sensing-techniques Break Participatory mapping met QUICKScan, the Colombian urban climate adaptation Field GIS: an application to support fieldwork of soil	Wies vullings Wouter Meijninger Michiel van Eupen Eline van Elburg	
Thursday: 09:30-12:00 12:00-13:00 13:00-15:30 15:30-16:00	19-3 Module 5 Presentations - Unsupervised clustering of point data using Self Organizing Maps (SOMs) Lunch Break Presentations - 3D (Meijers) Module evaluation (Lemmens)	Augustijn Meijers Lemmens	B0725 (Forum)
Friday: 8:45-9:00 9:00-9:30 9:30-9:45 9:45-10:00 10:00-11:00 11:00-11:15 11:15-12:00 12:00-13:00 13:00-14:00 14:00-14:15 14:15-15:15 15:15-17:00	20-3 Module 3 Students assigned to a group; be on time! Introduction to SDIs in practice Introduction to Module 3 BREAK SDI in practice: Exercise BREAK SDI Theory LUNCH BREAK SDI access network theory and practice (ref) BREAK Lecture: SDI Governance Preparing for meeting with client of case study	All All Bastiaan van Loenen Bastiaan van Loenen Bastiaan van Loenen Lucas Grus Jaap-Willem Sjoukema (Kadaster) Students – self-study	B0432 (Forum)



Enjoying some drinks together on-campus! (End of thesis for some!)



Go out in Wageningen with NODE & Artemis for some celebrations!

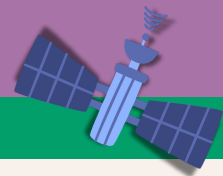
Week 13: 23-3 / 27-3			
Monday: 9:00-9:15 9:15-9:45 9:45-10:00 10:00-10:30 10:30-10:45 10:45-11:00 11:00-11:15 11:15-12:55 13:00-13:50 13:50-14:20 14:25-15:00 15:00-15:15 15:15-16:00 16:00-17:00	23-3 Module 3 Wrap-up Friday & Introduction Monday Lecture: Standards and Data BREAK Lecture: Policy BREAK Discussion Policy (students) Break Workshop on Data Quality (including a break) BREAK Lecture: People Exercise: Stakeholder analysis (students): for the SDI of the case, and also for the readers of the report BREAK Ethics and LLM in geodata use & Module 3 deliverables: discussion with students/ mentors on data ethics in M3 Preparing for meeting client case study	Lucas Grus Lucas Grus Bastiaan van Loenen Bastiaan van Loenen Wies Vullings (WUR) Jennifer Koch Jennifer Koch Hendrik Ploeger Students – self-study	P6008 (Orion)
Tuesday: 9:00-12:00 12:00-13:00 13:00-14:15 14:15-14:30 14:30-14:45 15:00-17:00	24-3 Module 3 Interview case client and prepare case study pitch ("Subcase 0") Lunch BREAK Elevator Pitch (5 min max) about the organization and the case Break Introduction to the debate Next steps, Q&A : Introduction subcase 3 + scheduling meetings	Students – self-study Lucas Grus, Jennifer Koch Bast Bastiaan van Loenen Students, GIMA mentors	B0725 (Forum)
Wednesday: 10:00-10:45 11:00-11:45 11:45-12:15 12:15-13:15 13:15-14:00 14:00-14:30 14:30-15:15 15:30-16:00	25-3 Module 6 L: General introduction + Brief introduction cases L: Direct point cloud analysis (background) L: Explorative point cloud visualization (intro to case) L: Finding cleanest routes using intelligent route-planning L: Introduction Thesis L: DEM extraction from aerial photographs (background) L: DEM extraction (intro to case)	Ligtenberg Verbee Verbee Vreugdenhil Verbee Zeylman van Emmichoven Zeylman van Emmichoven	B3030 (Orion)
Thursday: 9:30-10:15 10:15-10:45 11:00-11:30 11:30-12:15 12:15-12:45 12:45-14:00 14:00 - 16:00	26-3 Module 6 L: Agent Based Modelling and complex systems (background) L: Intro to the case L: Presentation internships (Tsendbazar) L: Characteristics of crowdsourcing projects (background) L: Finding Geo-information produced by the crowd (intro to case) Lunch Break Group formation	Ligtenberg Ligtenberg Lemmens Lemmens	P6008 (Orion)
Friday: 27-3	No lectures		



CGI Pub Quiz in Utrecht @Café Domkop Walk-in at 17:30, pub quiz at 18:00. Sign-up: <https://forms.office.com/r/ay4D7UX9PH>

Maybe another NODE x Artemis activity... Stay tuned!

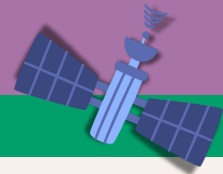
Leave on Friday for Vilnius!



Wageningen Contact Weeks 2026

- Overview of the contact weeks in Wageningen:
 - First year students will wrap up **modules 2 and 5** and begin **modules 3 and 6**.
 - Second and third year students will be giving **thesis and midterm presentations** on Wednesday 18 March and Thursday 19 March (a separate **thesis schedule** has been posted to Brightspace).
- See below the details of the GIMA **graduation ceremony** in Wageningen:
 - **Date:** Thursday 19 March, 2026
 - **Time:** 16:30-17:30
 - **Location:** Gaia Building, room 2
- Following the ceremony from 17:30 in Gaia 2, there will be a **borrel - all students and staff are welcome** to join and celebrate our graduates!
 - A heartfelt congratulations to **Boris Beije, Jianhui Huang, Levi Hage, and Kostas Vasileiadis**, who have graduated since the last newsletter.
- NODE has also prepared some exciting events during the Wageningen contact period, so stay tuned for updates to the schedule of activities!
- Wageningen University building locations and practical information:
 - **Lectures and exams** will be held in the Forum and Orion buildings.
 - **Thesis and midterm presentations** will be held in the **Forum** building.
 - The **graduation ceremony and borrel** will be held in the Gaia building.
- See the **detailed contact week schedule above** or on the Brightspace under the GIMA General Information community.
- We wish good luck to all students on their exams and presentations!





Artemis, NODE's fondest rivals



Study Association Artemis

MGI at Wageningen University has been around for almost 25 years, and Artemis has been around since 2023. Artemis was founded to bring MGI students together and to strengthen the connection between students, staff, and the GI work field. The programme has roughly 50-60 students each year, with around 20% international students and with very similar numbers of male and female students. Some students come after completing their BSc at WUR and many universities in the Netherlands or abroad.

The programme offers a lot of in-person education, which fits well with Wageningen's style. In the first year, students follow a range of courses, often with practical assignments in pairs or groups, then followed by larger final group projects. After the coursework, students continue with a six-month thesis and then a four-month internship. During the thesis period, many students work together in the MGI thesis room, which is a nice place to study and also just to see everyone regularly.

Besides the study side, MGI is also just a very social programme. Artemis aims to organise monthly chair group drinks, and we also love inviting the MGI band to play at activities, they are genuinely great and made up of staff members. A highlight for many students is the ACT course in period 6, where you spend a week in the Achterhoek flying drones, doing measurements, working closely together, and of course ending the day with a beer with everyone.

So overall, MGI is a programme with a lot of hands-on work, close contact with other students and staff, and a nice mix of serious GIS topics and gezelligheid.

Artemis' Picks: Wageningen

<https://sa-artemis.nl/>

Artemis offers their recommendations to GIMA students for nice places to go on and off campus!

On campus:

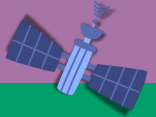
- **For beer:** The sports pub at the Bongerd! (also for nice fries and friendly prices)
- **For coffee, chai & matcha:** The Forum café on the ground floor (especially chai!)
- **For bubble tea:** Specialtea (at the campus plaza)
- **For snacks or food:** Anything at the Campus Plaza - Chinese, pokebowl+boba, doner, snackbar, Subway!

City centre

- **For beer & fries:** Cafe De Zaaier, Onder de Linden
- **For snacks or food:** Broodje Ivan at Ivan Market (best kebab/falafel), Ilayda for great vegan kapsalon.

Like last year, GIMA will once again have a joint borrel with MGI (stay tuned for the social schedule!). We also spent many lunches playing foosball with our MGI friends at The Spot café - definitely a nice Spot to have lunch and hang out!

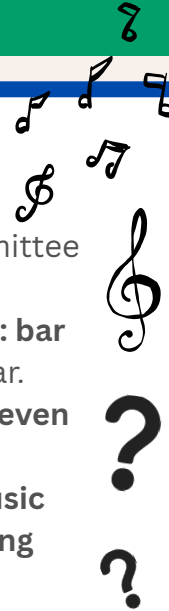




Recap of Social Events

After the successful contact weeks in Utrecht, the Internal committee organized two more fun BorrelNODEs:

- In January we had a **BorrelNODE in our unofficial 'stamkroeg': bar Walden!** It was nice to catch up after the holidays and new year.
- Some people missed GIMA so much in the holidays, that they **even created a Guess Who boardgame** including students & staff!
- In the last week of February, the Internal committee held a **Music Bingo!** We rented a **private bar** where everyone could **sing along with their favorite bangers from the last 50 years**. Some nice prizes were won and everyone had fun!

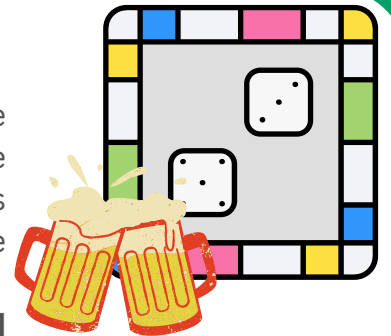


Upcoming Social Events

For the next social events we travel to...: **Wageningen!** During the Wageningen contact weeks the Internal committee will organize some **nice activities to celebrate the end of the exams** and presentations as well as **getting to know Wageningen!** Sadly, these will also be the last activities that the Internal committee from this year will host!

I (Luuk) **want to thank Janna, Jurian, Roos, Timo, Toon, Vidushan and Wouter** for their active involvement during meetings and activities.

We will finish off with a Borrel at the campus, a pubcrawl and a board game night together with Artemis, the MGI Programme Board!

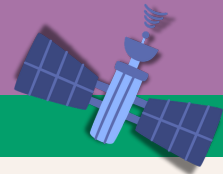


GIMA Trip to Vilnius

After two busy weeks we will finally have some time to relax... Or will we? Because NODE is travelling to **Lithuania!** We will visit the countries capital city, **Vilnius**.

- The history and architecture of the city will be explored during a **walking tour from a local expert**.
- We will also **investigate the dark past and visit a former KGB prison**.
- The evenings will consist of **trying the local cuisine, and of course, drinks and a pub crawl. Atsisveikink!**





Status Update: Module 2

- The GIMA module 2 Basic Geo-information application project is coming to an end. Over the last three months, students worked in groups on various topics including geography of **car ownership and car use** in the Netherlands, spatial analysis for **place-based policies**, **crop area estimates** in Mozambique, mapping **historic deforestation** in Indonesia and **location suitability analysis for energy projects** in the Netherlands.
- On **Monday 16 March**, students will gather together in Wageningen to learn from each other's work in a **poster session**. Everyone is welcome to join the poster session and celebrate their hard work and achievements.

Spotlight on the Research

THIJS DE BRUIJN, GIMA ENTERING CLASS OF 2024

THESIS TITLE:

"*Flooding under Extreme Rainfall: A GIS-based Risk Assessment for Curaçao.*"

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ON?

Extreme rainfall events increasingly threaten Small Island Developing States (SIDS), where rainfall-induced flood risks are expected to have a disproportionately large impact given their limited contribution to global emissions. On Curaçao, flood risk increases due to steep topography combined with dense population, vulnerable economic activities, and infrastructure in low-lying coastal urban zones.

WHERE ARE YOU DOING YOUR THESIS?

I prepared my study in the Netherlands and went to Curaçao in November.

WHICH INSTITUTIONS & SUPERVISORS ARE YOU WORKING WITH?

The thesis was supervised by Arend Ligtenberg from Wageningen University & Research. We worked together with different organizations to acquire the right datasets. GIS4C, the local Esri distributor, helped connect me with the right people and gave me a place in the office to conduct my research. The Ministerie di Trafiko, Transporte i Planifikashon Urbano gave permission to use new LiDAR data collected in 2024, which was the core dataset of this study. KNMI helped me acquire information about rainfall scenarios.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THE STUDY?

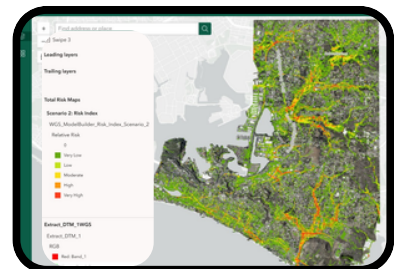
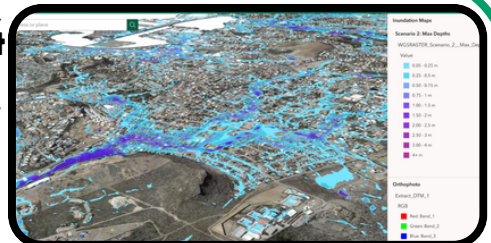
Working with a new and highly detailed LiDAR dataset and being able to construct a digital twin of the island from raw point clouds that captured even the tiniest elevation differences, for example between pavements and roads.

CAN YOU SHOW SOME RESULTS?

I had the chance to present the results to relevant stakeholders on the island. The risk management organisation was there, as well as representatives of the meteorological department, the ministry of spatial planning and infrastructure, the fire service, and even an executive minister. It was a valuable experience to demonstrate the first application of the new LiDAR dataset in the context of a highly relevant hazard.

WHAT ARE SOME CHALLENGES?

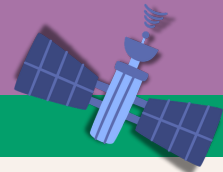
The findings prove to be relevant as a useful screening tool for prioritisation. However, one of the main limitations is that risk has not yet been quantified against acceptable thresholds. The results are also too general to determine new engineering projects; more detailed, highly local analyses need to be performed for that.



WHERE CAN WE FOLLOW YOUR WORK?

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/thijs-de-bruijn-314490225/>





Recap from External

In December, the External committee organised a successful GIS Career Day. Both large and smaller companies attended, giving nearly 100 students in attendance the chance to connect with a wide range of organisations from the GIS field and explore potential internship or thesis opportunities. Throughout the day, there were many inspiring conversations, and everyone could enjoy a nice lunch in between. It was also great to see several GIMA alumni attending, this time representing their companies! A great moment to see how many different GIS companies are out there and the impacts they make.



Spotlight on the Internships

JOANNA (JODY) KOCKOTT, GIMA ENTERING CLASS OF 2024

WHERE ARE YOU DOING YOUR INTERNSHIP?

Nairobi, Kenya

WHICH INSTITUTION ARE YOU WORKING WITH?

UNESCO Science Sector

WHAT IS YOUR INTERNSHIP ON?

"Training in Foundations of GIS": My main internship responsibility was to design and give a 3-day workshop to groundwater experts on the foundations of managing spatial data in QGIS and PostgreSQL/PostGIS. This supports the broader project about sustaining transboundary groundwater resources, which is in part linked to improving spatial data management and sharing practices, and building capacities to work with limited but available datasets.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THE WORK?

Training First, I have to give shout-out to the supportive and dedicated, small but growing team in the Science sector. Understanding how the many things we are taught in GIMA play out on-the-ground has also been so enriching. Speaking of on-the-ground, my favourite experience has been going on site visits, because as we know, what data tells you on a map usually isn't the full-picture or reality. Though I didn't have an inkling about groundwater before coming, it is a subject I have come to appreciate so much as water is becoming (frighteningly) critical for our future. Right now, I'm also getting to work on setting up IoT sensors in a flood early warning system for the Tana river.

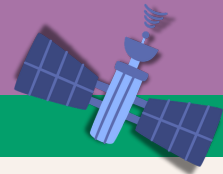
WHAT ARE SOME CHALLENGES?

Although I appreciate the relevance of the topics worked on at Unesco, I would say a key challenge for anyone who follows in the footsteps of the UN is the need to remain critical about your position and approach in the work you're doing. And to expect bureaucracy! In the case of the training, miscommunications between the receiving organisation, Unesco, and the donor made it a challenge to be in touch with participants before the training. Because of this, aligning the course content more closely with specific desires and workflows of the participants was missed out on. The training still went well, and it has overall been a good learning experience for me in confidence, communication, and adaptability!

WHERE CAN WE FOLLOW THE WORK?

<https://www.facebook.com/unescoeastafrika/>





Kaitlyn's Sign-off as GIMA Secretary

Hi everyone,

My term as GIMA secretary has officially come to a close; co-writing this edition of the newsletter with Emma Melis was my last task. Going forward, most of the secretary tasks will go to Sylvie Kersten, the GIMA Education Coordinator. NODE will also take on a few of my old tasks like creating the newsletter.

If you have any questions related to logistics like the contact week schedule, you can contact Sylvie at the secretary email, gima.geo@uu.nl.

I'd like to thank all the GIMA students and staff that I've gotten to know and work with over the last year- it's been a genuine pleasure. Best of luck to my fellow classmates with their studies and with all future geospatial endeavors!

Meet the GIMA Education Coordinator: Sylvie!

Hello everyone!

Kaitlyn will be completing her GIMA program and hopefully graduate soon. As one of the (two) education coordinators for the department Human Geography and Spatial Planning at Utrecht University, I will be taking over most of the tasks of the GIMA Secretary.

I have been working at University Utrecht for almost 10 years (before this I lived and worked Maastricht). Since 2023 I work as an education coordinator, organizing education for the department, particularly for the master's programs, now also for GIMA.

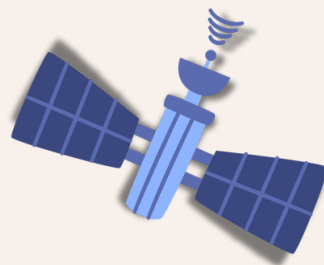
I am not as GIS-minded as all of you, or a geographer, but there is a link with GIMA. I have completed a bachelor (HBO) program, which is now called information management, and I have a passion for travel. Whether this is a short holiday in Europe, a longer trip to more exotic destinations, I can get just as excited about a weekend trip to a city in the Netherlands or combining a weekend away with a family visit in Limburg. There is the Geography link.

All the best, Sylvie Kersten



Academic and Personal Resources

- GIMA General Information community on Brightspace:
 - Schedules for contact periods, year schedule, and programme catalogue
- GIMA [LinkedIn group](#):
 - Posts events, job & internship vacancies
- Study advisors: Floris Bouwman & Aukje de Graaf
 - The study advisors are there to answer questions about the educational program or personal matters that may affect your study
 - Email: studieadviseur.sgpl@uu.nl



Thanks for reading!

Keep up with NODE <3



<http://www.gima-node.nl/>



[instagram.com/gimanode/](https://www.instagram.com/gimanode/)



[linkedin.com/company/gima-node](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gima-node)