



Commission on Cartography and Children

International Cartographic Association

NEWSLETTER



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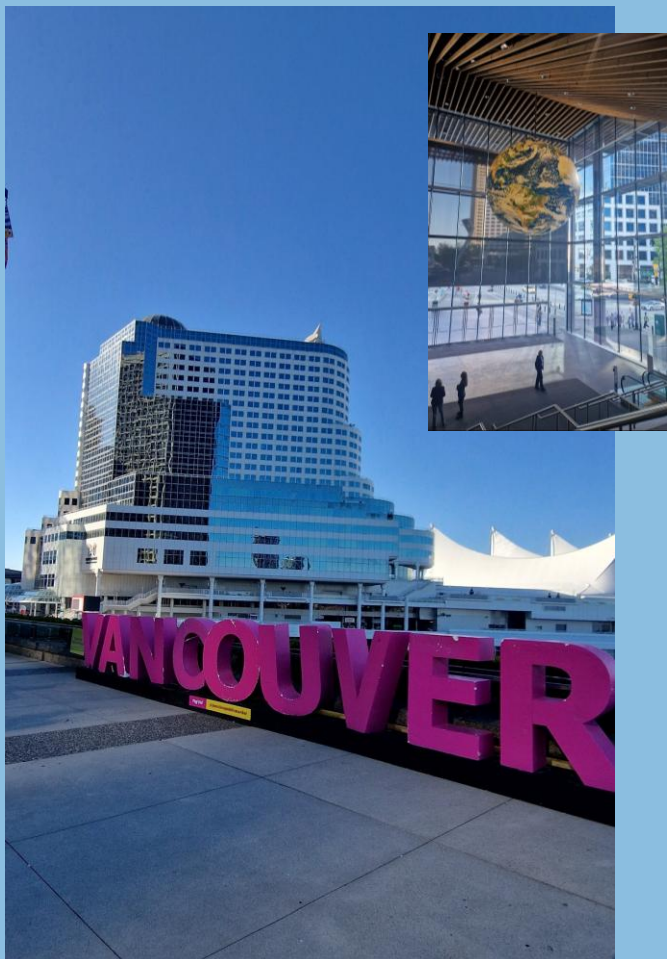
UPCOMING EVENTS

ICC 2025 VANCOUVER

The 32nd International Cartographic Conference was held in Vancouver, Canada, from 17–22 August 2025 and attracted 748 participants from more than 60 countries.



Mapping the Future: Innovation,
Inclusion, and Sustainability



JOINT PRE-ICC 2025 WORKSHOP "TOWARDS MAPS FOR EVERYONE"

The ICC 2025 Pre-Conference Workshop "Towards Maps for everyone" took place on 17 August 2025 in Vancouver, Canada. It was jointly organized by:

- ICA Working Group on Inclusive Cartography
- ICA Commission on Cartography and Children
- ICA Commission on User Experience
- ICA Commission on Cognitive Issues in Geographic Information Visualization and User Experience.

The event was structured into two main parts. It began with a series of introductory lectures exploring how to effectively design maps that are accessible and meaningful for people with diverse cognitive abilities, as well as varied social, cultural, and educational backgrounds.

In the second part, participants put theory into practice through hands-on activities, working collaboratively to develop draft guidelines for creating maps that truly serve "everyone".

The event was honored by the presence of a special guest, the founder and first Chair of the ICA Commission on Cartography and Children, Prof. Jacqueline Anderson.

A huge thank you to all the participants for their engagement, creativity, and thoughtful contributions.



TECHNICAL SESSIONS ON CARTOGRAPHY AND CHILDREN

Our Commission colleagues showcased their research during two Cartography and Children sessions at the International Cartographic Conference 2025 in Vancouver. Abstracts and papers can be accessed on the ICA website.

[Abstracts](https://icaci.org/publications/) and [papers](https://icaci.org/publications/) are available on the ICA website - <https://icaci.org/publications/>.

COMMISSION MEETING

A meeting of the Commission on Cartography and Children was held on 21 August 2025 as part of the ICC programme. Colleagues from Bulgaria, Canada, China, France, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and other countries participated in the meeting, which was led by the Commission Chair, Silvia Marinova (Bulgaria), and Vice-Chair José Jesús Reyes Núñez (Hungary). A major highlight was the celebration of the Commission's 30th anniversary, reflecting on its development over the years and outlining directions for future work.



BARBARA PETCHENIK COMPETITION 2025 “MAPS IN EVERYDAY LIFE”

Exhibition in Vancouver

A colorful exhibition of 180 children's drawings from 32 countries was a special part of the 32nd International Cartographic Conference 2025, held in Vancouver, Canada, from 17–22 August 2025. The exhibition attracted the attention of conference participants with the children's imaginative and inspiring ideas.

Those who were unable to visit the exhibition in person, or who wish to revisit the wonderful drawings, can explore the [Online Barbara Petchenik Exhibition](#).



Results of the Barbara Petchenik Competition 2025

The Barbara Petchenik Judging Commission was organized earlier this year. The ICA Judging Commission was formed by:

Jury members

Monika Kopecka (Slovakia, International Coordinator)

Ana María Garra (Argentina)

Dariusz Dukaczewski (Poland)

Naeema Al Hosani (United Arab Emirates)

Pilar Sánchez-Ortiz (Spain)

Noor Fadilah Zainal Aznam (Malaysia)

Julia Siemer (Canada, Local Organizer)

Substitute members

Temenoujka Bandrova (Bulgaria)

José Jesús Reyes Nunez (Hungary)

Judging Commission, Chair

Silvia Marinova (Bulgaria)

Thirty-four participants took part in the voting process. All votes were counted together, and the final decision was taken by the Judging Commission. A Creativity Award was also selected by the ICA Commission on Art and Cartography (Jury Chair: Taien Ng-Chan, Canada; Members: Sharon Hayashi, Canada; and Joanna Gardener, Australia).

Awards

Under 6 years

1st award: *Around the world by bicycle (SK-1)*, Michaela Mičicová (5), Slovakia, 80 points

2nd award: *Children's Planet (BG-1)*, Emily Vateva (5), Bulgaria, 40 points

3rd award: *What I See in My World Map (US-1)*, Rithvik Vignesh (5), USA, 33 points

6-8 years

1st award: *A Typical Day (CA-1)*, Aarnav Rao (7), Canada, 41 points

2nd award: *We are the One (KR-2)*, Doyoung Lim (8), Republic of Korea, 36 points

3rd award: *Let the World Feel With Me (SI-5)*, Doroteja Vegi (7), Slovenia, 34 points

9-12 years

1st award: *What is Essential is Invisible to the Eye (JP-6)*, Kokoro Ibayashi (12), Japan, 27 points

2nd award: *Daily Cultural Canvas: A Tapestry of Life's Journey (CN-3)*, Shi Erdong (11), China, 22 points

3rd award: *The Start of My Way (CZ-2)*, Ondřej Šlechta (11), Czechia, 21 points

Special award: *My hope for a better world, (PL-2)*, Nikodem Chmielewski (11), Poland, 19 points

13-15 years

1st award: *This one is my favourite... (HU-4)*, Szonja Markovics (13), Hungary, 38 points

2nd award: *Maps Make Everything More Effective (ID-3)*, Kemal Al Arif Istiyono (13), Indonesia, 28 points

3rd award: *For someone, it's the only way to know the world (EC-5)*, Sarah Judit Perugachi Andrango (13), Ecuador, 23 points

Creativity award

We are the One (KR-2), Doyoung Lim (8), Republic of Korea

Public award

A map of everyday life (BG-6), Todor Hinov (13), Bulgaria

Under 6 years



*Around the world by bicycle (SK-1),
Michaela Mičicová (5), Slovakia*



*Children's Planet (BG-1), Emily
Vateva (5), Bulgaria*



*What I See in My World Map (US-1),
Rithvik Vignesh (5), USA*

6-8 years



*A Typical Day (CA-1), Aarnav Rao
(7), Canada*



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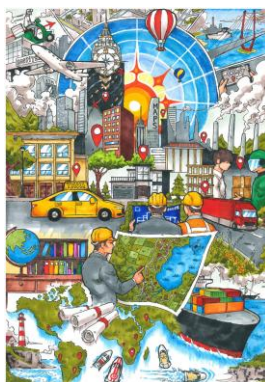


*My hope for a better
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Public award



A map of everyday life (BG-6), Todor Hinov (13), Bulgaria

Congratulations to all winners and participants!

We express our sincere thanks for the great enthusiasm and valuable efforts of the International Coordinator and the ICC 2025 Local Organizing Committee, as well as all colleagues, teachers, volunteers, and Commission members who were involved in or supported the organization of the competitions in their respective countries.

AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN OF THE BARBARA PETCHENIK COMPETITION (BPC) 2025

The diplomas for the BPC 2025 winners were given to the national representatives at ICC 2025, who committed to handing them over to the winners.

Awarding Ceremony in Hungary

Based on the results of the vote, Hungary achieved significant success: Szonja Markovics, a 13-year-old student from Mohács, won first place in the 13-15 age group. The title of her map drawing is "This is my favorite." The award was presented by José Jesús Reyes Nunez, Associate Professor of Eötvös Loránd University.



Indonesia Honors Student's International Achievement at Barbara Petchenik Competition 2025

Indonesia honors and celebrates student Kemal Al Arif Istiyono (13 years old), who won second prize in the 13–15 age group at the final round of the Barbara Petchenik International Competition 2025 in Vancouver, Canada. The BPC diploma can be used as an achievement for entering high school without an entrance test. Achievements from international competitions hold very high value.



Info and pictures: Diah Kirana, Indonesia

'LEGAME' EXHIBITION IN COMO, ITALY



Drawings by children from Gallio Primary School, created for the Barbara Petchenik International Competition held this year in Vancouver, Canada, were exhibited at the "LEGAME" exhibition in Como, Italy in October 2025.

Alongside their works are those of the students of Kawaji School in Tokamachi, Japan. It was/is a dialogue between distant cultures and points of view, developed by the creativity of children, capable of turning geography into narrative and maps into poetic language.

Supported by the Municipality of Como, the "LEGAME" exhibition also provided visitors with the opportunity to admire magnificent cartographic works by the De Agostini family. Sincere thanks to Giovanni De Agostini and Minori Morozumi for making this exhibition possible.



Info and pictures: Fulvio Anzaldo

3rd NATIONAL CARTOGRAPHY CONTEST “ESCUELA DE CIENCIAS DEL MAR”, ARGENTINA

The *Sede Educativa Universitaria Escuela de Ciencias del Mar*, under the *Facultad de la Armada* and the *Universidad de la Defensa Nacional*, invited students from public and private secondary schools across Argentina to participate in the 3rd National Cartography Contest “Escuela de Ciencias del Mar.” Participants were divided into two categories: 1st–3rd year and 4th–7th year.

The awards ceremony took place on November 24th at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Escuela de Ciencias del Mar (ESCM).

Educational Impact

This contest provides an excellent opportunity to explore the physical or social aspects represented in geographic space within the classroom. While Geography is the subject most directly related to Cartography, there are many others in which maps serve as essential tools for expressing topics and issues studied in class – such as History, where maps enrich the understanding of past events.

The contest also encourages interdisciplinary projects involving two or more subjects, allowing students to translate joint work into cartographic form. The challenge is twofold: completing the academic task itself while adhering to the established cartographic guidelines.

Teachers play a key role in this process, guiding students so that the creation of a map becomes not only an act of creativity but also one that recognizes that Cartography is a science combining art, precision, and communication. Thus, a map’s message should be both artistic and accurate, complying with cartographic standards inherent to its content.

Suggested Topics

The theme of the 3rd National Cartography Contest “Escuela de Ciencias del Mar” is: “With Science in the Sea”. Topics: environmental care, the riches of seas and rivers, and marine protected areas.

Student participation

In this 3rd edition, a total of 419 cartographic works were submitted by students from 30 schools across the provinces of Salta, Chubut, Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, Misiones, Tucumán, Córdoba, Formosa, and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

Contest Jury:

Director of the Escuela de Ciencias del Mar (ESCM);

Representative of the Argentine Cartography Center (Centro Argentino de Cartografía);

Representative of the Naval Hydrographic Service (Servicio de Hidrografía Naval);

Representative of the National Geographic Institute (Instituto Geográfico Nacional);

Representative of the Argentine Air Force (Fuerza Aérea Argentina);

Office of Extension and University Outreach Escuela de Ciencias del Mar (ESCM).

Awards

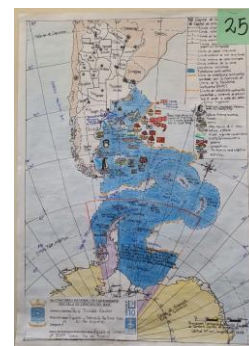
First Category



1st Place: Rivero Julieta - Escuela de Comercio 5.009 "Ntra. Sra. del Rosario"



2nd Place: Bevilacqua Agustín - Boston College

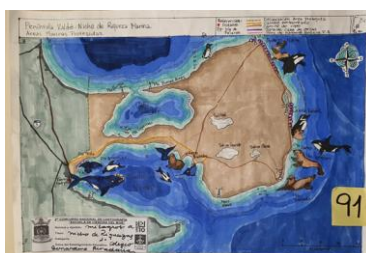


3rd Place: Escobar Paula Trinidad - Escuela de Comercio 5.009 "Ntra. Sra. del Rosario"

Second Category



1st Place: Monzón Rocío - Colegio Bernardino Rivadavia



2nd Place: Agüero Milagros - Colegio Bernardino Rivadavia



3rd Place: Serrano Valentina - Colegio Bernardino Rivadavia

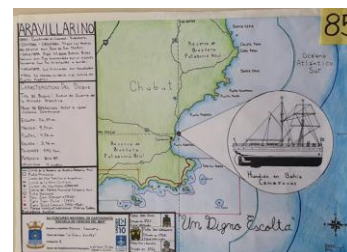
Special Mentions - Encouragement



Martínez Suyay Zoe - Boston College



Teseyra Fernandez María del Milagro - Escuela de Comercio 5.009 "Ntra. Sra. del Rosario"



Saavedra Morena - Instituto Cristo Obrero

The National Cartography Contest "Escuela de Ciencias del Mar" has proven to be a valuable initiative for promoting higher education and integrating knowledge among high school students. It encourages participants to explore and advance their understanding of cartography, fostering research, creativity, and technical skills.

As the number of submissions and participating schools continues to grow with each edition, the ongoing support and expansion of this initiative are essential. Strengthening the link between the university and the educational community ensures that more students view higher education as an attainable and inspiring path for their future.

Info and pictures: Sede Educativa Universitaria – Escuela de Ciencias del Mar, Argentina

RECENT CHILDREN'S MAPPING ACTIVITIES FROM GEOMATICS AND CARTOGRAPHIC RESEARCH CENTRE, CARLETON UNIVERSITY

The Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University and its partners, National Association of Child Care Workers, Durban University of Technology and Circle of All Nations, continued with active research in the **transdisciplinary children's story mapping initiative with vulnerable learners in South Africa**. It has been advanced since 2022, under the leadership of late Professor Fraser Taylor, who had launched the Barbara Petchenik Children's Mapping Competition in 1993.

During the past year, the team offered five lectures to undergraduate students on the integration of mapping in child and youth care work practice and held eight recorded team meetings with child and youth care workers. A presentation on the generative,



therapeutic art, photoatlas and carto-semiotic components of the work was made at the joint Confluence conference of the Canadian Cartographic Association and Canadian Association of Geographers in May 2025, and one conference and two preconference presentations were made at the International Cartographic Association conference, ICC25. Details of the conference presentation "Children's cognitive story mapping: integrating child care work practice, art creation and cartography" may be found in Abstracts of the ICA series. The comprehensive paper Children's cognitive story mapping: a complex South Africa/Canada transdisciplinary collaboration was published by the International Journal of Cartography in 2005.

Five of the six submissions to the 2025 competition from South Africa came from this project. The learners are actively mapping locational and eco-social issues that are of concern to them, and these have contributed to evolving program, policy and advocacy work. This, in part, explains the development of the cognitive story mapping theorization.

Two other children's mapping initiatives were undertaken, linked with Circle of All Nations. One was **a ten-week heritage mapping project for newcomer youth in Winnipeg, Canada**. Undertaken with the Indigenous leadership of Turtle Island Project and the Immigrant Partnership Winnipeg, youth engaged in field trip and mapping activities to learn about the natural history, Indigenous history, settlement history, heritage, culture, environment and contemporary realities in their new homelands. The youth created maps, a photo collage and a video to record the project. This type of mapping practice has potential for positive application with refugee children.

The third **mapping activity** was initiated at a **Village School in rural Massachusetts, United States**. Led by teacher Martin Brown, it is grounded in nature theme-based research (on earth and rocks, water and ice, fire and heat, and air and wind), consistent with the teachings of late Indigenous Elder William Commanda, Circle of All Nations, with upcoming work focused on place-based education, and mapping the significant rock formations on the property.



The latter two groups will make submissions to the next children's mapping competition.

Info and pictures: Romola V. Thumbadoo, Canada

PROJECTS

Empowering Communities Through Maps: Children's Cartography Initiative in Africa

A Children's Cartography Initiative in Africa works to prepare communities for climate change and rapid urban growth through accessible geospatial education. Through the pilot program *Remote Sensing for Environmental Conservation Education (RSECed)* in Kenya, 196 children from four primary schools in Nyeri were trained in satellite imagery interpretation and environmental mapping, achieving an overall tool-understanding rate of 73.5%.

The team is addressing critical gaps in geospatial education, including limited access to up-to-date cartographic resources and the lack of standardized cartographic practices in educational materials. These challenges compromise map quality and geographic literacy, weaken understanding of climate vulnerability, and contribute to community disconnection from the local geographic environment.

Info: Peter Ndiritu Thuku, Catherine Njore, and Ivan Kipruto, Kenya

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2026

COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting of the ICA Commission on Cartography and Children – 10th International Conference on Cartography and GIS, 14-19 June 2026, Nessebar, Bulgaria - <https://iccgis.cartography-gis.com/>

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS RELATED TO THE RESEARCH THEMES OF THE COMMISSION

10th International Conference on Cartography and GIS (10ICCGIS) – Jubilee edition

Nessebar, Bulgaria, 14-19 June 2026

The Conference is organized by the Bulgarian Cartographic Association and the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy – Sofia, endorsed by the International Cartographic Association.

The 10th ICCGIS is an international forum bringing together researchers, educators, professionals, and enthusiasts in Cartography, GIS, Geospatial Technologies, and Remote Sensing for the next-tech era.



Several parallel events will be held during the conference, including annual meetings of ICA Commissions.

Keynote Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Georg Gartner - ICA President, Austria

Prof. Anthony Robinson - Department of Geography, Penn State University, USA

Prof. Min Chen, Nanjing Normal University, China

Deadlines in 2026:

15 January - Abstract submission for the e-Proceedings / Full paper submission for the Topical Collection

1 April - Early bird registration and Registration of presenters

15 April - Full paper submission for e-Proceedings

31 May - Online registration

Registration and abstract submission are already open!

<https://iccgis.cartography-gis.com/>

EuroCarto2026

Brno, Czechia, 9–11 September 2026

Deadlines in 2026:

1 April 2026 – Abstract submissions

1 April 2026 – Pre-Conference Workshop submissions

30 April 2026 – First-round reviews & notifications

15 May 2026 - Early-bird registration

9 August 2026 or when 250 participants are reached (whichever comes first) – Regular registration

<https://eurocarto2026.org/>



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of the Commission on Cartography and Children

Next Newsletter: August 2026

All commission members are invited to contribute to the content of the next newsletter. They can send any news related to cartography and children (publications, national events, teaching activities, etc).

The news sent by commission members and colleagues reflects their personal opinions and positions, or those of the countries they represent, and does not necessarily reflect the position of ICA as an international scientific organization.

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