

Equality of Opportunity in Geosciences: The EGU Awards Committee experience



Özgür Karatekin

Chair of the EGU Union Awards Committee, awards.medals@egu.eu

Royal Observatory of Belgium, 3 Avenue Circulaire, 1180 Brussels, Belgium



EGU Awards and Medals Programme

Every year, the EGU awards & medals programme recognises eminent scientists for their outstanding research contribution in Earth, planetary, and space sciences. In addition, it identifies the awardees as role models for the next generation of early career scientists to foster geoscience research.

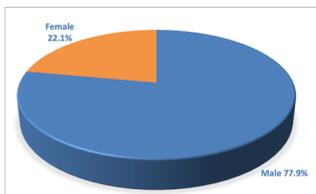
Winners of EGU medals or awards can be nominated as EGU ambassadors. In this role, they are delegated to attend meetings hosted by other organisations, and to offer special presentations and lectures labelled as EGU contributions.

The EGU awards & medals programme features Union medals, the most prestigious awards, for life-time achievements or exceptional contributions to science as well as Union awards, such as the Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Early Career Scientists. At the division level, the EGU awards various medals for active scientists (27 in total), as well as the Division Outstanding Early Career Scientists Awards (22 in total). The list of all recipients of EGU awards and medals, including Union, division and General Assembly awards, is available in the EGU web pages, <https://www.egu.eu/awards-medals/>.

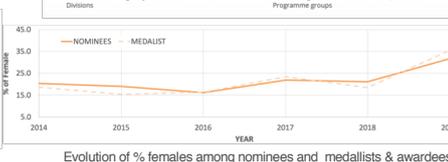
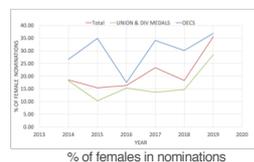
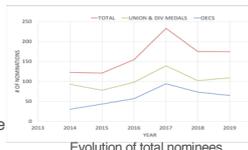
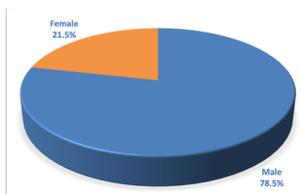
List of all EGU awards & medals	
Union medals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexander von Humboldt Medal: Scientists who have performed research in developing regions. Alfred Wegener Medal & Honorary Membership: atmospheric, hydrological or ocean sciences. Arthur Holmes Medal & Honorary Membership: Solid Earth geosciences. Jean Duvigneaud Caspari Medal & Honorary Membership: Planetary and space sciences. 	Union awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angela Croome Award: Earth, space and planetary sciences Journalism. Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Early Career Scientists: Achievements made by early career scientists in the Earth, planetary, and space sciences. Katia and Maurice Kraft Award: Geoscience outreach and engagement. Lisbon Service Award: Outstanding services for the Union.
Division medals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Augustus Love Medal: Geodynamics. Beno Gutenberg Medal: Seismology. Christian Huggens Medal: Geosciences Instrumentation and Data Systems. David Greig Medal: Planetary and Solar System Sciences. Fridolf Hansen Medal: Ocean Sciences. Hannes Alfvén Medal: Solar-Terrestrial Sciences. Hans Geirgjeer Medal: Climate: Past, Present & Future. Henry Deary Medal: Hydrological Sciences. Ian McHugh Medal: Earth and Space Science Informatics. Jean Baptiste Lamarck Medal: Stratigraphy, Sedimentology and Palaeontology. John Dixon Medal: Hydrological Sciences. Julia and Johannes Weertman Medal: Cryospheric Sciences. Julius Barrell Medal: Solar-Terrestrial Sciences. LeRoy Richardson Medal: Nonlinear Processes in Geosciences. 	Division awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Wilhelm Bunsen Medal: Geochemistry, Mineralogy, Petrology & Volcanology. Ranzoni-Floreny Medal: Planetary and Solar System Sciences. Sergiy Soloviev Medal: Soil System Sciences. Stephan Mueller Medal: Tectonics and Structural Geology. Walter Meissner Medal: Geology. Wilhelm Bjerknes Medal: Atmospheric Sciences. Vladimir Ivanovich Vernadsky Medal: Biogeosciences.
General Assembly awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Student Poster and PICO (ISPP) Award Programme groups 	

Long term statistics on EGU Awards & Medals (2014-2019)

Total # of Nominations : EGU has received a total of 975 nominations for the 2014, 2015, 2016 2018 and 2019 Union, Division and OECS medals & awards. % 22.1 of the nominees were female.

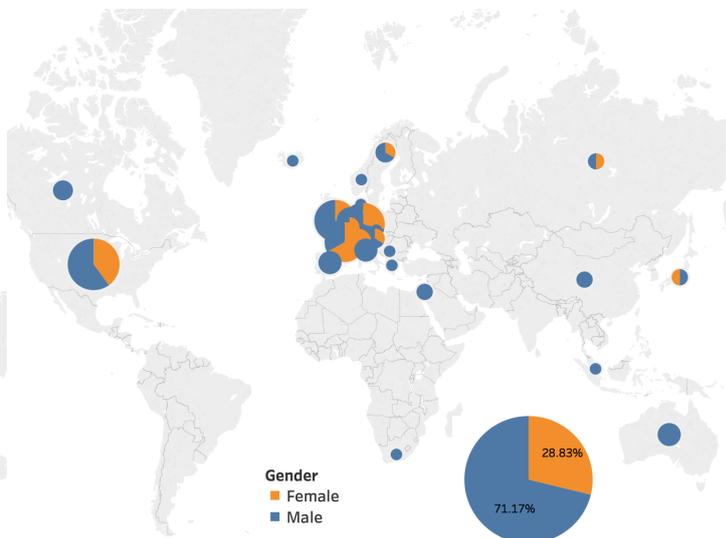
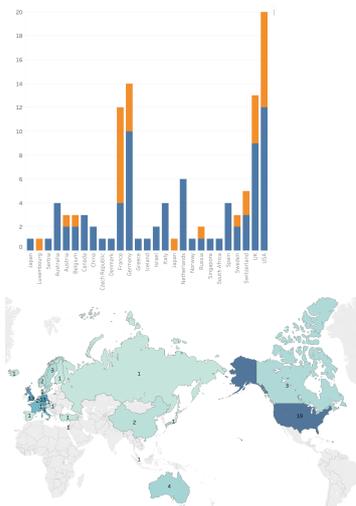


Total # of Medallist and Awardees : EGU has awarded total of 270 medals and awards during the period 2014-2019. % 21.4 of the medallists and awardees were female.

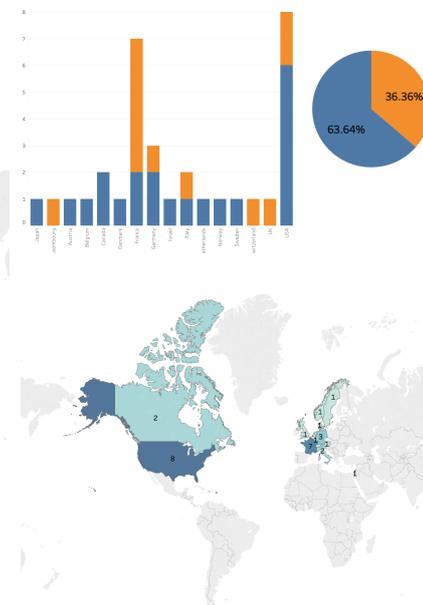


Union & Division Medals 2019 – Geographical distribution and gender equality

NOMINATIONS: EGU has received total of 109 nominations for the Union and Division medals (nominations for OECS Awards are not shown). About 2/3 of the nominations are from the Western Europe, ~ 1/5th from North America. Nominations from Asia and Australia constitute about 10 % of the total. About 30 % of the total nominees are female.

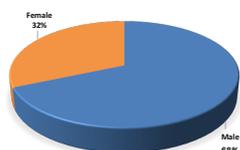


MEDALLISTS: Geographical distribution of 3 Union and 27 Division Medallists are shown in the figure below. The percentage of female medallist is 37 %.



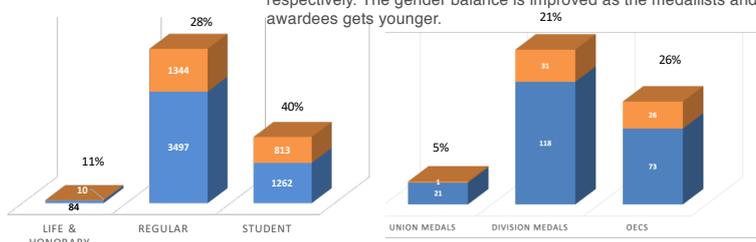
EGU Community

Among EGU members, there is a clear majority of male members. Gender is more balanced among younger EGU members (The numbers are from 2016)



Gender balance & Age

Numbers for awarded union & division medals and OECS awards over the period 2018-2019 are shown below. In 2019, the average age of the recipients were 75 (union), 58 (division) and 35 (OECS), respectively. The gender balance is improved as the medallists and awardees gets younger.



Concluding Remarks

- The EGU data show that there is no bias in the selection process, the statistic are similar for nominees and medallists.
- Majority of nominations are from Western Europe and USA.
- There is a clear majority of male members in the geoscience community. The gender is more balanced among younger EGU members. As the careers of young researchers progress, we should expect improvement in gender balance.
- These numbers draws the attention of the community on the diversity and equal opportunities already at the nominations and candidates.
- Nominations for all the medals and awards are to be submitted online by 15 June of each year (absolute deadline). Check the EGU web pages for further information <https://www.egu.eu/awards-medals/proposal-and-selection-of-candidates>