International Map Year (IMY) is a worldwide celebration of maps and their unique role in our world. IMY is an initiative of the International Cartographic Association (ICA). It is endorsed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

5 easy ways to join IMY celebrations

1. Share your love for maps on social networks #welovemaps
2. Add the IMY logo to your website
3. Check out and share IMY material, especially the book “The World of Maps” – an open publication about cartography available in English, Spanish, French and soon also Chinese and Arabic. Download on mapyear.org
4. Check mapyear.org for information about IMY activities in your country
   > Your nation is not listed yet? Get in contact with your national ICA representative
5. Is your country organizing a National Map Day? Think about ways to support local activities

Join IMY

Until now, over 25 national committees signed up for organizing IMY-related events. Make sure your country is also signed up to make 2015 and 2016 a very special occasion for maps and cartography!

For more information, please contact the IMY Working Group at info@mapyear.org

Let us know

Please share your activities and ideas on mapyear.org. A special page is dedicated to announcing national participation. Your ideas will be added to the website to inspire and inform others.

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What is the International Map Year (IMY?)

The International Map Year is an initiative of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and supported by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

The goal of IMY is to celebrate maps in our lives, their place in society, their role in history, and their importance to our future. IMY is officially opened in August 2015 and will be continued until December 2016.

The International Map Year is for everyone:
- the general public,
- school children,
- teachers
- professionals and
- government agencies and organizations.

Your contributions, through activities to raise awareness and participate, are key to the success of IMY!

Get involved

All nations are asked to set up national committees to coordinate IMY events on a local and national level. The national committee will bring together representatives of national mapping authorities (e.g. topography, geology, hydrography, cadastral, etc.) along with companies, local government and educational organizations.

IMY activities can include ...
- organizing a National Map Day (for details see )
- offering lecture programmes
- organizing map competitions, such as the Barbara Petchenik Children Map Drawing Competition
- organizing map exhibitions

For a list of existing national committees and more ideas for IMY activities visit mapyear.org

National Map Day

One special event that everyone can participate in, is National Map Day. Maps can be featured at local agencies, universities, schools, museums, map archives, and mapping companies. Here, maps can be celebrated for their utility and importance.

Suggested activities for Map Days include ...
- map-related lectures or courses, e.g.:
  - on the history of cartography
  - on map reading and map making
- treasure hunt: find the cache!
- map competitions
- map exhibitions, e.g. at your local library
- map fairs
- open days at your mapping company or institution
- visits to map producing companies or state mapping agencies (national cadastral office, national mapping agency, national hydrographic agency)
- distributions of maps and atlases to the public

Don’t forget to announce your local activities on your national IMY website!