



*The Council of European Geodetic Surveyors*  
*Comité de Liaison des Géomètres Européens*

*The Secretary-General*

FEANI European Federation of National Engineering  
Associations  
f.a. President Eur Ing K. Alexopoulos Dipl.Ing.

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Dear Mr. President,

referring to a FEANI document on common classification for the engineering profession published on 12 December 2004, which has come to CLGE's notice recently, some items concerning the profession of the geodetic surveyor need to be clarified.

Under the European Engineering Discipline Clusters EEDC the cluster Civil Engineering includes among others the profession of the surveyor, to be discussed as interpreted from the question mark.

CLGE, which is the umbrella organisation of European associations representing around 28 000 geodetic surveyors in private and public practice, intends to point out that the profession of the geodetic surveyor is to be considered as an independent one, as well from an academic and professional point of view. This statement is valid not only in Europe but all over the world. The international Federation of Surveyors FIG representing more than 100 professional associations from all parts of the world, has adopted a definition of the surveyor in the last General Assembly in 2004. This declaration defines the surveyor as "a professional person with the academic qualifications and technical expertise to conduct one, or more, of the following activities:

- to determine, measure and represent land, three-dimensional objects, point-fields and trajectories
- to assemble and interpret land and geographically related information
- to use that information for the planning and efficient administration of the land, the sea and any structures thereon
- to conduct research into the above practices and to develop them."

CLGE's definition of the professional comes very close to this wording and as can be seen from the Allan Report deducted from the situation in European countries, ([www.clge.org](http://www.clge.org)) the requirements for academic education and professional qualification for the profession are very high in most of the European states. The professional academical background of the modern geodetic surveyor, the implementation of high technology like satellite images, high

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accurate GPS applications and the use of the modern available equipment in his daily geomatic activities requires to continue with this profession as an own group. As can be derived from the CLGE Market Report, published in 2004, the profession covers a notable market within the European economy.

Due to close links to legal, environmental, social and management aspects of the profession, the prevailing curricula for training professionals are offered in separate courses mainly at Technical Universities and are not part of civil engineering courses at all.

In parallel it can be recognised that professional associations or chambers, where established, responsible for topics touching surveyors' interests are in most cases organised separately from chambers of civil engineers or at least as separate parts of them.

Summarizing these aspects of education, qualification and professional practice CLGE highly recommends **to define an own cluster for surveyors** within the EEDC in order to meet the interests of these professional group.

For further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact CLGE.  
Looking forward to hear from you

Gerda Schennach  
Secretary-General of CLGE

Innsbruck, 15 March 2005