

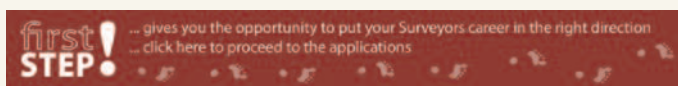
FirstSTEP@clge.eu Report by Pierrick and Ophélie

Several years ago, CLGE has started the 'First STEP' programme. First STEP is an acronym for First Students and Trainees Exchange Programme. The name is also a symbol for the First STEP in professional life, facilitated by experience gathered abroad.

We always have had sufficient candidates from the students and trainees side. However, on the companies' side, we've experienced a lack of commitment. We therefore renew our plea to those companies: join us in our effort to give students or young surveyors a first chance. Within this programme, it's up to both parties to define the conditions for this exchange. Since the hosting of a student brings responsibilities, the payment of the trainees is not a must or at least, it shouldn't be regarded as an insurmountable hurdle.

Hereafter we produce a report of two students who visited the Belgian NGI.

More information can be found on www.clge.eu, follow the First STEP banner or simply contact Michelle Camilleri (Michelle.Camilleri@clge.eu).



First STEP Banner on the CLGE website www.clge.eu

Introduction

In the course of our surveying engineering curriculum at the École Supérieure des Géomètres et Topographes, we carried out a six-week-traineeship at the Belgian Institut Géographique National (IGN) in Brussels.

The IGN premises are located in the old Abbey of La Cambre in the heart of Brussels. The place is very beautiful, with all the buildings surrounded by gardens "à la française". Working in the centre of Brussels, but yet with this natural scenery was quite enjoyable to say the least. (...)

Traineeship report

We had to organise ourselves in order to mark out the area of study, gather information, carry out tests, prepare a report and make an oral presentation.

The update of administrative boundaries by Pierrick:

« Currently, at IGN Belgium there are multiple geographical data-sets concerning administrative boundaries. (...) In addition to the data available at IGN there are also other data providers such as the land registry office, which is currently digitizing its data under the CADMAP-project. All of these data-sets are different from each other, so we had to compare the accuracy of the data and find out which is the closest to reality?

All these factors create representational differences between the geographical databases, which is a problem for both the data producers and the users when it comes to updating (for example extra cost, time loss, etc.).

I started off by creating a state-of-the-art review of Belgian administrative boundaries. Then I examined the existing data sources both within the IGN as well as outside. The core of my study consisted of comparing ITGI's and land registry office's data. I also tried to build updated scenarios for this data. »



Michelle Camilleri Reports about First STEP

The update of hydrographical data by Ophélie:

« This issue needed to be tackled according to various aspects: technical, personnel, funding, and cooperation with the regions. To achieve that, I first evaluated the quality of the Topogeographical inventory of IGN Belgium. Then, I examined the possible solutions for achieving updates and brought forward four scenarios.

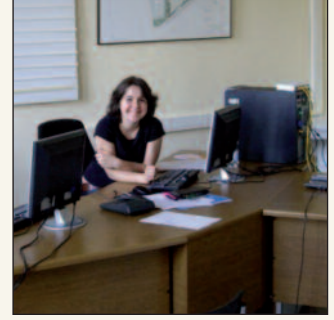
Making geographical information systems (GIS) available requires the definition of metadata, where accurate data is a priority. At present, it is difficult for the IGN to evaluate and above all improve the gaps. At the first stage, I tested the planimetric and altimetric gaps between the reality on the field measured by GPS and IGN's data. Then I calculated the accuracy of test datasets coming from external sources. In Belgium, the IGN is not the only institution producing geographical data. The Walloon and Flemish regions work independently and have their own hydrographical data: the PICC (Projet Informatique de Cartographie Continue) and the VHA (Vlaamse Hydrografische Atlas). Yet, these representations are not



Pierrick Billon at his desk

seamless and the IGN is the only data provider covering the whole territory. So the most recent and, whenever possible, the most accurate data of the regions could be used to update IGN's data. I examined the possibility of updating geodata first by stereoplotting, then using external sources and finally using thalwegs from the DTM. These varied tasks allowed me to meet a lot of people and to have valuable discussions. »(...)

Read the full report on www.clge.eu/trainee_program



Neighbouring Ophélie Petit

Polska Geodezja Komercyjna

The 20th Anniversary of 'Polish Commercial Geodesy'

Geodesy' has celebrated its 20th anniversary in Warsaw. CLGE President Jean-Yves Pirlot assisted to the solemn part of this event and gave a presentation about CLGE's commitment for the profession. It gave us the opportunity to interview Florian Romanowski, who answered our question with enthusiasm. At this very occasion he received the highest distinction for a geodesist from the hands of the Director General of the Polish Mapping and Cadastral Agency.

Tell us more about the Anniversary that you have celebrated on 13 April 2012?

In 1989 in Poland, not only the democratic system started but market lead economy was implemented as well. A lot of new small, private companies appeared in the market-place and additionally the big Regional Land Surveying Companies (until then owned by government) started a privatisation process.

In 1992 the association Polish Commercial Geodesy was established by 14 companies. Now there are 24 members with 2000 employees. One of the conditions to become a member is to be a company having at least 20 employees.

The main reason for establishing such an organization was to solve common problems in tandem with the General Surveyor of Poland and other administrative bodies on central level. Our interest was particularly directed towards the legislative processes. We also took initiatives in facilitating our participation in big GI projects based on European funds.

This 20th anniversary is obviously an occasion for our organisation to show to the whole Polish surveying society and to different administrative bodies, what we have been doing during these years and what we plan for the coming future.

What is the most crucial point to be solved in Polish surveying?

There are a few of them, in my opinion:

- how to be competitive not only in the Polish market-place, but at European level also,
- how to encourage our customers to use advanced technologies in projects: laser scanning (Aerial and terrestrial), photogrammetry,

Geographic Information Systems, etc..

- how to update existing law and standards to modern technologies and organisation forms,
- how to convince our customers that not only the price, but competency and advanced technology are important factors in the tendering processes and should be taken into account,
- how to keep a high level of education in Surveying and GIS Departments of the Technical Universities with regard to the large numbers of students that enter these courses,
- one of the crucial points is the organization of Polish surveying administration. For the time being it is slightly complicated. All assets – the cadastre, maps of all kind and data bases are owned by government, but at the regional and local level the municipalities (on behalf of government) are responsible for operating them. This tends to create a lot of local regulation, and in fact it can lead to a variation in local standards which does not help in managing them. This is particularly apparent when some GIS systems are created. Much time is spent in efforts to harmonize the data sourced from the many regional and local authorities. We, as a surveying society, have been discussing this issue for many years and have strived to define which organisation structure would be the best one.

We have suggested various solutions, taking into consideration how this is managed in different European countries, but the decision is obviously not in our hands.

Is membership of CLGE an important issue for the Polish Commercial Geodesy?

The organizations gathered in CLGE share a lot of common problems. It is much more effective if we can solve them together. The exchange of information among members of CLGE is worth mentioning. There are sev-



eral new members of CLGE from so called "previous socialist countries" where market lead economy is something new. We find that CLGE is an appropriate friendly place for such discussions. We should not forget the interesting technical and organisational issues that we address during the workshops, and the informal contacts.

As Polish Commercial Geodesy is the body representing 24 companies on national level, we recognize CLGE as our representative on the European level. The European Parliament is a place where essential questions for Europe are treated. We, surveyors and GIS specialists, have a deep interest to have influence on what is going on at European Level. Our representatives, Parliament members, should be aware of what our profession means and how we can help Europe to be more competitive on the world arena. We are a relatively small interest group and that is why we have to be better organised than other ones, representing huge and powerful professions.

What are CLGE's most important initiatives in your eyes?

The present CLGE Board is very active and well organized. Its work continues from the work of the previous Board and also takes on interesting new initiatives.

The CLGE Code of Conduct is the basis for the future for all of the organisations gathered in CLGE. In Poland (as in many other countries) we already have a similar "document-CODE". The General Assembly of Polish Commercial Geodesy will have to revisit this issue once more and decide on which level we will endorse this CLGE Code of Conduct (adoption, ratifying, transposition, acknowledgement).

On several occasions we have discussed at the CLGE General Assembly, the problem concerning the mapping of underground services and facilities. In our opinion this is an essential issue in all European countries. About 40 % of city assets are located underground. We believe that now is a good time to start the compilation of a European Cadastre in this

field. CLGE should promote the issuing of a "Directive" at the EU Parliament or Commission level. If such a Directive is issued, then this Cadastre would become Law throughout the EU.

Town municipalities and governments are deeply interested in such information for many purposes but especially for utility management in crisis situations (currently information is spread up in different utility companies but not combined and not standardised). In Poland we started to collect data concerning underground facilities in 1975. That means that we have quite a detailed foundation to start with.

We believe that this work area could be a good solution for those surveyors previously involved in development projects (building, motorways, highways, etc.) where the economic crisis has had the greatest negative effect.

The Day of the European Surveyor (Mercator Day) is a wise initiative of CLGE. During this day we ran national conferences in which we presented talks on topics of interest for surveyors in the present work environment. The main event will be held in a different location each year. This is a good occasion to promote our profession.

What are your plans regarding CLGE in the coming months?

In the coming months our President Mr. Waldemar Klocek will appoint a special team for the Board of Polish Commercial Geodesy devoted for CLGE activities. I will present a report about the last CLGE General Assembly in Edinburgh and discuss various CLGE documents, which will be reviewed for consideration by our organization.

On behalf of our President Mr. Waldemar Klocek, President of Polish Commercial Geodesy, I would like to say a warm thank you to the CLGE president for his presence and address during the 20th Anniversary of our association. That was not only a great honour for us, but it simultaneously emphasised that Polish Commercial Geodesy is an important and valuable member of CLGE.

16 January 1943 – 6 June 2012

In Memoriam – Volkmar Teetzmann

In recent years, CLGE has lost too many delegates. After Marek Ziemak, Félix Peckels and Ain Jögi, it's with deep regret, that we have to announce that our former Vice-president Volkmar Teetzmann has passed away on 6 June 2012.



Our colleague and friend, Volkmar Teetzmann, from Germany, died after a 6 years struggle against illness. He was one of the leading European professional politicians in the last decennia.

Vokmar Teetzmann was former BDVI President (the German association for publicly appointed surveyors), CLGE Vice President, Board member of Geometer Europas.

Amongst other things he was one of the architects of the integration of CLGE with Geometer Europas. He took an essential part in the 10 last years of CLGE's history. In 2010 he was awarded the CLGE Honorary Membership.

In a few months or even weeks, when the first sadness is over, we will remember Volkmar with a smile on our face. He was a real leader, the kind of man you want as your boss. He was extremely committed to his job, very goal driven or focussed on results and always loyal to his people. In my mind, he did not really leave us, since, whenever we're in difficult situations, we will be able to ask ourselves "what would Volkmar do?". In this way he has educated us, he still leads us.

Jean-Yves Pirlot, CLGE President



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