

What IG PARLS stands for?

Maurice Barbieri, chair of IG PARLS takes our questions and explains more about what this lesser-known Interest Group stands for.

What exactly is IG-PARLS?



Maurice Barbieri is president of IGS (Swiss surveyors) and Chairman of IG-PARLS. The picture was taken in Opatija (HR) in June 2010 during the CLGE General Assembly.

The interest group PARLS (Publicly Appointed and Regulated Liberal Surveyors) has emerged from the former « Geometer Europas » founded in the year 1990ties. We are the association of European Private Surveyors working in countries where the state delegates specific roles and responsibilities to the profession. We are members of the European Council of Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE) and based in Brussels, in the House of the European Surveyor and GeoInformation.

What are your goals?

IG-PARLS particularly represents the interests of liberal surveyors within CLGE, who are entrusted with public missions in the field of property guarantee by their country of origin, as employers or entrepreneurs due to their high qualifications as defined by the "Accord Multilatéral" (Multilateral Accord). These liberal surveyors assume personal responsibility and liability and economic independence.

Our goals are to promote the system of the independent surveyor working as a public officer or appointed by the public authority. This public-private partnership exists for many years in certain member countries of IG PARLS (for example in Switzerland the system has been established in 1912, a hundred years exactly!). Others are working to obtain this model as soon as possible.

Surveyors commissioned to perform public functions are thus known in a number of countries, members of the IG PARLS:

in France	as	Géomètre-Expert,
in Germany	as	Öffentlich bestellter Vermessungsingenieur,
in Belgium	as	Géomètre-Expert / Landmeter- Expert,
in Denmark	as	Praktiserende Landinspektør,
in Austria	as	Ingenieurkonsulent für Vermessungswesen,
in Switzerland	as	Patentierter Ingenieurgeometer/ Ingénieur géomètre breveté,
in Luxembourg	as	Géomètre-Officiel,
in Bulgaria	as	Chartered Geodetic Engineer
in Croatia	as	Chartered Geodetic Engineer

Spain has created a section IG-PARLES and has the status of observing member.

With this delegation of functions, States pursue the aim of opening up public functions to competition and reducing costs as well as improving the effectiveness of public registers in the economy. In this context, the appointment of a highly qualified member of the liberal profession is an advantage for citizens in their function as consumers, as they can select their service provider from a pool of competing commissioned individuals, all of whom are on an equal footing. It has been proven historically that the organizational form of the liberal professions, under State supervision in terms of personnel and specialist knowledge, or in self-administration in conjunction with efficiency-based competition, is a very efficient approach. In the above-mentioned countries, there are roughly 4,500 offices with one or several members of the profession and about 2 to 70 staff, organized under the umbrella of the CLGE. Incidentally, the profession is about three hundred years old, originating on the European continent.

This solution has numerous advantages, such as a direct contact with the client, a more balanced distribution of surveyors throughout the national territory, public procurement procedures for the awarding of important mandates, the obligation to maintain a high level of competences and of training. However, this presupposes a properly functioning organization to manage the controlling and follow-up of the different files between the private and the public sector. It must be emphasized that mixed systems do also exist (surveyors working as civil servants or independent professionals).



Maurice Barbieri, Jean-Yves Pirlot, CLGE President and Branko Klecovic, President of the Croatian Chamber of Chartered Geodetic Engineers, on the occasion of the signature of the multilateral accord by Croatia

What is the Multilateral Accord?

On November 23, 2004, the then 7 member countries of « Geometer Europas » decided to sign a multilateral accord. They were later joined by 8 other countries, making it a total of 15 CLGE member countries which are signatories today.

The signatory associations aim for high qualifications for the admission to the profession of European Surveyor and agree on a procedural modus for ensuring unimpeded migration of members of the profession.

Why does this accord exist?

Regulations relating to entry to the profession vary from one country to another; however they are very similar and are in terms of their nature essentially of the same kind.



Obtaining the necessary qualification involves, apart from an academic course of study for surveyors (preferably Bac + 5U), the following general fields of study:

- Administrative law,
- Land law,
- Building and planning law.

University education provides a widely available and comparatively equivalent defined knowledge base. Hence it has not been problematic to-date to perform straightforward surveying techniques in a cross-border context (for a non-commissioned surveyor or a surveying technician). This happens very often.

The training required for public tasks thus relates to practice and legal issues arising in the particular national legal system. It is therefore very difficult to exercise the public functions of a commissioned surveyor on a cross-border basis. The regulatory situation on the one hand and the de facto impossibility of mastering two legal systems in sufficient professional depth on the other hand have precluded this to-date, not to speak of other formal obstacles.

Nonetheless, the situation in the sector is in a constant state of evolution, the legal systems are being investigated mutually and knowledge is disseminated transnationally across borders, not least by international associations such as CLGE. In addition, the EU is moving slowly in the direction of a harmonization of laws, which also presupposes mutual understanding as a prerequisite.

As this is of major importance economically, the initiative of the signatory associations also aims to make professional knowledge more transparent in a legal and technical context and to draw up common European positions in this field. The larger the amount of common European knowledge grows, the sooner universities and training institutions will be able to take it into account. This makes it easier for those entering the profession to benefit from the possibility of working in a European country of their choice, with all well-known associated economic advantages. This likewise serves to achieve a gradual harmonization of systems, which will be to the benefit of the European population.

The signatory associations aim for high admission qualifications to the profession of European Surveyor and agree on a procedural modus to ensure unimpeded migration of members of the profession:

Training as a Graduated Engineer (Bac + 5) in Surveying or Master is recognized automatically as an educational foundation. In addition, each candidate should acquire necessary country-specific extra qualifications in the area of Administrative law, Land law and Building and planning law. Qualifications for entrance requirements shall then be based on a common, general platform:

Diploma-engineer / European Master (BAC + 5U) + 2R/P + E

Legend:

- BAC + 5U: Baccalaureat (secondary school) + 5-years of studies at a university / technical university
- P: On-the-job training in law and work practice in the respective country after university studies
- R: compulsory monitored experience prior to the state examination (two years)
- E: Final Examination

Please describe us your activities?

We are present each time a national association requests it, for instance to present the existing solutions for the management of the in rem juridicam in the member countries or concerning our efforts aimed at the optimization of the services in this area and the increase of the tasks entrusted to the surveyor. We also try to make our voice heard at European level.

And what are your on-going projects?

We are currently revising the Multilateral Accord text in order to simplify it and to propose it for signing to other countries, the main aim being to maintain the high quality of our services. At the same time, we help CLGE to elaborate a dynamic Professional Knowledge Base over Europe for our profession and provide support for other projects. We are also active in several countries such as Spain and Croatia to provide our support to the local associations.

REMINDER: Take part in the 3rd CLGE Conference of the European Surveyor, 11 October 2012 in Hanover, Germany.

http://www.intergeo.de/en/Registration_online.html

Landmark ruling by the Highest Court in Belgium

The Belgian CLGE Non Profit Member Association OBGE asbl, reports that it has obtained a landmark ruling by the Highest Court in April 2012 (www.obge-bole.be look for "Agent"). The text is available in Flemish, French and German, the three Belgian national languages).

A Flemish Decree was under scrutiny after complaints by architects and real estate agents considering it as discriminatory against their professions. Since December 2010, the Flemish municipalities and other local bodies have had the opportunity to appoint private sworn-in surveyors to perform valuations of real estate properties that the public authorities want to purchase or sell. This was challenged by associations and individuals of the above mentioned professions. The Highest Court has rejected their complaints and thereby confirmed the Flemish Decree.

The judges have based their decision on a very detailed analysis including following points:

Surveyors are well educated and trained to perform these tasks

They are sworn-in and this is an interesting asset

Additionally they offer the highest guarantees of independence and impartiality

It goes without saying that this ruling is very important not only for the Flemish but also for all the Belgian surveyors. It may also have some European implications, since this is a very significant and interesting precedent for our profession.

Therefore, it is important that such information is spread amongst the profession, and brought to the knowledge of lawmakers at the EU and national levels.

Francis Gäbele, Surveyor, Belgian Delegate.



100 Years of cadastral surveying in Switzerland

Established 100 years ago, the official Cadastral Survey of Switzerland is a collective undertaking of the confederation, the cantons, the municipalities and of the private sector. Together, these different actors map out the parcels of land and their position. The limits and location of the buildings, as well as river alignments and forest edges are thus defined. The official cadastral survey makes an important contribution to secure more than 750 billion of mortgage credits in Switzerland, particularly thanks to a private-public partnership, whose foundations were defined 100 years ago!

Every beginning is difficult

We must go back to the 17th century to trace the most ancient large-scale maps, which laid out the premises of cadastral surveying. One hundred years later, the realization of a cadastral survey covering the entire country was discussed for the first time at a political level. This idea, however, has not materialized due to the brevity of the Helvetic Republic (April 12, 1798, to March 10, 1803). At the beginning of the 19th century, the official survey even ended up in the hands of Napoleon's geographers. From the 1860's onward, a great number of institutions carried out measurements in Switzerland by their own means and for their own account. The standardization at the federal level was made possible only after the year 1889, when the legislative authority was passed over to the Confederation. However, the real official cadastral survey began only in 1912.

Discreet and reliable

Many evolutions have marked the century of existence of the official cadastral survey. While at the beginning many actors worked in isolation and independently from each other, the extremely smooth collaboration between the various administrative departments at all levels and the private sector is a source of pride today. Computers have now replaced the drawing boards and modern technology has considerably simplified surveying data access for the final customer. One thing that hasn't changed over the years is the fact that the official cadastral survey carries out its task reliably and without great fanfare.

100-year anniversary in 2012

Cadastral surveying in Switzerland is celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2012. This is to mark the enactment of the Swiss Civil Code in 1912, which established a nationally standardized land registration and cadastral surveying system, unifying the former diverse cantonal and regional solutions into one system. For all the participants, such as the Federal Office of Topography,



Commemorative Post stamp

the IGS (Swiss Surveyors Engineers) and the association of the Swiss cantons, the anniversary is an ideal opportunity to take a look into the future as well as to remember the past with a centennial publication and special commemorative postage stamp and jigsaw.

Centennial publication

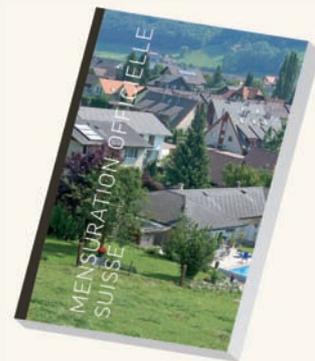
The 100-year anniversary is an ideal opportunity to take a look back and into the future:

More than 30 authors contributed to our centennial publication.

On 144 pages readers get to know cadastral surveying of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

The publication is available in German, French, and Italian

Order: www.cadastre.ch/2012 > Shop



Official celebrations

Celebrations have started on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at Federation Square in Berne

The official 'Day of Cadastral Surveying' was held on Saturday, May 12, 2012 with events in all 26 Swiss cantons.

An overview of all activities, further information and order forms for the jigsaw and publication, are available at www.cadastre.ch/2012/ or from infovd@swisstopo.ch.



View of the Federation Square in Bern with the jigsaw



View of the Parliament Building in Bern