



Welcome address of Jean-Yves Pirlot, CLGE President, during the Opening Ceremony of the IV International Training Course in Topography for young Surveyors

Dear Young Surveyors,

Dear Colleagues and Distinguished Guests,

It is a real pleasure and honor for me, to open this IV International Training Course in Topography for Young Surveyors, together with my international colleagues and friends.

As last year, I would like to use the full title of this event as the framework of my short address.

Forth: Forth means that there is continuity.

Therefore, in the name of CLGE, I sincerely want to thank President Fausto Savoldi and his teams. We especially thank the Consiglio Nazionale Geometre e Geometri Laureati as well as GeoWeb for this excellent initiative and their long lasting commitment.

Both organizations are essential in the preparation of this excellent course.

Of course, I also thank the local COITT (*Colegio Oficial de Ingenieros Técnicos en Topografía de España*) for its excellent support, led by their Decano Andrés Díez Galilea, the local President, Ana Belén Bello and Pedro Ortiz Toro, their international delegate, who is also CLGE Vice president for Communications and Social Media.

We, i.e. CLGE, hope that the course has a future and I can confirm that CLGE is ready to give its full support to ensure this future.

International!: this part is important too.

Surveyors are bound to the soil, they tend to act and think locally. However, as we've heard in other addresses, we strongly believe that surveyors play an essential role in addressing the challenges faced by humanity, and those challenges are global, as we know. So surveyors have to act locally but they have to think globally.

Hence, we have to cooperate in a global, regional and local way and our associations have to act in that way. For instance, it makes no sense to duplicate efforts or worse to compete. We cannot afford it to create several Young Surveyors Networks at the CLGE and EGoS level, while it already exists at the FIG level. It must be clear that we are regional branches of the "global movement".

Training Course in Topography: an obvious part!

Students leaving university know very well that they enter a career of lifelong learning. You need continued professional development to remain competitive, but not only for that reason, you also owe this continuous update to your clients and to the society.



This was written in the European Code of Conduct accepted by the European Bodies and posted on the website of the European Economic and Social Committee. Please read this document carefully once you're home after your participation in this training course and make sure that you and your colleagues behave as it is stipulated in this code¹.

... for Young Surveyors: that's what it's all about.

My definition of young is everything below 51 years ... but I must admit that this definition moves as I grow older ;-) ... But of course, we will stick to the FIG definition of a Young Surveyor i.e. less than 36 years.

When it comes to the 'Surveyor', the definition question is even more difficult as our profession is very diverse all over Europe and worldwide it's more than probably even worse!

Therefore, CLGE has launched a very ambitious project called Dynamic Professional Knowledge Base. With this project we hope to define the profession and to create a tool that allows us to learn from each other.

To reach our goals, we need to appear on the radar of policy makers and of the general public. This is not easy and I could speak for hours about the initiatives CLGE is taking in that field. But I will concentrate on a few examples where you, as young surveyors, could help us.

So, I will give you some examples of how we plan to raise profile with your help:

The Day of the European Surveyors and GI. This year it was on 5 March 2012. Next year, and there you see that we think global, it will be during the US Surveyors week on 22nd March 2013. While we've honored Mercator this year, we will soon decide who will be the next venerated surveyor. Please spread the word and engage yourself in the national activities that will be taken by your national associations.

The European Students Meeting (every three years starting from 2009, 2012, etc.) and the CLGE students' contest (every year from 2012 onwards) in three categories: Topography/Geodesy, Mapping/GIS and Students and youngsters' engagement. More details to follow on the CLGE website. For this year's edition, papers had to be posted before the 15th July. We had a lot of applications, but we have not yet given the prizes – the two first of the three planned awards will be handed over at the Second International Students Meeting in Hanover on 10 October 2012. The third category will be extended to the young surveyors, since they can also show us the way to improve this topic.

Our idea is to get a closer link between young surveyors and the bodies that govern the professional development. We acknowledge that young surveyors should take part in shaping their professional future.

¹ <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/self-and-coregulation/documents/codes/private/137-private-act.pdf>
and <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.fr.self-and-co-regulation-enter-the-database>



The use of Social Media

We are active in the on-line GeoInformatics magazine (every European Surveyor can register for a free hard copy subscription on www.geoinformatics.com/CLGE), an E-Newsletter will follow soon, we are present on twitter and LinkedIn. We ask you all to join us on this media and follow CLGE and CLGEPresident.

Please, when you go home, spread the word that we need the commitment of all surveyors for the future of our beautiful and proud profession.

Be aware that during this course you are building a network of collegiality and friendship that you will never forget.

... and keep in mind, we have to build on this for the best future of the Surveying Profession.

Jean-Yves Pirlot
President

Madrid, 17 September 2012