



**Code of professional qualifications
of
Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyors**

Report
(dynamic)
www.clge.eu/ig-parls



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0. Preamble

This Report is a dynamic explanatory report with national presentations supporting the "Code of professional qualifications of Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyors" – established by IG-PARLS (Interest Group of Publicly Appointed and Regulated Liberal Surveyors), a fractionally legally non autonomous organization of CLGE.

CLGE is the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors.

The basic purpose and mission of the association is:

- 1) to represent and promote the interests of the geodetic surveying profession in the private and public sector in Europe
- 2) to enhance the development of the profession administratively, educationally and scientifically, to facilitate training, continuous professional development and mutual recognition, and to promote the activities of geodetic surveyors as a highly qualified profession.

The IG-PARLS especially represent the interests of liberal surveyors within CLGE who are entrusted with public missions in the field of property guarantee by their country due to high professional qualifications assuming personal responsibility and liability, economic independence, high ethics and security for the customers/the society.

The multiplicity of public laws, legal effects and private rights relating to land and property calls for comprehensive technical and legal knowledge on the part of members of the profession of Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyors.

To assure a high common European professional level to the issues related to cadaster, property and land executed by the profession of Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyors this "Code of professional qualifications of Publicly Appointed and Licensed Surveyors" is developed and adopted. The Code lists requirements and recommendations on the professional performance by recommending necessary high professional claims, educational qualifications and other professional prerequisites and skills – all adopted by consensus in IG-PARLS

The major parts of this code define in general the same skills required by surveyors executing the same activities in relation to land and property under State management.

"Code of professional qualifications of Publicly Appointed and Licensed Surveyors" renew parts of "Multilateral Accord" issued by GE (Geometer Europas) in 2004 and adopted by CLGE/IG-PARLS by the merger of CLGE and GE in 2010.

1. The Profession – Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyors

1.1 Characteristics of the Profession

Due to different national organization of legal systems of cadaster, property and land management (consisting of legislation, state structures, roles and responsibilities, data structure and actors involved) it is not possible to give one exact description of a Publicly Appointed and Licensed Surveyor who is covering the profession in all CLGE member countries nor IG-PARLS member countries. But there may be common overall characteristics of the Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyors, which binds the profession together at European level.

This characteristic of surveyors entrusted with technical and cadastral works concerning legal systems of cadaster, property and land management can in general be described in the following illustration of the professional profile and common professional identity of surveyors.



Fundamentally the professional work of the surveyor is associated to “the location” and especially to knowledge about “the location”. “The location” must be interpreted very broadly from the exact fixed point, to the boundary mark, to the land parcel and to larger geographic areas.



1. The Profession – Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyors cont.

Depending on the professional role and function of the surveyor, the value-added activity to varying degrees consists of mapping, consulting/advisory, management and development in relation to geographic locations.

The surveyors work unfolds in a space of technical, legal, planning, economic and design disciplines, all based primarily on handling specific legislation and management of localized geographic spatial data. This broad professional profile also provides excellent skills for handling interdisciplinary problems.

The following description of the Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyors is based on the general characteristics of the profile of the surveying profession.

1.2 The public function and professional role

Basically means “publicly appointed” and “licensed” that the surveyors are entrusted with an exercise of official authority having the professional authority to perform a number of special work either as a publicly authority on behalf of a publicly authority – a public mission under legislative and professional regulation.

The Publicly Appointed Liberal Surveyors “mainly act as the state” in the cadastral process.

The Licensed Liberal Surveyors “mainly act on behalf of the state” in the cadastral proces - a service in a public private partnership. They are both acting in a Liberal profession.

The activities connected with public missions in the field of cadastral, property and land management in relation to the profession are attached to basic infrastructural issues of the European states relating to trustworthiness and reliability of these legal systems and registers. The activities differs in the European countries but includes fundamental registration and changes in the cadastral register, property register and land register, based on determination of boundaries of property, and management of property and land rights.

When the Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyors are carrying out public authority through their works, society must set requirements for the professional practice. There must be an expectation and a requirement to high professional claims and disciplines connected to the profession, assured by high academic educations, by disciplinary regulations and ethical codes of national associations, by legal authorization and national regulation. Furthermore their works are done under personal responsibility and business economic independence.



2. Professional qualifications and prerequisites

2.1 Education level

To ensure a high professional level of expertise in the professional task performance the educational background of the surveyor must rely on a highly scientifically academic level – 3Bachelor + 2Master in surveying science (Surveying & Mapping, Geoinformatics, Land Management, Property Economics).

2.2 Professional practice

To be Publicly Appointed or to achieve License to perform regulated publicly work related to cadastral, property and land management the surveyor must complete and document a number of years – 2/3 practical supervised training in practice with the relevant demanding work. The appointment and license is issued upon application and documentation of national authorities.

2.3 Continuing Professional Development

To ensure a consistently high and updated professional level of work and knowledge of the Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyor, mandatory continuing education is required. Ongoing training must be documented and a certain ECTS-level is also required for continuing receipt of appointment or license.

3. Professional business and disciplinary requirements

3.1 Insurance obligation

To protect customers against financial loss as a result of work carried out by a Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyor and their employees it shall be mandatory for the surveyor to be covered by professional indemnity insurance, which must be personal. The insurance shall be valued at a sufficiently high value

3.2 Board of appeal

To secure a public control and verification of the work carried out by a Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyor and their employees an independent public board, which is appointed by the Minister under the rules of surveying law, has to be set. The Surveying Board deals with complaints about practicing surveyors for their professional execution, which requires appointment or license as surveyor. It is first and foremost about cadastral work. The Board also handle and take disciplinary decisions in complains of negligence in performing other work which under the law must be performed by a Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyor by appointment, as well as complaints about working as normal and natural carried out by surveyors.

The Surveying Board assesses land surveyor work in order to decide whether the surveyor in the performance thereof has failed to fulfill its obligations to such an extent that there is a basis to assign the surveyor a penalty in the form of a reprimand or a fine, and when special circumstances is to deprive publicly appointment or license.

3.3 Disciplinary board

To ensure a high professional quality of the work performed by a Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyor and to consumer protection there must be established an internal Disciplinary Board that can handle a consumer appeal of a performed work - both in terms of technical quality, price and performance. The Board shall, at the request of a complaint hear the case and give opinion. The Board shall have the power to reprimand surveyor, to impose fines and exclude a member from the internal association of liberal surveyors.

3.4 Ethical codes

To ensure a high ethical standard of the work carried out by a Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyor and their employees, their work must be based on the evaluation of an internal code of ethics which describes the rules for the surveyors handling of the customer and of the case, including inform of the progress and orientation of cost development over to the Agreement.



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Code of professional qualifications

3. Professional business and disciplinary requirements cont.

The ethical codes surveyor shall be governed by also includes the common European document "Code of Conduct of European Surveyors" issued by CLGE ¹.

¹ <http://www.clge.eu/documents/events/CLGE%20GE%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20for%20European%20Surveyors.pdf>



4. CLGE application of the code

Primarily this code are related to nations or organizations in countries where Publicly Appointed and Licensed Liberal Surveyors are acting in the field of cadastral, property and land management systems in a publicly mission – members of IG-PARLS under CLGE.

CLGE may generally use this Code to enhance the development of the profession, to facilitate training, continuous professional development and mutual recognition, and to promote the activities of geodetic surveyors as a highly qualified profession. And at the same time it may be a letter of intent for other nations and organizations in relation to professional performance of cadastral work, property an land management.

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