



# GeoSkills Plus project

**Initiated by the Dutch Geo Employment Market Foundation (SAGEO), GeoSkills Plus is an ambitious project aiming to match labour market needs with the geo education offer in Europe. In order to address this issue a consortium was formed by partners from Belgium, Bulgarian, Lithuania, the Netherlands and two European branch organizations, CLGE and EuroGeo.**

*Paula Dijkstra, Project Manager*

## Project Description

Geo Skills Plus is a European Commission funded project under the DG Education and Culture, Leonardo da Vinci programme. It began in October 2013 and will run until October 2015.

The aim of this two-year project is to enable European countries to exchange best practices and innovation with each other regarding the mismatch between Europe's geospatial vocational education and training and the geospatial labour market. Especially in Western Europe, there is a growing need for well-trained students at all levels – vocational, bachelors, masters – in the field of geospatial technologies. This is due to a growing number of jobs available in land surveying, mapping data collection, data processing, data delivery and turning data into information.

As the number of jobs increases, the GEO education community has to be able to keep pace and produce enough qualified graduates. The project will host activities such as workshops, roundtables, surveys and desktop studies, which will all involve the European GEO community.

## CLGE General Assembly

CLGE, as promoter of the geodetic surveying profession in Europe, is one of the dissemination partners and, together with EuroGeo, the association for European Geographers, they will emphasise the need for all partners to take an active role in spreading the outcomes of the project in their own spheres and countries. They will use their own network to provide input for the project and to disseminate the results. The involvement of two European branch organizations is an efficient way of produc-



ing a multiplier effect for the project within Europe.

In March 2014 the General Assembly for the CLGE took place in Marbella, Spain. Part of the meeting was a workshop about GeoSkills Plus to inform the participants about the project and to discuss the project in relation to the situation in their country. During the workshop the three work packages of the project were addressed:

- Bridging the Gap: What are the challenges towards meeting the needs of the labour market?
- Raising Awareness: What has been done so far in Europe?
- Cooperation Model: Who are the key players who need to take responsibility in order to improve the geospatial labour market?

In each of the sessions we asked the CLGE delegates to describe the current situation in their countries related to the work packages. The participants, all geodetic surveying professionals, specified the challenges they face in meeting the needs of the labour market.

Two type of gaps were identified. In several Western European countries there are not enough well trained students available to enter the labour market. In Eastern European countries they have too many graduates in the field each year. Both gaps require different approaches in order to balance the relation between the labour market and the educational institutes.

To bridge the gaps and to encourage enrolment and promotion of the sector several awareness- raising activities were deployed. These activities focused not only on students and graduates, but also on young children in primary school. A good example of this is an initiative carried out in Switzerland, where a book for small children was published about jobs in the geo sector with attractive illustrations and explanations. In Denmark a branding campaign for 'land inspektøren' was launched. In major Danish cities posters have been placed at bus stops to try to attract people to a website and social media so that they can gain more information about the job opportunities as surveyor.

Finally, the cooperation between stakeholders was discussed. It appeared that in some countries the cooperation between the labour market, education sector and government was non-existent or only incidental. In countries where there are too many students or a big demand in skills, the stakeholders need to take responsibility to work towards a solution. In Sweden, for instance, there have been regular meetings between companies, government and educational institutes taking place regularly for the last 10 years. And due to the collaboration between stakeholders in Finland the curricula at universities have been changed. The contribution of the CLGE delegates is important to understand the different situations in Europe. It contains valuable information with examples on how the mismatch between the labour market and the education sector is addressed, how stakeholders responded to these challenges and what kind of awareness raising activities were developed.

### First results

The information is collected in a report which will be part of the project results. The shared insights can speed up practical implementation and improve skills for geospatial vocational education and training in Europe and encourage cooperation between education institutes and the labour market.

On 21st – 22nd May, during a two day workshop in Harderwijk, the Netherlands, the initial results of the project will be presented. Together with representatives from the education sector, (intern) national associations and the industry, the results will be discussed and further elaborated. The recommendations will be used to develop implementation plans to exchange best practices and to provide an infrastructure to improve skills for geospatial vocational education and training throughout Europe.

# IPMS Moves a Step Closer

**The International Property Measurement Standards Coalition gets additional support. On 17th March 2014 CLGE donated the Intellectual Property of the European Measurement Code to the coalition.**

*Richard Stokes, IPMS-Communications Officer*



**A** new, internationally adopted method for measuring space came a step closer to realisation last month when the International Property Measurement Standards Coalition (IPMSC) met in London to discuss implementation and launch plans. The standard, which is out for consultation (online) until 4th April will be implemented by member organisations of the IPMSC from June 2014 onwards.

The IPMS Coalition is comprised of 39 (and

growing) professional and not-for-profit organisations from around the world, including CLGE, RICS, BOMA International, FIG, and the IMF. Launched at a meeting at the World Bank in Washington in May 2013, the Coalition has come together to address one of the most fundamental challenges facing the built environment profession – the inconsistency in how space is measured from one region to the next.

The IPMS Coalition will first tackle inconsistency in the way office floor areas are measured.

By the end of the year a draft standard for measuring residential property will be issued for consultation, followed shortly after by a draft standard for retail property.

Currently, property measurement methodologies vary considerably. In some parts of the world it is common to include stairwells and outside parking in floor area measurements. In other parts of the world hypothetical space (i.e. floors not yet constructed) are included. In some markets, measurements are based on the volume of air-conditioned air space.



Within each region these measurement standards may operate perfectly well. However, in an increasingly globalised world where companies, professionals and building owners operate across different markets, these inconsistencies can, at best, lead to confusion in the interpretation of space and, at worst, completely undermine the data which feeds into valuations and financial reporting.

At their recent meeting in London (19th-21st February), Coalition organisations discussed plans for launching the new standard in June 2014, working with professionals and commercial organisations to raise awareness of the benefits of using IPMS. The standard, which will be jointly owned by trustee representatives of all Coalition organisations will be open-access and is expected to be implemented over the course of several months.

The London meeting also marked a major development as Coalition trustees outlined plans to create separate coalitions aimed at bringing consistent international standards in other sectors of the profession, including construction and ethics. The ultimate aim remaining consistent – to create internationally adopted best-practice standards, which promote transparency and consistency to all.

Whilst Coalition member organisations share the Intellectual Property

for IPMS, the work to draft the new standard has been the responsibility of an independently appointed Standards Setting Committee of 19 experts from 5 different continents. This group has reviewed measurement methodologies from around the world to arrive at the new IPMS. A major factor, which has contributed to the success of the Standards Setting Committee to date, has been the gifting of a recently ratified Europe-wide measurement standard, which has been handed to the Coalition from the originating organisation, CLGE.

The European standard had already sought to align measurement practices across EU states and, in doing so, made huge inroads in establishing a common international methodology. On 17th March 2014 a formal ceremony was held to transfer ownership of the CLGE's European measurement code to the IPMSC. Not only does this symbolise the collegiate environment within which IPMS is emerging as global best practice, it demonstrates beyond any doubt that the IPMSC's endeavour is wholly focused on creating consistent and transparent processes for the benefit of the profession as a whole, separate from any one professional organisation.

More information on the IPMS and the IPMS Coalition can be found online at: [www.ipmsc.org](http://www.ipmsc.org).

# SAVE THE DATE

**October 7-8 2014**

**Berlin, Germany**

*Tuesday 7th October 2014*

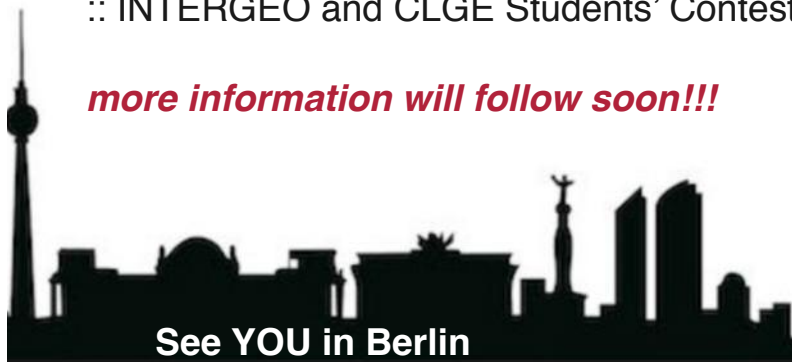
:: 2nd FIG Young Surveyors European Meeting

:: CLGE Students Meeting

*Wednesday 8th October 2014*

:: INTERGEO and CLGE Students' Contest awarding

***more information will follow soon!!!***



**See YOU in Berlin**

