



# Two brand new Presidents answer our questions

**Maurice Barbieri, incoming CLGE president and Rudolf Kolbe, incoming CEPLIS president, as well as the CLGE vice president, have agreed to talk to us about their priorities in the coming election period.**

*Maurice Barbieri and Rudolf Kolbe*



The first meeting of the incoming Executive Board, in Villars sur Ollon (CH). Eva-Maria Unger (AT – Young Surveyors European Network), Dieter Seitz (DE – Treasurer), Mairolt Kakko (EE – VP), Duncan Moss (UK – VP), Maurice Barbieri (CH – President), Nicolas Smith (FR – VP), Danko Markovinović (HR – VP), first row: Pekka Halme (FI – VP) and Vasile Chiriac (MD, Secretary General)

38

## Interview with Maurice Barbieri, CLGE President

**GeoInformatics:** Maurice Barbieri, it's six months since you became the new President of the CLGE, could you tell us about yourself?

**MB:** I'm 52 years old (just like the CLGE), a Swiss and Italian national. I'm a rural engineer. I graduated from the Technical School of Zurich and have been working as a Publicly Appointed Surveyor in Switzerland since 1988. I was a member of the Ex-Board of the Swiss Association of Chartered Surveyors for 15 years (6 years as President). For the last six years, I have been the delegate for Switzerland within the CLGE.

**GeoInformatics:** You were elected in September last year; there were significant changes in the Ex-Board of the CLGE...

**MB:** Yes, indeed! Six of the eight members are new on the Ex-Board. With 5 vice presidents



*Maurice Barbieri*

and a VP for special affairs, it is now possible to cover all the regions of Europe. Apart from France, Germany and the UK, we now have Ex-Board members from Moldova, Estonia, Finland and Croatia. We also have a representative of the FIG Young Surveyors European Network on the board.

**GeoInformatics:** Have you already discussed the guidelines for your strategy for the coming years?

**MB:** Our main statement remains the same and is that the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE) is the leading representational body for the Surveying Profession in Europe. The traditional goals of our association are:

- taking part in the legislative process governing the exercise of the Surveying Profession at European and national levels;
- building a professional image of the European of Surveyor, which will be recognized

- by the relevant national government as well as the EU;
- motivating young surveyors to become active within their national associations and CLGE;
- ensuring that the CLGE members are satisfied with the performance of our Council.

Great efforts were made during the last Presidency to achieve these goals and they remain valid for the foreseeable future.

After the election in Reykjavik, we started a workshop to establish strategic goals and we identified important additional goals for the future:

**The future of the profession:** This means, for instance, protecting our profession, self-regulation and lobbying, but also popularization of the profession. We are currently working on self-regulation projects and, at the same time, taking a position against the deregulation trend in Europe. Additionally we are involved in the creation of social projects, such as Blueparking (see Geoinformatics xx).

**Professional Practice:** To be achieved by sharing experiences and working for standardization and guidance. It also means being open to new trends and technologies and ensuring a presence in European Projects. Networking with other bodies is also of great importance.

**Education:** We are already engaged in projects like GeoSkills+ and want an efficient University Network to ensure the education of our future members.

A significant aim of the group is to attract well-educated people in order to ensure high quality standards in our profession. Our Interest Group, IG PARLS (Interest Group of Publicly Appointed or Regulated Liberal

Surveyors) is currently formulating a 'letter of intent' regarding this, which will be signed by all CLGE Members.

### **Geoinformatics: What about the future of the profession?**

**MB:** Our members represent the cadastral, geodetic, G.I. and measurement practices of all our 36 member countries. There are liberal surveyors, chartered private surveyors, but also civil servants, with a whole host of professionals in between. This means that we represent a huge variety of cadastre practices. Even in Switzerland, you can find different practices from district to district. This may infer that finding a unified solution may prove challenging, but regardless of this, we still have to protect every single system in every single country. It is evident that the future of our profession requires that we are present in all the myriad sectors where measurement technologies are needed.

### **Geoinformatics: What about your collaboration with other European bodies?**

**MB:** We are trying to participate as members within all European Associations with an interest in our profession, such as PCC (Permanent Cadastre Committee of the EU), WPLA (Working Party on Land Administration of UN/UNECE), but also FIG (International Federation of Surveyors) and IPMS (International Property Measurement Standard Coalition). As you can see, we have a lot of work ahead...

**Geoinformatics: Thank you for this first interview M. Barbieri, others will surely follow ...**

# Interview with Rudolf Kolbe, CLGE Vice President and CEPLIS President

**Geoinformatics: Rudolf Kolbe, in January 2015 you became President of the European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS), congrats. You are also Vice-President of CLGE. How do the two functions work together?**

**RK:** Very well, actually. The current challenges for Liberal Professional Chartered Geodetic Surveyors in the European Union are in many cases very similar to those of colleagues from other liberal professions. CLGE, as an active member of CEPLIS, is very aware of the importance of joining forces with other professions - especially in order to raise public awareness and recognition within political circles. This is important to ensure high quality liberal professional services throughout Europe. CEPLIS has a very good network within the European Institutions. This is the basis of any professional lobbying work and is, therefore, essential for CLGE as well.

**Geoinformatics: Any practical examples of common priorities of CEPLIS and CLGE for this year?**

**RK:** Just think about the problem of professional "deregulation". The European Commission's evaluations of the national implementations of the Services Directive as well as its "Transparency Initiative" based on the new Professional Qualifications Directive are serious threats for our national professional regulations. There is a high danger of infringement procedures that could result in the abolishment of a number of important national professional regulations. Although it is legally possible to justify such regulations with overriding reasons of general interest - and this is especially relevant for liberal professional services - the Commission's interpretation of "general interest" has become so narrow that it can hardly be used as a justification reason at all any more. So finding ways to handle this difficult situation is a core interest



for CLGE, for CEPLIS – and for many other professional organisations as well.

Apart from this, the national implementation of the new Professional Qualifications Directive, due in January 2016, is certainly another common priority for both organisations. The Directive contains a number of new approaches relevant for the mobility of liberal professions: the establishment of Common Training Frameworks or Common Training Tests with the possibility of achieving “automatic recognition” for professions like geodetic surveyors - which are currently still under the more complicated general recognition regime - is a challenge as well as a chance. The same applies to the simplification of professional recognition procedures by way of electronic “professional cards”.

### **Geoinformatics: What are your personal priorities within the CLGE?**

**RK:** Currently I represent the CLGE in the International Ethics Standards Coalition because I think that this is an important initiative. Creating international standards for professions working in land, property and construction will further help to improve consistency across these professions and improve confidence globally with clients and stakeholders. It will also help those who provide their services internationally and might even increase the willingness of professionals to do this. The interest is high and, to date, almost 40 organisations have signed the Charter and are willing to participate in this standardization work. In addition to the benefits from the standards themselves, benefits will also arise from cooperation and networking during the standardization process. Of course, the benefits of such standards very much depend on how an organisation and its members use them: if standards are well promoted they can become a seal of quality, even an effective measure of marketing.

### **Geoinformatics: Many of these participating organisations have their own ethical codes or standards. Will a global standard overrule them all?**

**RK:** Not necessarily. Such a global approach can only define a common and necessary minimum. It is, of course, possible to go beyond that and it will often be necessary to consider different regional requirements. Of course, in some cases, it might be necessary to adapt already existing standards and codes to the newly defined common minimum. You can compare the correlation between the IES and the standards/ethical codes of the participating member organisations to the correlation between the CEPLIS Common Values and the Codes of Conduct of its member organisations: whereas the Common Values build a broad basis and a minimum standard that can be applied to all liberal professionals, the CLGE Code of Conduct for European Surveyors is a more specific tool for the professional and his or her clients. It is more focused on the specialities of each profession, but it is still based on the common values for liberal professionals defined by CEPLIS. The minimum basis of the Common Values serves as a guideline for those organisations who want to create their own and more specific ethical



Rudolf Kolbe

codes – very similar to the International Ethics Standards once they become available. Finally it is important to stress that ethical standards have to be seen as work in progress. Societal, political and professional developments from time to time require adaptations and updates. Therefore CEPLIS has presented an updated version of the Common Values in 2014.

### **Geoinformatics: Can you explain the correlation between the International Ethics Standards Coalition (IESC) and the International Property Measurement Standards Coalition (IPMSC)?**

**RK:** Well, the IPMSC definitely gave the final impetus for the establishment of the IESC, particularly regarding content standards for measuring property. Ethical standards are, of course, a different matter. But the aim to improve consistency across the profession and ensure quality of services globally is the same for both initiatives. They are different parts of the same puzzle. Also, in

regard to structure and procedure, the IESC quite closely follows the model of IPMSC. Which is good: there's no need to reinvent the wheel; we can save efforts, time and costs.

### **Geoinformatics: Within CLGE you have always been a promoter of the CLGE Dynamic Professional Knowledge Base. What is important about that?**

**RK:** You are right. I have always believed – and still do - that a project like the Dynamic Professional Knowledge Base (DPKB) brings a lot of benefits. As you know it is a comprehensive collection of relevant information - mainly national legislation, access to the profession, national applicability/relevance of different surveying activities - about the profession of Geodetic Surveyors in the CLGE Member countries. Such information helps CLGE to better explain and transport the situation and the necessities of Geodetic Surveyors and their clients to the European Institutions. Additionally, it can serve as an information pool and guidance for individual geodetic surveyors who are interested in providing their services in other countries and also for national member organisations and competent authorities. Within CEPLIS the project is a model of best practice. For professional lobbying as well as for professional mobility a high transparency of the different national systems is essential. Therefore, it is the aim of many professional organisations to develop such information systems.

### **Geoinformatics: What is the current status of the DPKB?**

**RK:** The system is ready and working but we are still in the trial phase. As the success of the system fully depends on the amount and coherency of the available information, the full and active cooperation of as many member organisations as possible is necessary. So before publishing and promoting the system officially we need to gain more information from some CLGE member organisations. With a unified effort we can turn the DPKB into an exemplary project for professional organisations in Europe.