

Thursday 17th September 2015,

## Brussels Declaration on GeoSkills in Europe

The GeoSkills Plus Project has developed a platform that can be used to improve skills for geospatial vocational education and training in Europe and encourage cooperation between stakeholders from the geospatial academic domain and the world of work.

GeoSkills developed an approach to identify and analyse key factors responsible for the mismatches in education, training and employment in Belgium, Bulgaria, Lithuania and The Netherlands.

The final meeting of GeoSkills Plus demonstrated the methodology developed to define the gap between key players in the geospatial sector within a country.

Results on how to establish a *golden pyramid* of stakeholders at national and regional level were presented.

GeoSkills Plus also produced an overview of the opportunities for *awareness raising activities* that countries might use in their efforts to raise awareness about the importance of 'geoskills'.

Based on the GeoSkills Plus Project outcomes and the debate held at the Brussels conference on September 17th, 2015, in order to establish a spatially enabled society and meet growing needs for 'geoskills' at national and European level, we recommend the following future actions should be taken:

- Monitoring, identifying and addressing **qualitative and quantitative gaps** in the geospatial labour market should become an important European priority to be developed, supported and resourced.
- In order to **exchange strategies and best practices** between countries and stakeholders, awareness raising of the relevance and importance of geospatial education in Europe, and the need to recognise surveying and geo-careers, resources must be provided to encourage **joint cooperation** between education, government, the labour market and professional associations.
- The bodies involved in the golden pyramid should look to establish **harmonised** actions for learning, teaching and training in Europe (curricula, job descriptions, labour market requirements, qualifications, government standards).