



CLGE NEWS – THE CLGE NEWSLETTER, AUTUMN 2017

This newsletter has quite a lot to report on – the discussions and decisions of two executive board meetings – first, a major board meeting, covering many issues, which took place in Bucharest, Romania on the 25th and 26th of August and then a less wide ranging board meeting in Potsdam, Germany on the 27th September, which dealt mainly with preparations for the Autumn General Assembly on the following days, and of course the matters covered in the General Assembly itself. Two other matters will be touched upon - items of interest from the INTERGEO conference, particularly the CLGE seminar which ran as part of INTERGEO, and a few words about the Common Vision Conference, held in Vienna on the 5th and 6th of October which although not a purely CLGE conference, had presentations from two members of CLGE's Executive Board. What follows won't come as chronological reports, which tend to be a bit boring, but instead will flit between topics that presented themselves at these events as seems appropriate.



EDITORIAL POLICY

It should be noted that the newsletter is a piece of journalism. It is not an official statement, endorsed by the Executive Board. As such, it will almost certainly be subject to editorial bias. The editor makes every effort to ensure factual accuracy. Opinions, where expressed, are in good faith and no responsibility is accepted for such opinions. The rights of reply and rebuttal are open to all. A vibrant "Letters to the Editor" column, in future editions would be greatly welcomed. Democracy thrives on discussion!

Muiris de Buitléir



FINANCES

Happily CLGE's finances are in good standing. However, this is not to say that everything on the horizon is rosy. There is a current deficit, but this shortfall can be made good by transferring funds from various reserves. This situation could be maintained for a considerable number of years, but such an approach would be bad financial management. Ultimately the reserves would run out. Part of the problem lies in the fact that a good proportion of our financing depends on sponsorship, which is transient. Existing sponsors move away and new sponsors must constantly be sought. The executive board will be examining this issue urgently. The model for calculating the member associations' fees may also be a contributor to the problem and this will be looked at in a separate paragraph.



MEMBERS' FEES

Members' subscriptions have always been a difficult issue for CLGE. How do you calculate a fee that's fair and equitable for everyone? The current method, based on GDP, has merits in that it is calculated relative to independent statistics, but it has major flaws. Luxembourg, for instance, is a wealthy country which has a very high GDP, but only a very small number of surveyors. The CLGE fee is not paid by the state but by the surveyors' association – Problem! Basing the fee on the number of active geodetic surveyors is fairer, but getting a definitive and reliable numbers can be problematical and in poorer countries larger numbers may not mean wealthier associations. A synthesis of both methods could give better results. The issue has come up for discussion in the Executive Board as it has repercussions on our budgeting and finance.

In passing, it might be noted that a small number of members have outstanding fees and we would encourage them to make contact with our treasurer. Sound budgeting depends on the reliable payment of expected income to work.



BUDGETS & BUDGETING

To close this section on money matters, a word or two about budgeting might not be out of place. It's common wisdom that routine expenditure should be covered by routine income and that special projects must be covered by special financing. The day to day running of CLGE should be financed from members' fees and the level of fees, or expenditure, or both, must be adjusted to achieve a balanced budget. A number of delegates at the GA raised questions about the clarity of accounts and requested a greater degree of detail and itemisation so that there would be clear understanding of how money was being budgeted and spent. The costs surrounding the use of the House of the European Surveyor in Brussels was a particular focus of query.



ROMANIAN SURVEYORS

The Executive Board meeting in Bucharest had a double purpose. Apart from dealing with CLGE business it also provided an opportunity to support our Romanian colleagues in discussions with the State cadastral authority with regard to legislative change. Members of the board of CLGE together with members of the Romanian surveying association met with key executives of the cadastral authority and useful and, we hope, fruitful discussions took place. We wish our Romanian colleagues well and we hope matters progress satisfactorily for them in their continuing negotiation.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The next CLGE General Assembly will be held in the 5-Star Hotel Emerald in Pristina, Kosovo on the 20th on 21st of April 2018. Our Kosovar colleagues also want to organize a seminar on the 19th of April.

For fans of INTERGEO, this major conference will take place in Frankfurt am Main in 2018, Stuttgart in 2019 and again in Berlin in 2020.

The celebration of Surveyor of the Year and the Global Surveyor's Day will take place on the 21st March 2018.



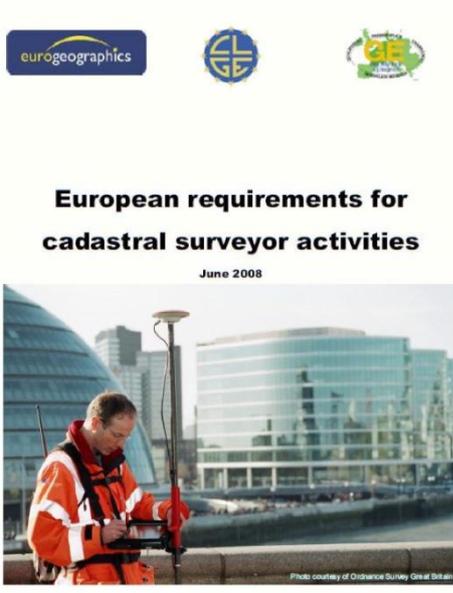
UKRAINIAN SURVEYORS JOIN CLGE

CLGE has great pleasure in welcoming Ukraine as a member. At this year's General Assembly in Potsdam the Ukrainian application, which was agreed by the Executive Board, was put to a vote of the General Assembly and Ukraine's membership was agreed unanimously.

CLGE looks forward eagerly to Ukraine's participation in its affairs. We wish the Ukrainian delegates and their association every success in developing the geodetic surveying profession within their own country.

CLGE would like to support our new members to create a National Liaison Group.

Update of 2008 report on Cadastral Surveyor Activities.



A workshop was held, at the Potsdam GA, under the chairmanship of Vladimir Tikhonov, to ascertain members' views on updating the 'European requirements for cadastral surveyor activities'. Much useful feedback was received, for which we thank the participants. Suggestions ranged from a complete redesign of the questionnaire to derive a more focused and more realistic report, to simply maintaining the format and questions of the original questionnaire, but bringing it up to date with regard to new member who have joined since 2008, or changes in the circumstances of those members who participated in the original survey.



ILMS WORKSHOP

A second workshop was held at the GA, with Duncan Moss as chair, to discuss the issues of ILMS (International Land Measurement Standard). Three quarters of the world's land, in situations similar to the picture on the left, are unregistered and there is no security of title or tenure. The workshop discussions revolved mainly around the concept of "fit for purpose", with choices seen as been between group sourced 'general boundaries' systems and more formal fixed boundary cadastres. The worry is that surveyors may be seen as more disruptive than helpful to the process.



THREATS TO THE SURVEYING PROFESSION

The last item in this newsletter combines material from a number of presentations at INTERGEO and the Common Vision Conference held at the headquarters of BEV in Vienna on the 5th and 6th of October. Steven Cairns of Leica, in a CLGE workshop, presented a paper on 'The Changing Role of the Surveyor in Europe' which outlined many potential threats, but came down firmly on the side of technology being an opportunity rather than a threat. Martin Salzmann introduced the concepts of the do-it-yourself surveyor, banker and notary. The idea of an estate agent or a lawyer setting out mapped boundaries for land parcel sub-division raised a few eyebrows among those surveyors operating where publicly appointed and regulated liberal surveyors are the norm, but unfortunately it is a situation all too familiar to those of us who operate in the British and Irish 'general boundaries' tradition. To close, one quote from the CVC conference is worth repeating; this in the context of blockchain procedures in land registration – "Which would you prefer – to trust the security of the title to your home and property to a computer company or to guarantee by the state". These topics, regarding the uncertainty of the future for surveyors and involving both threats and opportunities, are likely to be live matters of discussion into the coming months and years.

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