



Vaidotas Sankalas:

Baltic States Surveyors' Forum on November 6 in Riga, Latvia

Delegations of the Surveyors' Associations of the three Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania gathered together in Riga on November 6 to discuss common issues related to transposition of the EU Service directive and ratification of the Code of Conduct of the European Surveyor.



The initiative to organize the Baltic States Surveyors' Forum came from the Latvian Association after CLGE General Assembly meeting in Rome this September at which the Code of Conduct of the European Surveyor was adopted. The President of the Association of Latvian Surveyors Andris Makalnins and board member Elita Baklane-Ansberga have invited the Estonian and Lithuanian associations to meet together to share ideas, experiences and future visions about

regulation of the surveying profession in the Baltic States. This invitation was well received by the management of the Estonian and Lithuanian associations.

The meeting was attended by 20 people. The Lithuanian Association was represented by the President Birute Nenortaite and Vice-president Rimantas Ramanauskas. The Estonian delegation was headed by the Vice-chairman of the board Hugo Toll.

A one day forum had an extensive program. Delegations exchanged experiences on spatial data infrastructures, spatial data management, access to spatial data, standardization efforts and needs, existing regulations of geodetic and cadastral surveyors' practice, qualification requirements and certification systems as well as future changes in national legislations imposed by transposition of the EU Service directive. Separate discussion was held on ratification of the Code of Conduct of the European Surveyor and its incorporation into the national professional life of surveyors.

Delegations found much in common as regards a future vision even though currently there are many differences in the regulation of surveyors' activities in each country. The Forum agreed on a resolution incorporating the most important topics such as certification of surveyor, qualification requirements, supervision and control of surveyor's practice, insurance and code of conduct. All these topics are closely linked to the EU Service directive and therefore a common view on them might be very useful, not only for the national professional organizations, but also for the authorities responsible for this field of activities.

Delegations found this meeting very useful in general and agreed that the Baltic Surveyors' Forum can be a good format for exchange of experiences and ideas between professionals of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on a more permanent base.