



CLGE opening speech for the Geomatics on the Move Contest

Opening by Vladimir Krupa, CLGE President

Dear Fiammetta, Dear Edward, Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Here we are at the Awarding Ceremony, after a lot of work and a long preparation of this first combined edition of the Geomatics on the Move Contest.

As CLGE President, I am very satisfied about our very strong and positive cooperation with the GSA in this field and others. We started the idea about the Contest ten years ago, and can already look back now on nine fruitful editions. After only a few years, the GSA started to support us in this effort, and with this edition it became a real joint venture.

With this Contest, we want to motivate Geodesy students, young surveyors and entrepreneurs to be active in our sector. Within the Geomatics segment, we are big users of E-GNSS, hence it was quite an opportunity for us when we heard that the GSA was willing to cooperate more closely with us in this area.

The initial idea of the Contest was based on the fact that in many, especially Western European countries, there is a lack of candidates to embrace professions in the field of geodetic engineering and property surveying. We started to organise an annual European Students' Meeting and every third year we organised their participation in INTERGEO. For those who visited INTERGEO already, you know what I mean, the others should urgently go there. I am confident that the next edition will start as planned on 20 September 2021, in Hanover, face to face and I hope to meet you there.

One of our major strategic goals is to make sure that our profession remains relevant and is steering the evolution in our fields of activity. It is quite normal that we insist on the youth and that we hope that they adopt a dynamic way of taking their future in their hands.

With our initiative and our close cooperation with the GSA, we also want to contribute to the European construction. Most of our members are EU member states or candidate member states but even for the non-EU member states, you must know that the influence of what happens in the EU is very very important. It is not seldom that our members from non-EU member states are very fast in analysing the impact of new regulations in their own national systems, even faster than many members from the EU.

Our commitment to the European construction is one of the driving forces of our Council. We are aware of the huge progress done by the GSA in the last years and want to stay tuned with this evolution. We believe that more integration is still possible and should be developed when it comes to in situ infrastructures and data. While in space, the GSA and related Agencies, show that a high level of cooperation is indispensable, we have the impression that on mother Earth, we are lagging behind. We wish that this cooperation improves and that for instance, the diverse National Positioning Systems become more integrated. We wish that the treasure of authoritative national data will soon get connected to have an integrated European approach for reliable official GeoInformation.

Hopefully these young participants, these young engineers hear our wishes and will contribute to their realisation, the realisation of our European dream.