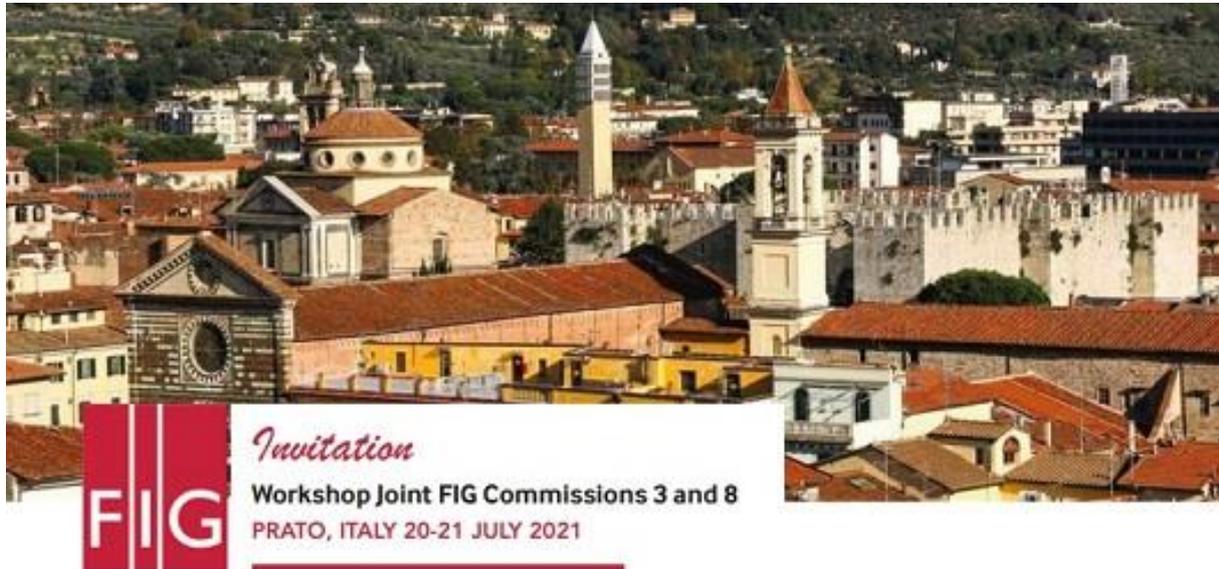


CLGE speech during the opening the FIG workshop in Prato

Opening by Vladimir Krupa, CLGE President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,



It's an honour for the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors to participate in the opening of this joint FIG Workshop of Commissions 3 and 8 and. As CLGE President, I have the pleasure to present you a few words of support and of gratitude.

Since more than 10 years now, CLGE is working closely with FIG and our cooperation on this very workshop, illustrates the success of this endeavour. While reading the programme, one understands that FIG and CLGE are closely related, and this is no surprise, since many CLGE members are also very active FIG delegates, to begin with the CLGE Vice-President and Chair of these combined Working Group of Commissions 3 and 8, Enrico Rispoli, who is once again one of the very active facilitators of our progress. Thanks to you, Enrico, and all involved friends for their relentless efforts in these difficult times.

The subject is very well chosen. Beyond the global pandemic that has forced us to new approaches and an even increased resilience, there are earthquakes, landslides, and all kinds of calamities, including the most recent flooding, culminating in Western Germany and Eastern Belgium, claiming a high toll in human lives and an unseen devastation of territories in the heart of Europe.

CLGE's cooperation with FIG has crystallised in the combination of the Forum of Regional Bodies and the Members Associations Forum. Over the years we have promoted the adoption of the Global Surveyor's Day on the 21st of March of each year, and on this edition, we've started the series of Global Surveyors. In 2021 it is Johann Carl Friedrich Gauss, everybody knows him, and for next year, we are already looking forward to the Global Surveyor that our American Friends from NSPS will propose. Beyond this symbolic celebration of our profession, we've also launched some themes of the year, starting with Professional Ethics in 2019, continuing with our Role in achieving the United Nations



Sustainable Development Goals in 2020, even accentuated in 2021, with one of these subjects being magnified: indeed, SDG 5 about Gender Equality has led us to proclaim 2021 as the year of Women in Surveying. I am pleased to see a woman, Marije Louwsma, in a prominent position in this Workshop and I must say, quite a lot of female speakers in the programme. I understand that we need more ladies in the openings soon!

The disasters I have mentioned earlier show that pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals isn't a luxury anymore. We must increase our pace and work harder, if we want to avoid that these problems, our errors of the past will cast a permanent shadow on our lives and generations to come.

But FIG has also an influence on us. While we were very much concentrating on Geodetic and Property Surveying for years, FIG has drawn our attention on topics such as those of Commissions 3 and 8. Again, we are thankful to members from these commissions. In the past, we have recognized this by inviting the Honorary FIG President and Speaker here in Prato, Chryssy Potsiou, to intervene at our CLGE Seminar in Pristina, about the Legalisation of Informal Settlements. As a Croatian Surveyor, I was well aware of this, but many European Surveyors were convinced that these problems are very remote, only present in other continent, a real eyeopener for them. More recently, one of our members, the French OGE has shown us a new policy, in which Surveyors can play a leading role: the concept of land sobriety in France, the idea being to achieve a zero net land consumption by 2050, while the current annual consumption of land is of more than 1000km². But these are only a few examples.

Surveyors have to pull all the strings they have to achieve the indispensable changes ahead and so, harnessing cutting edge Spatial Information Management of Commission 3 on behalf of an optimised Spatial Planning and Development of Commission 8 sounds like a good plan to me.

Please let me conclude with a wish. Resilience is not enough. Recover is one thing, but we have to fight back. The sustainability should be paramount in all what we do from now on. Forgive us to insist, dear FIG friends, your very cherished "Fit for Purpose solutions" are of course an indispensable component in this equation, it's a tautology, but they always should be preceded by the sustainability predicate. Let's speak about Sustainable Fit for Purpose solutions, not to forget it. This is CLGE's dearest wish.

Beyond this demand, I wish you a very fruitful meeting there in Prato and I hope that these virtual attendances will be pushed in the background again soon.

Online attendance to the Prato (IT) event, 20 July 2021