



## CLGE Address at GEOFORUM, Lviv, 19 April 2023

by Vladimir Krupa, CLGE President

Dear Colleagues and Friends from Ukraine and abroad,

It's a very humbling task to address you a few words at the opening of this year's GEOFORUM, organised in Lviv, Ukraine. The very difficult times you are facing make it even more remarkable that



you could mobilise the required energy and courage to organise this long awaited event. Since many years CLGE is a proud observer of this highly regarded technical conference and we are very happy that it always has been organised under our auspices. For many years we were represented by our dear Friend, the late Vasile Chiriac, from Moldova and we are committed to find a replacement for him for future events. Conferences of this kind are indeed important to allow the progress of the sciences, techniques and procedures

underpinning the operations of our marvellous profession. They also help us in creating and maintaining the network of collegiality and friendship which is so valuable, especially in times of adversity.

For this year's event, I must say that we are deeply impressed by the resilience you're demonstrating during this Conference. Your Vice President Boris Chetverikov, with whom we have weekly contacts, assured us that it was a warm request of your members to maintain the Conference at all costs. You deserve our esteem and congratulations.

Since the first days of this reckless invasion of your Fatherland, CLGE stood firmly at your side. On 25 February, it has published an unmistakable statement:

### *CLGE Statement on the Invasion of Ukraine*



*CLGE strongly condemns the aggression of the Government of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.*

*We reaffirm our absolute opposition against war and any kind of violence. The current tragic events are totally unacceptable. Our thoughts are with the Ukrainian people, our colleagues and friends, who are suffering due to this unprovoked invasion. Our profession is fundamentally concerned with boundaries and property rights and we are committed to the resolution of disputes through*



*dialogue and peaceful means. CLGE is a European professional network based on tolerance, friendship, and peace; anyone who does not adhere to these high values has no place in our Association.*

This statement was updated on 28 February 2022: *Following the suspension of the Russian Federation by the Council of Europe, the CLGE Executive Board has decided to suspend its member from the Russian Federation.*

Shortly after, we have activated our network in Europe to help Ukrainian refugees, especially women, to find a job as surveying engineer. We could help about 15 of your colleagues. It's not much but it nevertheless symbolises our cohesion, throughout the European continent.

Thanks to a specific funding campaign we could gather €18.500. These donations were sent to our Ukrainian members, to your Members, with the aim to help them covering their livelihood. Again, this is a humble amount but quite impressive for CLGE's standards.

For the moment, we are analysing other ways to help our Colleagues and Friends in their besieged Ukrainian homeland.

Finally, we are also preparing a Conference that will be held in Paris, on 9 November 2023. It will be the IX CLGE Conference or the European Surveyor, devoted to the Role of Geodetic Surveyors in Disaster Management. With this we aim at natural disasters such as the recent Turkish and Croatian earthquakes but also, and very sadly, at manmade disasters such as the aggression by the Russian Federation you're suffering since 419 days now.

We are convinced that during this Conference we will be able to pave the way to the important part Geodetic Surveyors have to accomplish in the reconstruction of your glorious country.

Osijek, 17 April 2023,

Vladimir Krupa  
CLGE President