The European Geodetic Surveyors' Act - an Introduction to a New ID for Geodetic Surveyors in Europe and in the World (12115)

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SUMMARY

Spatial data and their records are of great importance for the operation and functioning of states, their structure and legal order, hence they are of great significance for societies as a whole. Given that the basis of these data and records are primarily geodetic products, it is undeniable that geodesy, geoinformatics, the geodetic science and profession, i.e. geodetic activities, have a real and extremely important impact on all areas of social and economic life and on the development of Europe.

With the aim of increasing the awareness and understanding of the meaning and role of geodetic surveyors, as well as bolstering a more active participation in solving the problems the whole European society is facing,

CLGE, as a leading surveyors association, initiates the development of a complete Policy which will determine the place, role and task of GEODETIC SURVEYORS in the future development of Europe: The European Geodetic Surveyors Act (EGSAct).

With this statement, the signatories CLGE expresses its willingness to:

- 1. develop a framework of guidelines for geodetic policies leading towards the adoption of a European Geodetic Surveyors Act,
- 2. Encourage cooperation within the geodetic profession, but also with other institutions and sectors of the society, in the interest of the geodetic profession and the society as a whole,
- 3. Raise awareness and understanding of the importance of geodetic surveyors, geodesy and geoinformatics as well as its role in the development of the Europe,
- 4. Advocate the achievement of the qualitive solutions in geodesy with maximum effects for the society, and to encourage the evaluation of European geodetic heritage and achievements,
- 5. Initiate procedures that would enable the application of the adopted geodetic policy guidelines, as well as to initiate further activities on the acceptance and inclusion of geodetic policies in the social and economic areas to which it applies.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Recent priorities on our old continent demonstrate an almost historic need for collaboration, cooperation and reinforced harmonisation between European countries, whether or not they are members of the EU.

However, every surveyor may observe that what constitutes the legal and technical basis of his/her profession (private property rights, spatial planning...) remains the prerogatives of each state. Land management, in the broad sense, has largely escaped to convergence and harmonisation of regulation and standards that were conducted in Europe over the past 65 years in most of legal, economic and even technological sectors.

2. EGSAct Objectives

However, this situation should not prevent our profession to edict a European Geodetic Surveyor's Act (EGSA) which would define the core competences, qualifications, profile and expertise of a professional geodetic surveyor, anywhere in Europe.



Objectives

Define the core competences, qualifications, profile and expertise of a professional geodetic surveyor, anywhere in Europe



Portrait of the European Property/Geodetic Surveyor

- Education level
- Licences/authorisations Validity period
- Affiliation (enrolment, if any)
- Modes of practice (civil servant, individual, company...)
- Activities
- Quality Control
- Liability
- Professional insurance
- Continuous Professional Development, lifelong learning (CPD)

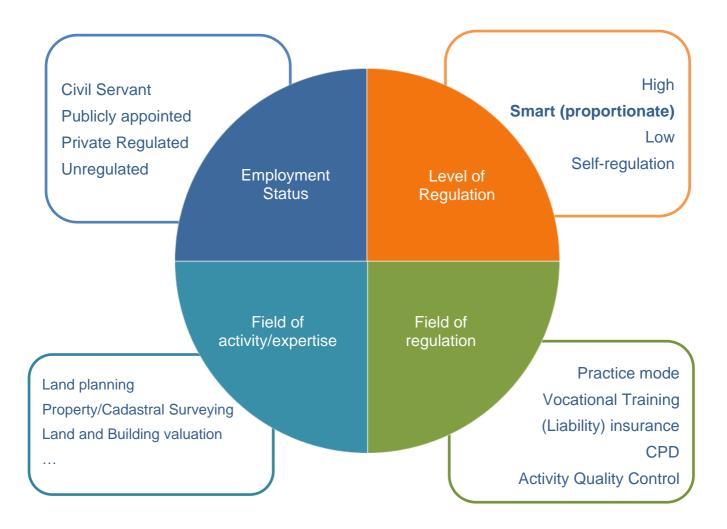
EGSAct will then provide support to any CLGE Member association, when requiring assistance for national regulation issues, whether it is defensive or proactive approach.

It will:

- outline a set of guidelines and best practices that ensure a national professional organization is following all relevant national and European laws and regulations;
- help member associations to protect their cohesion and reputation from internal breaches or from external attack that may come from sister/related profession, from their national supervisory bodies or from the European regulator (in the case of a Member State);
- provide a healthy path of communication between member associations and any national public authority that acts as a supervisory body, and not shy away from taking corrective action when the compliance program is breached.

In this respect, EGSAct will demonstrate to decision makers that our profession is essential to serve the general interest and will address the following audiences on both European and National levels:

- Public authorities: Government, administrations, elected officials;
- Related professions: notaries, real-estate developers, architects, land planners;
- General Public: civil society, individuals, medias.



3. EGSAct Methodology

To achieve these objectives, it is proposed to have a project-oriented approach, as our recent experience on other matters (condominium management, GISCAD-OV project) has shown that it is efficient.

First steps of EGSA Project will consist in:

- Setting-up a Task Force with contributors from voluntary Member associations who wish to bring their experience in this area and contribute directly to the project,
- Collecting and compiling national case studies and experiences, based upon the "Portrait of the European Property Surveyor" on every aspect that is or should be regulated, in our opinion,
- Enriching internal contributions from surveying profession with multidisciplinary team associating economists, lawyers, sociologists, etc.

EGSA will thus demonstrate the socioeconomic role & weight of the sector, and how the regulation of the profession does not affect free competition between professionals, to the benefit of the consumer.

4. Conclusion

With this tool, the CLGE will prove that the geodesy sector requires a high level of skills to make the best use of the expertise available to our profession and to meet the immense environmental, social, economic and technological challenges facing us at the beginning of the 21st century.

References

Portrait of the European Property Surveyor

Biographical notes

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With more than twenty years of experience in European and international projects and partnership development, Florian Lebourdais is experienced in managing large scaled technical cooperation projects between EU Member states, and with many third countries on all continents, under all contractual and funding instruments used by the EU and other donors. By joining Ordre des géomètres-experts (French Order of Licensed Surveyors - OGE) in early 2017, these skills have been deployed on all topics related to geodesy, land planning, building construction, GNSS and GIS. Since 2020, Florian Lebourdais is also acting as CLGE Chief Financial and Administrative Officer for the EU-funded project GISCAD-OV.

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