

**FIG President Professor Dr.-Ing. Holger Magel
About**

Surveyors Contributions to Science and Society

at the Ukrainian GEOFORUM 2006 on 6 April in Lviv/Javoriv

Distinguished Guests, Dear Members and Colleagues of Surveyor and FIG Community, Dear Students,

Having followed the invitation of Prof. Trevogo, it is my pleasure to convey to you the greetings of FIG, the “**mother of all surveying and surveyors**”, and to congratulate all Ukrainian surveyors, geodesists and cartographers to the national week of surveying. Let us celebrate these special days with an outstanding GEOFORUM, with outstanding speeches and lectures and with an outstanding evening.

For me as the FIG President, who continuously tries to underline the indispensable, but, unfortunately for many politicians, decision makers and for the public, mostly hidden or at least not very highly appreciated role and contributions of surveyors to science and society, it is very satisfying that you have achieved to celebrate a nationwide surveyors day! You could be a model for all those countries and member associations, which are complaining about too less public interest, too less students or too less influence. And, vice versa, those complaining or – what, with respect to too less students, we even call the West-European disease of surveying – those countries suffering from this disease could be an “early warning system” for you. Namely, what can happen after cadastre or new geodetic reference systems have been or seem to be completed, after the urgently needed land consolidation have been done or after all maps are digitized etc. After this glorious “transition period” surveyors or geodesists have to be prepared for demonstrating that it is not all about cadastre and “geodesy” only, not about mapping or urban or rural land readjustments or secure tenure. They have to argue that their contributions are even central pillars to society and a lot of neighbour societies and to the welfare of all people whether in urban or rural areas, they have to point out that they are committed to sustainable development, good governance and increasing civil society! They finally have to confirm by outstanding scientific research, best education, continuous professional development and especially by daily work that they are not only excellent “notaries” of the earth, (e.g. by GLONASS, Galileo) but also “custodians” and “guarantors” of democracy, equity, justice and better life quality in the future.

Fortunately, in Europe, surveyors do have an excellent broad education in geodesy and – nowadays as a consequence of technical development – in geoinformation. They are not only – like in many other countries – pure land surveyors or quantity surveyors or only valuers. We combine nearly all skills and knowledge in survey engineering, GIS, in valuation, land management, urban and rural planning and development and in astronomical and physical geodesy or in cartography, photogrammetry and in remote sensing etc. We do really have competence “from the single parcel to the planet Mars”. We can serve local authorities or private clients as well as governments or European and global institutions. And, if we provide our students and colleagues also with social skills and some basic economic and business

knowledge, then surveyors are also able to work in land dispute resolution or in top business positions as decision makers. Our goal is the well grounded specialized generalist!

“Shaping the Change” is the motto of my FIG-presidency, “Shaping the Change” is the timeless motto of all surveyors and geodesists across the world, “Shaping the Change” is also an outstanding motto and challenge to all Ukrainian colleagues in this special “transition” period in the history of your wonderful and proud country. The more you are well grounded specialized generalists, the better you will succeed!

It is very clear to me that you and your profession have to and will cope with this outstanding challenges and chances – but you should know that you are not alone, that there are about 100 more professional organisations within FIG, which in the “spirit of friendship” are willing to share experiences (“lessons learnt”) and a lot of ideas, methods and approaches with you. The first geodetic World Heritage Monument, the country crossing Struve Arc is one good example of successful joint efforts and cooperation.

FIG can also provide better access to global players like the UN agencies. I encourage the Ukrainian Society of Geodesy and Cartography to use this worldwide FIG network!

I wish you a successful congress; I wish your profession and the country a very good future. See you in Munich!