



Opening of the IV CLGE Conference of the European Surveyor and GeoInformation

The IV CLGE Conference of the European Surveyor and GeoInformation is held in Kaliningrad (Russian Federation), from 1 – 3 July 2014. “The future lies in the past”, is written below the logo of the organizing committee of the ‘Struve Geodetic Arc’. That’s a good one liner about the aim of this CLGE Conference. We want to honor the European Surveyor of the Year, Василий Яковлевич Струве - Vassili Yakovlevitch Struve, known in Western Europe as Friedrich Georg Wilhelm von Struve but also see which are the implications of his work and geodesy in general on our future.

Opening Speech Jean-Yves PirLOT, CLGE President

I. Introduction

Mr. Konstatin Suslov, Deputy Head of the Kaliningrad Regional Government, MM. Directors, Mrs. and MM. Presidents, distinguished guests, dear colleagues and friends, it’s a great honor for me to open this IV CLGE Conference of the European Surveyor and GeoInformation, here in Kaliningrad.

It’s not only a honor, in this prestigious place, full of geodetic history, in front of this eminent audience, it’s also a real pleasure and a kind of relief. Until a few days ago, I didn’t know if I would get my VISA to be here. A lot of paperwork went wrong and I had many difficulties to finalize this, since I was in Kuala Lumpur with FIG and then Athens with the Permanent Committee on Cadastre of the European Union. Here I want to express my gratitude to my secretary in Belgium, Sylvia, who did the job on her own.

CLGE, as you probably know, is the leading European Association of Surveyors. We are present in 36 European states and 3 additional countries could join us soon. We are active from the Ural to the Atlantic Ocean, from the polar circle to the Mediterranean. This is of course a huge and important territory.



Since 2008, we are organizing CLGE Conferences of the European Surveyor every two years and some seminars, in between.

1. September 2008, Strasbourg France

About the Technical Background, the Legal Aspects and hence the absolute need of High Educational Standards as well as the necessity to give guarantees to our clients (this led to our European Code of Conduct).

2. May 2010, Bucharest

There we paved the way for the Publicly Appointed Cadastral Surveyor. It led to important work that CLGE is conducting in the field of the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications. 4 years later, we've developed a Code of Professional Qualifications.

3. October 2012, Hanover

In Hanover we presented the European Real Estate Area Label, to solve a profound problem that exists in the field of the measurement of surfaces in buildings. Our harmonization effort led to the acceptance of our solution by the European Commission as well as to a global effort called International Property Measurement Standards Coalition. Vladimir Tikhonov was recently appointed as a member of its Executive Committee, and I want to congratulate him for this election.

4. The IV conference was planned to be held in Marbella, Spain

Due to some unforeseen problems, we were not able to finalize the Spanish event. We had two options, either to stop the tradition and that would have been in contradiction with a commitment that we had vowed in Strasbourg, or ask our Russian delegation to upgrade the regional conference that we'd planned to be held here in Kaliningrad.

And there I have to thank very solemnly our Russian delegates and their association the National Chamber of Cadastral engineers of Russia, led by Viktor Kislov. It took them less than 4 hours to decide. I've sent them an email, they've acknowledged receipt and said that they would consider this quickly, and ... the same day we got their acceptance.

Marina Petroshina, Vladimir Tikhonov and their team deserve a tremendous round of applause, thank you Marina, thank you Vladimir.

In between the major conferences we are organizing events such as Regional Seminars.

There was the Bergen (Norway) Boundary Seminar in 2009, Umeå (Sweden) Geodetic Infrastructures Seminar in 2011, as well as the Chisinau (Moldova) Cadastral and Land Management seminar in 2013.

All these events are not purely coincidental, we follow of course a roadmap.

II. Geodesy in History, today and tomorrow

In that perspective, our Umeå seminar is in close relation with today's event.

In Umeå we'd reached the following conclusions:

- We need a better coordination of the European Geodetic Infrastructure, we meant especially the EU infrastructure but the same is of course true in the whole of Europe as well as worldwide;
- CLGE is an excellent platform of users from all the Geodetic sectors, we mean the public and private sector as well as the academic world. It should be used!
- We need to think about the quality of what we are delivering to our clients, i.e. we should define some levels of certification and a quality management scheme.

The Kaliningrad Conference is a follow up of these interrogations. Here we will address the global dimension of our questioning.

III. The European Surveyor of the year

Moreover, and now we bridge the gap with the history of our profession, we are here to celebrate one of the world's most famous geodesist in history.

Since 2012, CLGE has appointed an annual European Surveyor of the Year. In 2012, we've celebrated Mercator, in 2013 he was followed up by Galileo Galilee and in 2014, we've solemnly appointed a Russian Surveyor.

We are doing this to honor our past but also to prepare the future. We've seen that our profession does not appear on the radar of decision makers and that we are not recognized by the general public at our true value.



To raise awareness, we've created the Day of the European Surveyor and GeoInformation, as well as the European Surveyor of the year. As a matter of fact, a high ranking Russian official took part in this year's ceremony in the House of the European Surveyor and GeoInformation, on 17 March 2014.

Василий Яковлевич Струве - Vassili Yakovlevitch Struve, that's the name of the Russian Surveyor, and European Surveyor of the Year 2014. Struve was born in "Germany" (then part of Denmark), he worked a long time in Estonia (then part of the Russian Empire) and lived and worked in Russia, ... hence he's not only a famous geodesist but a symbol of our European cooperation.

IV. Conclusion

We see our conference of the coming days as a continuation of the work of Struve. A very humble continuation of course.

Our Conference has to be seen as a confirmation of our permanent will to promote our profession, its technical & legal background and ethical standards, all over Europe.

We hope that our work will be as successful as the preparations done by Marina Peteroshina, Vladimir Tikhonov and their team.

And who knows, maybe our conference could reach some conclusions that we will be immortalized as kind of recommendations on our website next to the Strasbourg, Bucharest and Hanover declarations.

Jean-Yves Pirlot, CLGE President

Kaliningrad (Russian Federation), 1st July 2014