

3rd Young Surveyors European Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria

The future of young surveyors, as professionals as well as individuals, entails endless possibilities and unique opportunities, interspersed with various challenges and new agendas. What is our role in this future and how can we best meet those challenges and seize those opportunities?

Those are just a few of the questions which were discussed during the 3rd Young Surveyors (YS) European Meeting held at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy in Sofia, Bulgaria on 16 May 2015. About fifty young professionals from twenty countries gathered to share and explore new ideas, address pressing issues and focus on the future development of the European YS Network. By organising the meeting as a pre-event of the FIG Working Week 2015, young surveyors from Malaysia, China, Japan, Nigeria and Ghana were able to join.

PAST EXPERIENCES

During the opening ceremony FIG president Chryssy Potsiou shared her conception of the involvement of the YS Network in FIG as a joint effort to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future of the profession. Eva-Maria Unger, chair of the Network and Paula Dijkstra, the vice chair presented the agenda and gave an overview of the work plan for the next term of office. The Council of European Geodetic Surveyors presented its recent project activities, followed by speeches from the Chamber of Engineers in Surveying in Bulgaria and from the hosting University. Speakers encouraged the participants to get involved in various international organisations.

During this event a variety of topics was covered, the first being astronomy and how



▲ Participants of the 3rd Young Surveyors European Meeting send their regards to the world.

it is related to surveying. A journey through our surveying history was then presented, covering the most outstanding discoveries and groundbreaking inventions. It started with Aristoteles, highlighted surveying achievements during the time of Napoleon and ended in the modern world of surveying with an extraordinary tale from Japan.

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY

This was followed by an interactive working session, themed "Wisdom through Trial and Error". Group discussions focussed on the need for broader integration in different organisations; on the role on an international scale and on unfolding tasks and responsibilities. Some of the objectives presented at the end of this session included the establishment of a global professional forum as a platform for data, the sharing of experience and resources and far more extensive promotion of young surveyors' activities to students' associations worldwide. The afternoon session was dedicated to 'Challenges of the Modern World, Innovations

and Land Management'. The goals and missions of the UN-Habitat Global Land Tool Network were presented, followed by the 'Fit for Purpose' concept for land administration, fundamentals of modern photogrammetry, achievements in 3D laser scanning and unlimited data management. During the concluding session diverse topics were discussed such as digital mapping of urban change, the perspective of different roles as a young surveyor in a professional career, and an innovative project for raising awareness and advertising the many aspects of our profession among the young generation. One of the participants summarised the outcome of this amazing event as follows: 'Alone We Can Do so Little, Together We Can Do so Much'. ◀

Anna Shnaidman, Israel, Eva-Maria Unger, Austria and Paula Dijkstra, The Netherlands.

More information
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