

Science Communication and Awareness Rising Events in the Framework of EU Project „GeoSkills+“ for Popularization of Geospatial Education among Young Generations and Students in Bulgaria

Asparuh Kamburov, Milena Begnovska, Tanya Slavova, Lyubov Kostova and Dimitar Velichkov (Bulgaria)

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SUMMARY

Together with other Earth Sciences, geodesy implements theory and techniques which bring significant contribution for wider audience understanding of fundamental planetary processes – global warming and climate change being the ones with paramount importance. This importance is already recognized by the United Nations Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), which have recently developed a „Communication strategy on how geodesy contributes to strengthen the study of our changing planet“. Despite its significance, sociological surveys in Europe show that geodesy is still a rather unpopular discipline among the high-school and university-level students. A widespread public awareness strategy needs to be developed for overcoming this drawback. This article presents science communication actions as a tool for public awareness in the field of geodesy and other geospatial education disciplines. Science communication is a relatively new public awareness approach. It already plays a significant role in enhancing the overall society scientific literacy in the United Kingdom and other European countries. Bulgaria still lacks established science communication workflows that may be applied to make geodesy attractive to learn. However, in the last few years a valuable experience was gained through participation in local or internationally recognized science communication events, targeted for young generations and students. These included geospatial-related attractive games and demonstrations, organized by young scientists from the University of Mining and Geology (UMG) and the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (UACEG), with support from the British Council - Bulgaria. All events are performed in coherence with the European Commission project „GeoSkills+“, which actions in Bulgaria are coordinated by the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency. Analysis of the future possibilities for attraction of young generations and students to geodesy using science communication means is included as well