

Blue Surveying

CLGE Seville Declaration – The planet is thirsty for concrete actions

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ABSTRACT

A few years ago, the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors, better known as CLGE, launched an initiative known as the “Theme of the year”. We started with ‘Professional Ethics’ in 2019, continued with our role in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in 2020, and 2021 was the year of ‘Women in Surveying’. In line with the same UN SDGs 2030, the year 2022, was the start of the year of ‘Blue Surveying’. This topic covers a large part of our profession, maybe a little less visible, but certainly not less important as you will see during today’s session.

At CLGE we think that it is very important to get out of the comfort zone of the profession and promote new areas that may not seem important to die-hard surveyors at first, but our profession must open up to new challenges and develop in accordance with the demands of modern society.

So why the title Blue Surveying? Our planet Earth has been called the "Blue Planet". Seen from space, the Earth is indeed blue. Blue because water covers the majority of the Earth's surface, and surveyors know it best because we are measurers of that surface; directly or remotely.

Just as it is on land, it is not possible to start any serious project on water or connected with water without a geodetic surveyor. The same applies to the project implementation and the as built maintenance.

Blue economy is already called the economy of the future and blue can really be the new green for our profession. Blue Growth, Blue Economy and Blue Surveying are parts of the same story with an enormous potential and CLGE is committed to promote this important part of our profession.

We think that the ‘Blue Surveying’ concept concerns more than just pure geodetic surveying – sustainability must indeed be at the very core of Blue Surveying.

When speaking about Blue Surveying, everybody thinks about Hydrography and indeed, this is an important part of our concept. But we see the Blue Surveying encompassing a much broader spectrum, going from water as a threat to water as a valuable resource. Think about flood management, drought and irrigation, sanitisation, ... to mention only a few aspects.

But I don’t want to spoil the presentations of the coming speakers. Let me conclude here.

First of all, we want to thank Enrico Rispoli and his team, especially Maria Grazia Scorza, for this excellent preparatory work. This was true last year for the Blue Surveying Conference in Seville and is true again, for this Orlando session. Our gratitude also goes to Diane Dumashie who recognised the importance of Blue Surveying and gave us this excellent platform to spread the news. We also thank the FIG Commission Chairs who helped us to organise this session on a short notice.

Let me finish with the very clear title proposed by Enrico: ‘The planet is thirsty for concrete actions
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in #BlueSurveying’
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Protecting Our World, Conquering New Frontiers

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We are happy that you have joined the eponymous session during the [FIG – International Federation of Surveyors Working Week](#) in Orlando, FL (USA), co-organised with the [National Society of Professional Surveyors \(NSPS\)](#).

We encourage you to share the [letter from the CLGE Leadership](#) with your members, partners, colleagues and friends. It's available online. You can even co-sign it with us. All together our Surveying community can and must make a difference.

CLGE also kindly requests you to share the [Seville Declaration](#) universally with your own members and to promote it widely in your conferences, meetings, publications, etc. to raise awareness of its values and to foster behaviour in line with its objectives. As a very tangible objective we would be grateful if you could make sure that all water-management related topics get more attention in the surveying education in your country, equally at the level of initial curricula and continued professional development.

The Seville Declaration is not an end, but it's a start. We are here to make more of it by sharing it with the global surveying community.