



**FGG**

UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA  
Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA NARAVNE VIRE IN PROSTOR  
GEODETSKA UPRAVA REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE



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## Workshop on Recruitment and Capacity Development Challenges in the Geospatial Domain

**Date:** November 19, 2024

**Venue:** University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering (hybrid)  
[Jamova cesta 2](#), Ljubljana, Slovenia (Floor II, Room J II/2)

### Introduction to the topic

Geospatial skills are essential to meet the challenges of the ecological and digital transition. These refer to common skills for citizens and more specific capacities for industries as well as academic communities. Europe is experiencing serious challenges concerning recruitment and capacity development in the geospatial domain. On the one hand, we see a very high demand for geospatial information experts. On the other hand, we observe that universities and other educational institutions are not being supported at the national level to meet this high demand or support the industry with life-long learning opportunities/capacity development. Moreover, the geospatial sector may seem less attractive to students and less trendy than others. One of the consequences is that the geospatial information industry is underperforming, becoming less innovative, and facing serious staffing shortfalls in the short- to medium-term. This situation is not only a European-wide phenomenon but is being experienced further afield, for example, in North America and Australia.

To address these challenges, EuroSDR, in collaboration with the Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering at the University of Ljubljana and Slovenian Surveying and Mapping Authority, organised a joint workshop focusing on the question of how to achieve a better match between this high demand for, and a rather poor supply of geospatial professionals. The main objective of the event was to have a better understanding of the current recruitment and capacity development challenges in the geospatial domain at the European level and to discuss potential solutions to tackle these challenges.

This one-day event started with invited presentations, with associated follow-up discussions, dealing with the human capacity building and recruitment challenges across Europe – viewed from both the demand as well as supply side. Through these presentations, we gained better insights into the issue and identify the key challenges. In turn, these identified key challenges were discussed in more detail in follow-up break-out sessions. In particular, we aimed:

- To discuss how could the geospatial profession be made more attractive to young people;
- To discuss how we could raise the profile of the geospatial profession nationally and internationally;
- To discuss what are the future development trends of higher education in the geospatial domain,
- To look at examples of best-practice life-long learning approaches in the geospatial domain and to explore how these innovations can brought into practice, particularly in the context of

national mapping (including geospatial data acquisition and processing, geospatial data infrastructures, and land administration).

The presentations and break-sessions were focused on two topics:

- **Topic 1: Capacity development challenges in the geospatial domain**, including challenges in education to enable and encourage life-long learning, in particular with regard to the needs of NSMAs, industry and public services
- **Topic 2: Promotion of the geospatial information domain**, including recruitment, student pipeline, and information data tools and services offered by national surveying and mapping agencies (NSMA) and others for education and training

## WORKSHOP PROGRAM and PRESENTATIONS

### Program Committee

Anka Lisec, Erna Flogie Dolinar, Bénédicte Bucher, Conor Cahalane, Frédéric Cantat, Joep Crompvoets, Claire Ellul, Audrey Martin, Markéta Potůčková, Jantien Stoter and Mateja Urbančič

**8.30-9.00 Registration**

**9.00-10.30 Welcome address**

#### **Recruitment and Capacity Development Challenges in the Geospatial Domain**

*Joep Crompvoets, KU Leuven, EuroSDR vice president*

*Jantien Stoter, TU Delft, EuroSDR vice president*

*Anka Lisec, University of Ljubljana, EuroSDR Commission 5*

#### **NSMA Activities and Services to Support the Usage of Geodata in Education and Capacities Development**

*Bénédicte Bucher, IGN France*

#### **EuroGeographics - a network that helps members to improve capacities and role**

*Tomaž Petek, Eurogeographics president*

#### **Skills for Tomorrow: are we ready?**

*Jean-Yves Pirlot, CLGE Director General*

#### **Cultivating the Next Generation of Remote Sensing Experts to Meet Europe's Challenges and Needs**

*Krištof Oštir, Slovenian representative in ESA-EO*

10.30-11.00 **Coffee Break**

11.00-13.00 **Bridging the Gap: Addressing Recruitment and Capacity Challenges in Slovenia's Geospatial Sector**

*Anka Lisec, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*

*Erna Floqie Dolinar, Slovenian Surveying and Mapping Authority, Slovenia*

**Practices in Geo-education in The Netherlands**

*Robert Voûte, Geobusiness Nederland and CGI, The Netherlands*

**Capacity Development Challenges in the Geospatial Domain at the ENSG**

*Raphaële Heno, IGN France*

**Competence provision in the geodata field in Sweden**

*Elisabet Lewis, Lantmäteriet, Sweden*

**Geospatial Surveying Human Resource Challenges in Ireland**

*Audrey Martin, TU Dublin, Ireland*

*Conor Cahalane, Maynooth University, Ireland*

**Polish Higher Education in the Field of Geospatial Engineering - Current State and Challenges**

*Wojciech Ostrowski, Warsaw University of Technology, Poland*

**The Impact of the State and Social Framework on Geodetic and Geoinformatics Profession and Education - A Case Study Croatia and the Western Balkans**

*Željko Bačić, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Geodesy, Croatia*

*Vesna Poslončec Petrić, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Geodesy, Croatia*

**Alternative pathways for developing professional skills: Apprenticeships in the UK**

*Liz Fox-Tucker, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), United Kingdom*

13.00-14.00 **Lunch**

**Break sessions – part 1**

14.00-15.30 *Break-out session I: Recruitment challenges: How universities/industry/public sector can recruit students/people in the geospatial profession*

15.30-15.45 **Coffee Break**



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**15.45-17.00 Break sessions – part 2**

*Break-out session II: How NSMA/geospatial profession can contribute to the usage of geodata in education and capacities development*

**17.00-17.15 Summary**

**19.00 Dinner**

The event was financially supported by the:

- [EuroSDR](#) and
- Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS) and Slovenian Surveying and Mapping authority within the project "[Integration of geoinformation and geodetic knowledge with innovative solutions into the broader digital ecosystem](#)" coordinated by the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering.