

FIG YSN's European meeting

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THE Fédération Internationale des Géomètres Young Surveyors Network (FIG YSN) is a membership body that fosters engagement and networking amongst young surveying professionals and students across Europe. It seeks to promote the profession as an attractive career option, to represent the interests of young surveyors, facilitate their professional development and involvement on the committees of regional and national surveying and geospatial bodies. It also strives to improve the recognition of surveying in local communities by championing an international voluntary Young Surveyors Without Borders code.

Exchange platform

FIG YSN serves as an exchange platform promoting international opportunities (jobs, traineeships, courses, PhDs, conferences, and so on) for young surveyors with the aim of improving the global image of surveying. FIG YSN began life in 2006 as a joint working group within commission 2 and has since been represented at a variety of FIG events, including the 2006 congress in Munich, and 2010 congress in Sydney as well as FIG led working weeks in Eilat, Marrakesh, Rome and Abuja. In October 2013, the first FIG Young Surveyors European meeting was held in Lisbon, Portugal.

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Meeting report

There was much expectation ahead of the inaugural YSN meeting as first events always set the standards and references that will govern and guide the organisation in future. For the organisers of the meeting (Ordem dos Engenheiros Portugal and FIG YSN) and its supporters (FIG Foundation and the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors) the primary aim was to support young surveyors to develop activities that will further enhance their careers across Europe and the world.

For Ordem dos Engenheiros this was an excellent opportunity to welcome FIG to Portugal, to showcase the quality of its professionals and to promote the country. The meeting also combined an international training course in topography for young surveyors (in partnership with the Consiglio Nazionale Geometri).

Goals

Although this was a European meeting, the main goal was to gather young surveyors from around the world; enhance and promote the network, share knowledge and experiences, and contribute new projects and ideas for the global network. Above all, the meeting sought to inspire young surveyors to start their own business and national networks. The programme was developed to give all participants an opportunity to get involved in the meeting activities, work and plenary sessions and to seize the opportunity to brainstorm new YSN projects.

It was particularly important to the organisers that the meeting programme encouraged participants to consider their role and create awareness of the surveyor's role in the world (whether in the political, economic or social context).

Delegate map illustrating the places from where the participants travelled.





Knowledge transfer. Delegates absorbing one of the presentations at the conference.

The conference

160 delegates from more than 30 countries gathered to hear the keynote presentation on energy, sustainability and climate change delivered by Jorge Alves and Pedro Soares (both from Lisbon University). Throughout the two-day conference delegates had a chance to listen to some excellent presentations and papers from all international aspects of the industry. A standout award winning paper came from student Sandro Baptista (Portugal) showcasing his projects and partnership with Google.

A particular highlight for me was the address by FIG president CheeHai Teo who passed on some valuable advice to us all with his presentation on meeting our future network. It was during a technical session where young surveyors had the

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opportunity to inspire their peers to contribute to the surveying community that I presented a paper on how to set up a young surveyor network in your own country, using Portugal as an example.

Downtime

The conference wasn't all about hard work. Social events were organised that included a photo contest, a night run and a few

parties – details of which I mustn't divulge! Afterwards, delegates were welcomed at Cordoaria Nacional for the Ports for wine tasting hosted by the mayor of Lisbon. These social events were extremely important helping to establish bonds and to build friendships with fellow young surveyors.

Outcomes

The main outcomes of this event were to demonstrate the quality of Portuguese and European young professionals as well as the promotion and development of the Young Surveyors Network.

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With Least Squares Adjustment for Offshore Survey

13-15 January 2014: Newcastle, UK
www.ncl.ac.uk/cegs.cpd/cpd/

HSE Construction Dust Event - Does your face fit?

22 January 2014: Chester, UK
<http://www.uk.com>

UKGEOForum Annual Lecture: Weaving a New Mapping Genre

23 January 2014: London, UK
pgsupport@rics.org

RICS BIM Conference

12 February 2014: London, UK
www.rics.org

The International LiDAR Mapping Forum

17-19 February 2014: Colorado, USA
www.lidarmap.org/international

ICES BIM Conference

25 February 2014: London, UK
www.cices.org/events

ICE Nuclear 2014: Developing the UK's Industry

27 February 2014: London, UK
www.ice-nuclear.com

UK Concrete Show

27-28 February 2014: Birmingham, UK
www.concreteshow.co.uk

ICE Tall Buildings 2014

18 March 2014: London, UK
www.ice.org.uk

Moving to a New World of Building Systems Performance

3-4 April 2014: Dublin, Ireland
www.cibse.org/symposium2014

Water & Environment 2014

8-9 April 2014: London, UK
www.ciwem.org

ICE Americas 2014 Convention: Panama

10-12 April 2014: Panama City, Panama
www.ice.org.uk

SPAR International 2014

14-17 April 2014: Colorado Springs, USA
www.sparpointgroup.com/international

Intergeo-Eurasia

28-29 April 2014: Istanbul, Turkey
www.intergeo-eurasia.com

Civil Infrastructure & Technology Exhibition 2014

20-22 May 2014: London, UK
www.cite-uk.com

European Federation for Precast Concrete BIBM Congress

21-23 May 2014: Istanbul, Turkey
www.bibmcongress.eu

GEO Business

28-29 May 2014: London, UK
www.geobusinessshow.com

Sea Work International 2014

10-12 June 2014: Southampton, UK
www.seawork.com

FIG Congress 2014

16-21 June 2014: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
www.fig.net

International Cost Engineering Council World Congress

21-23 October 2014: Milan, Italy
www.iccec2014.it

CASLE Conference and General Assembly 2015

10-12 March 2015: Takoradi, Ghana
www.casle.org