

Surveyors of Tomorrow - Ideas to “get Kids into Survey” in Germany

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SUMMARY

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Geodesy, and especially surveying, is a multifaceted and fascinating profession with the possibility to work in different technical fields. Although it is considered an exciting discipline, the number of experts is decreasing. Thus, about 20% of surveying professionals in Germany are going to retire by 2025. Unfortunately, the amount of young professionals, which could possibly fill this gap, is insufficient. Consequently, one of the main problems in Geodesy is the lack of knowledge about the profession itself, although numerous people are using geodetic products. Therefore, it is essential to start attracting and fascinating children for geodesy as early as possible and in every age.

In the following, some examples of our initiative to “get kids into survey” in Germany will be presented. A great success story is the little PIXI-book “Ich hab eine Freundin, die ist Geodätin” about a female surveyor during a cadastral survey. The book highlights the daily life of a surveyor in a child-friendly way, using illustrations and pictures. Thereby, this little book aims at giving children a first understanding about geodesy in a natural way. At the same time however, the parents get to know geodetic work by reading out the book to their children.

Further on, older children shall be attracted to surveying by a so called “day of geodesy” or „week of geodesy“. Within this week, school students get the chance to inform themselves about geodesy. Professional surveyors use this possibility to show kids what they are doing as daily work and why it is an interesting job. There are several main organizers, which promote the various offers on a webpage and organize one or two main events in bigger cities. Teachers and students are invited to come and join these events to learn about geodesy in exhibitions or with interactive presentations, presenting new surveying technologies. In addition, to inform young people about these activities is

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also helpful to bring the interesting surveying profession to the broad public.

Besides these examples of initiatives for attracting young people to surveying in Germany, there are additional good projects in other countries. It is important to “get kids into survey” by raising their interest. Therefore, we have to start now, following up on the idea to learn from each other and to get an impression what is possible.

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