

The Boundary Manifesto

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SUMMARY

The Boundary Manifesto

Boundaries are the most important and effective tool for the organization of societies. They are the only known instrument to regulate coexistence and they are applied all over the world. Everywhere it is accepted that boundaries separate two things and define where something ends and something else begins. The Corona pandemic has once again brought to mind the paramount importance of boundaries as a key crisis management tool.

The phenomenon ‘boundary’ was since the beginning of surveying activities a central element of the profession. However, the significance of this powerful tool is underestimated. Even the surveying professionals did and do pay the necessary attention to this important element of our professional activities. It gives cause for thought, that border, borderline, boundary, limit, frontier do not exist in FIG’s keyword vocabulary.

Nowadays times the border questions became important political issues, be it in conjunction with the migration crises, Brexit, land grabbing, education, and religious disputes.

But the handling of borders is characterized by ignorance, abuse of power, misuse of purpose, lack of compliance with contracts and disregard for good faith and mental rigidity. Boundaries have lost their regulative function and become subjects of arbitrariness.

Of course, boundaries may be opened, closed, removed or changed, but these operations must follow clear rules. Changes are to be negotiated, decided consensual and fixed in an accepted rightful

process.

These principles are increasingly not respected.

It is high time that the surveyors, as boundary specialists, openly present their views, their credo and their convictions to the whole world and oppose the non-observance and abolition of borders and the respective rules.

For this purpose, some advocates of a professional approach to boundaries have gathered in Bern. They drafted the Border Manifesto which shall be the starting point for sharpening the profile of the surveyors, as servants for the peaceful living together in the world. For this it is necessary to make known to the societies the importance of boundaries and that FIG tables the problems and develops measures and helps to enforce a professional treatment of boundary issues.

In the presentation, the Boundary Manifesto will be introduced, explained, and discussed how FIG should act.

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