

For a second consecutive year, the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors decided to organize the Day of the European Surveyor and GeoInformation in cooperation with sister organisations, such as EuroGeographics. The celebration took place on the 22nd March 2013 in Budapest, Hungary, during the first CLGE General Assembly of the year. Moreover, many other festivities were held throughout the European capitals by CLGE member organizations, from the 16th to the 24th March 2013.

Francis Gäbele

Under the auspices of Galileo Galilei

The Day of the European Surveyor and GeoInformation 2013



André Flahaut, President of the Belgian House of Representatives (© Quentin Van der Vennet, www.quentinvdv.com)



FIG Vice President Rudolf Staiger during his opening address at the European Space Expo in Budapest (© Mark Wijngaarde)

On the 18th March 2013, a reception was organized in Europe's capital, Brussels, in the House of the European Surveyor and GeoInformation, in the presence of distinguished guests. These included the President of the Belgian House of Representatives, Minister of State, André Flahaut, the President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Henri Malosse and the President of EuroGeographics, Ingrid Vanden Berghe.

On the 22nd March 2013, CLGE solemnly announced who would be the European Surveyor of the Year and would hold this honoured position until the next celebration in March 2014.

This time, Galileo Galilei (we use the Italian spelling on purpose) was declared European Surveyor of the year 2013. He follows Mercator, European Surveyor in 2012, honoured during the first Day of the European Surveyor and Geo-Information by CLGE, in the presence of Cheehai Teo, FIG President.

On the 21st March, on the eve of Surveyors' Day, the poster of Galileo Galilei was unveiled to the general public. This took place in the European Space Expo, organized in the Hungarian capital, in a joint effort by the European GNSS Agency (GSA), CLGE and the local Hungarian branch of Surveyors' Associations.

Rudolf Staiger, FIG vice-president, represented his organisation, together with John Hohol, president of the FIG Foundation. The latter also represented the National Society of Professional Surveyors from the USA (NSPS). The FIG Young Surveyors' Network sent its secretary and incoming chair, Eva-Maria Unger, from Austria. The aim of this network is to establish a European Branch that will integrate with CLGE.

CLGE, joined by NSPS, have decided to promote the creation of a worldwide Surveyors' Day.

This was confirmed in the Budapest Declaration, signed by John Hohol for NSPS, Gyorgy Domokos, delegate to CLGE for the Hungarian Umbrella Organisation and Jean-Yves Pirlot, CLGE president, who took this initiative.

Enrico Rispoli, Italian CLGE delegate and Secretary General of the Consiglio Nazionale di Geometri e Geometri Laureati, had prepared a passage reminding us of the life and work of our illustrious predecessor, Galileo Galilei. We would like to thank him and Maria Grazia Scorza for this work, as well as Muiris de Buil  ir and Judith & Maurice Barbieri for their proof reading. The text is available on our website www.clge.eu.

A film produced by Enrico Rispoli is also available. It can be obtained by simply addressing a request to our secretary general, Michelle.Camilleri@clge.eu.

All of this has been made possible due to the support of our partners and sponsors. CLGE wants to thank them sincerely. A special mention is due to Omar Pierre Soubra from Trimble who has committed his company, as primary sponsor, for these European events. Additionally, we would like to thank Steven Berglund, President and CEO of TRIMBLE and the rest of the entire company.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Marie M  nard and Reinhard Blasi, from the European GNSS Agency GSA, and our Hungarian delegate Gyorgy Domokos, as well their respective teams. They did some excellent work in the preparation of the European Space Expo and our General Assembly. Our gratitude also goes to all the CLGE delegates who have celebrated this Day in their own way.



John Hohol, Gyorgy Domokos and Jean-Yves Pirlot signing the Budapest Declaration (   MW)

The Budapest Declaration

The honourable and historic profession of surveying has been in existence since the beginning of civilisation. Surveying is recognised as the world's oldest legal profession.

From the rope stretchers of ancient Egypt through to modern society, the surveyor has been an essential foundation in civilisation's development. They are qualified and ready to take on the same responsibilities in the future.

Whether on land, in water or space, surveyors are always at the forefront.

In recognition of the essential role surveyors play in all aspects of today's world and to honour and publicise the surveying profession and the important work done by surveyors we hereby declare: 22 March 2013 as SURVEYOR'S DAY

Moreover, we ask the international Surveyors Federation, FIG, to consider the creation of a common worldwide Surveyors' Day.

With deep regret, we must say our goodbyes to the honorary member of CLGE and BDVI

Dipl.-Ing. Klaus-Dieter R  rup

  ffentlich bestellter Vermessungsingenieur
(Publicly Appointed Surveyor, Germany)

2nd April 1947 – 11th March 2013

In Klaus R  rup we lose a man who was able to move things along in professional politics, as well as on a personal level. He had his own individual way of doing things and we shall always remember his concern for people, his open mind and his kindness.

His influence will continue to be felt, due to how he conducted himself in the associations with which he was connected and how he worked for the profession. Also the strides he made for the benefit of human relations, in his home country, as well as in Europe and the rest of the world.



Klaus R  rup during the CLGE General Assembly in Porto, September 2005 (   Jyp)

Klaus R  rup has always been part of public life. His attachment to those around him led him into many voluntary positions, where he was always sensitive to and ready to act for, and with, his peers.

From the beginning he was not limited by the restrictions of his day job. He was not afraid of working for noble causes and not just within the German BDVI. Klaus R  rup did far more than talking; he was a man of action and committed himself in the interest of the younger generation, to the technological development of the profession and for the vast community of surveyors.

He was not only active in the interest of private surveyors: his membership in the umbrella organisations DVW and CLGE allowed him to engage with and work for, the profession as a whole. For him, the important factor was the surveyor, regardless of his or her status as employee, civil servant or private surveyor.

In 1998 he became vice-president of the CLGE and vice-chair of FIG Commission 1. Some years later, in 2001, he was appointed president of CLGE, where he obtained impressive results, such as the "Accord Multilateral", which he achieved in cooperation with Geometer Europas, signed by professional associations from 15 countries.

The well-known Market Report was published under his patronage. Important European meetings were marked by his signature. With his negotiation skills and linguistic abilities he united people. Collegiality, friendship and kindness were his "weapons". Since his departure younger generations have come forward to take over the tasks he performed in his inimitable way. We will honour him with sincerity and great respect and would like it to be known that we will certainly never forget him.

In silent remembrance,

Jean-Yves Pirlot	Michael Zurhorst	Rudolf Wehmeyer
CLGE President	BDVI President	BDVI Nordrhein Westfalen, Chair