



# GEOMETER EUROPAS

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen...

Geometer Europas is the association of the European private surveyors entrusted with a public mission.

Seven countries are, today, members of Geometer Europas: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxemburg, Switzerland.

Geometer Europas is associated to CLGE, which is the European association of surveyors, whatever their professional status (civil servant, employed or private).

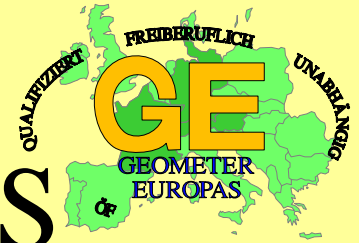
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The basic principle of entrusting the private professionals with a public mission is that the State delegates some of its responsibilities to private practitioners, under conditions of competence and liability.

We shall show you some examples of this PPP, its conditions and its advantages.

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Advantages for States: from the different experiences, these advantages are both economic and social:

**Economic:** the State has less personnel and avoids investment; the services are provided at market prices, since private surveyors are subjected to competition.

**Social:** the State is less involved in land conflicts, and entrusts the private surveyors with the responsibility of settling disputes before they occur.

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Advantages for the customer:

- Shorter delays for procedures;
- Personnel qualified (engineering level) to provide both technical and counselling services;
- Prices submitted to competition; these prices are already « globalized », through European and international partnerships, and competition;

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The requirements: since the private surveyors have a public mission, they should have a twofold education: both technical and legal; they should also guarantee a high level of qualification; they have to be organized in such a way that they guarantee the quality of the services provided.

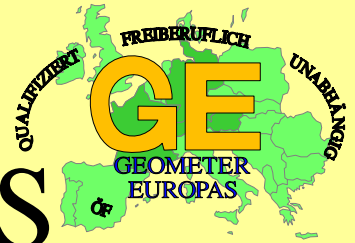
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In France, for example, the Ordre des Geometres Experts can take sanctions against surveyors who do not respect the ethics of the profession; the Ordre has also ruled that surveyors should go through 40 hours of training per year.

A summer university has been organized in 2005 for this purpose; it was attended by 1/3 of the surveyors.

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Moreover, private surveyors have a compulsory insurance, and the French Ordre's statutory meetings are attended by a representative of the government...

About diplomas requirements, Geometer Europas has published its Multilateral Accord in which it recommends a High School+5 standard, which is an engineering diploma.

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A few words about the development of the surveying profession: the last years have witnessed deep changes, both in technical terms, with IT developments, and with an accumulation of regulations, reflecting the increasingly complex land planning rules.

If IT developments implies simpler procedures, legal issues are increasingly complex, and consumers need more counselling.

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This trend has implications in surveyors' training programs, with more legal topics required;

It also has implications on the circulation of surveyors in Europe, since it raises the question of his (her) knowledge of other European regulations...

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The Directive on Professional Qualifications has, for instance, allowed two Belgian surveyors to become members of the French Ordre, in spite of a shorter training; but their long experience in France has been decisive for their registration upon the government's recommendation.

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Some remarks about the common interests of cadastral agencies and the surveyors:

It is in the interests of both sides that surveyors reach the highest possible levels of training, at university and in-service, both in the technical and legal fields;

It is also in both parties' interests that they clearly define their respective roles, usually linked to historical, and socio-economic factors;

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But there is undoubtedly a trend of privatisation in Europe, supported by the European directives, and therefore, the development of private surveyors cannot be avoided; for the sake of the defense of the basic human right to property, surveyors should be well trained, and organized in such a manner that they provide quality services, in accordance with public ethics;

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No doubt that the experience of defining a public mission for surveyors is a sustainable and rational solution which can be useful for a number of European countries.

Thank you for your attention.