

# The Development of Standards and Ethical Challenges of Surveyors Associations in Russia

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**Key words:** Capacity building; Legislation; Standards

## SUMMARY

The surveyors associations in Russia are entitled by law to perform quality control and monitor surveyors' performance. This function is directly linked to the analysis of statistics and an overview of surveying practices and complains lodged by clients. The role of a professional code of ethics has been in focus since 2008 when our self-governed association, ASRO Cadastral Engineers developed its Code of Ethics.

Following the growing importance of the issue we therefore identify the following areas of major concern:

1. Surveyors business reputation: raising awareness. The existing commercial bidding process does not secure a success to the best surveyor's bid in a tender. This problem manifests itself on the macroeconomic level leading to losses in the investment appeal of the regions of the country.
2. Economic vulnerability of a diligent surveyor on the market of surveying services. At present effective mechanisms to protect and encourage diligence are absent. This situation, coupled with various punitive measures aimed to place responsibility for any major malfunction of a land or property project on the surveyor, constitutes a threat to the profession.
3. Unhealthy competition among self-governed surveyors associations. Numerous self-governed surveyors associations compete for member fees in Russia. The very nature of this competition contradicts the non-profit nature of such bodies. Ample examples of the tendency can be found on the Internet and in the social media. We report facts where surveyors are lured into "inexpensive" self-governed bodies just for the sake of increasing their memberships, and such acts are none short of cheating performed against the surveyors. Ultimately profession-related risks increase, leading to

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the above-mentioned concerns.

4. Women in the surveying profession. So far pregnancy and motherhood remain obstacles to the career progress in surveying, as professional requirements stipulate the surveyor's work experience be uninterrupted in order to avoid a drop in qualification. Yet women represent a majority in the surveying profession. With the necessity to keep up to date with the technical progress competence- and capacity-building become indispensable but may come insurmountable for women, leading to professional drop-outs, with the overall income level of women reaching only 75% that of men.

ASRO Cadastral Engineers promotes legislative and profession-related changes to address the four above-mentioned areas of ethics related concerns. This work is carried out through the National Association of Self-Governed Organisations of Cadastral Engineers.

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