

# **The FIG Foundation - Celebrating 20 years in helping to Build a Sustainable Future**

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**Key words:** Foundation, Grants

## **SUMMARY**

This paper will highlight the actions and achievements of the FIG Foundation over the past 20 years.

Last year marked the 20th anniversary of the FIG Foundation. The FIG Education Foundation was established in 1996 as a public company under the Corporation Laws of Australia. In 2000 the administration of the FIG Education Foundation was transferred to the FIG permanent office in Copenhagen. On 11 May 2001, at its last session of the FIG Working Week in Seoul Korea, the FIG General Assembly adopted the statutes of the FIG Foundation at the same time the original FIG Education Foundation was closed, and the new FIG Foundation officially opened under the FIG umbrella.

The purpose of the Foundation is the funding of educational and capacity building projects and scholarships. For the over 100 years of its existence FIG has experienced a shortage of funds to finance education projects, even though education is vital to the surveying profession and is relevant to all the organisational members of FIG.

FIG Foundation raises funds to secure a sustainable future for surveyors. Donations finance educational and capacity building projects and scholarships, especially in developing countries and countries in transition, and to encourage research into all disciplines of surveying and to disseminate the results of that research.

Together with FIG Foundation you have the possibility of building a sustainable future securing:

- Grants and scholarships to projects, for instance to develop curricula for surveying education, training, and capacity building, especially in developing countries
- Encourage research into all disciplines of surveying and to disseminate the results of that research
- Promote high standards of education and training for surveyors and to facilitate continuing professional development
- Educate people in the disciplines of surveying, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition
- Promote the use of distance learning, networking, eLearning, and knowledge management in surveying education and continuing professional development

- Promote the exchange of surveying personnel for greater understanding of all facets of the profession of surveying
- To support by seed funding conferences, meetings of young surveyors and similar events in cooperation with international agencies such as the United Nations

The FIG Foundation is located in and administered by the FIG Office in Copenhagen. A Board of Directors chaired by the President of the FIG Foundation makes the decisions of the Foundation. The Board of Directors is appointed by FIG Council. The first FIG Foundation Board of Directors consisted of Holger MAGEL (Germany) as President with Directors Stig ENEMARK (Denmark), Iain GREENWAY (Ireland), John HOHOL (USA), Ian WILLIAMSON (Australia).

The 2022 FIG Foundation Board of Directors consists of John HOHOL (USA) as President with Directors Winston AYENI (Nigeria), Bryn FOSBURGH (USA), Enrico RISPOLI (Italy), Jennifer WHITTAL (South Africa), Jixian ZHANG (China – Vice President FIG Council).

Special recognition and thanks to Mike Barry (FIG Foundation Board Member 2006-2021). Mike set the standards for the academic requirements of the Foundation most especially the FIG Foundation PhD Scholarship and Academic Research Grant programs. In 2018 Mike and Eva-Maria Unger, then chair of the FIG Young Surveyors Network, created two videos to assist grant applicants in writing grant proposals. In his 15 years on the FIG Foundation Board of Directors Mike helped ensure applicants were thoroughly evaluated and grants properly awarded. In acknowledgement of his long-time service to both the Foundation and FIG Mike was named an FIG Honorary Member during the FIG Working Week 2021.

Since its establishment 24 people from 15 countries have served on the Foundation Board. All have generously served as volunteers receiving no compensation for their time, expertise, and activities on the Board.

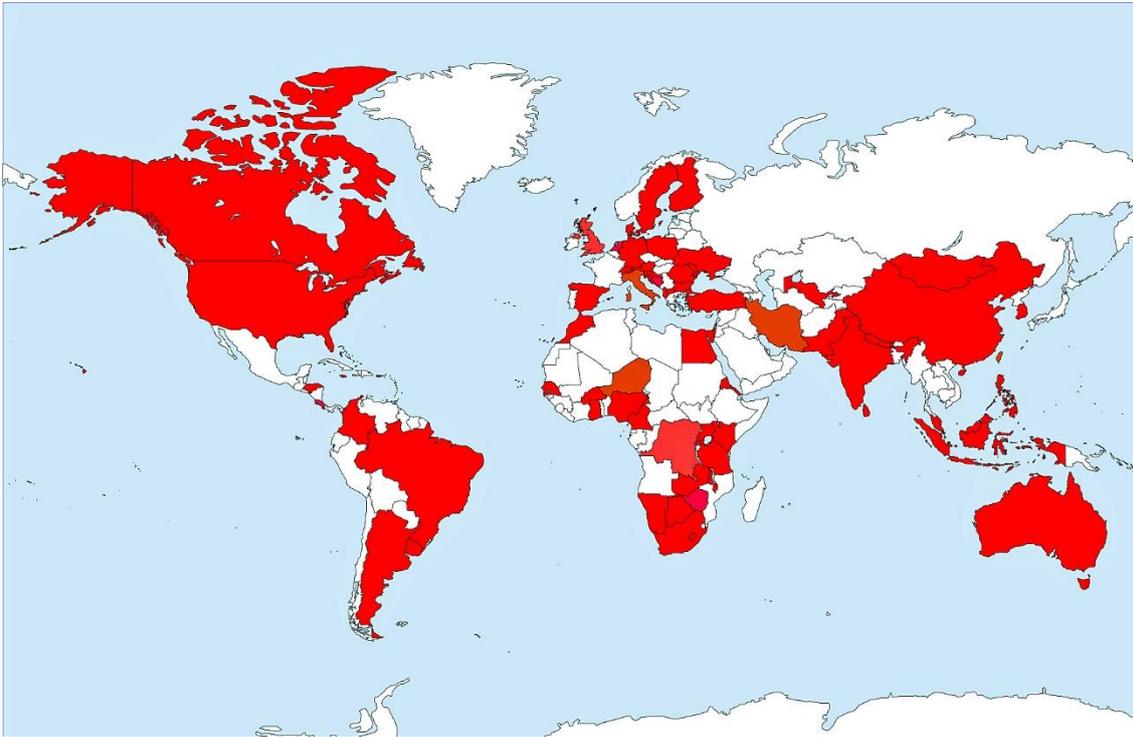
Ken ALLRED (Canada) 2007-2008  
 Winston AYENI (Nigeria) 2020-  
 Michael BARRY (Canada) 2006-2021  
 Pengfei CHENG (China) 2015-2016  
 Stig ENEMARK (Denmark) 201-2005  
 Orhan ERCAN (Turkey) 2017-2018  
 Bryn FOSBURGH (USA) 2022-  
 Steven FRANK (USA) 2011-2014  
 Iain GREENWAY (Ireland) 2001-2010  
 Liza GROENENDIJK (Netherlands) 2015-2017  
 John HOHOL (USA) 2001-  
 Holger MAGEL (Germany) 2001-2002

David MITCHELL (Australia) 2019-2020  
 Bela MARCUS (Hungary) 2006-2010  
 Chryssy POTSIOU (Greece) 2011-2014  
 Enrico RISPOLI (Italy) 2019-  
 Ralf SCHROTH (Germany) 2003-2006  
 Winnie SHIU (China) 2018  
 Daniel STEUDLER (Switzerland) 2017-2018  
 Paul VANDERMOLEN (Netherlands) 2011-2016  
 Warren WATKINS (Australia) 2009-2010  
 Jennifer WHITTAL (South Africa) 2022-  
 Ian WILLIAMSON (Australia) 2001-2005  
 Jixian ZHANG (China) 2019-

Charter Foundation Partner Trimble Navigation continues to support the FIG Foundation by sponsorship of the FIG Foundation Dinner since 2010 and providing other support directly through the Foundation.

## Distribution of FIG Foundation grants (2001-2021)

As of today, the FIG Foundation has awarded 242 grants to surveyors in 76 countries, totalling over 360,000 EUR.



Albania	Fiji	Mongolia	Slovakia
Argentina	Finland	Montenegro	South Africa
Australia	Germany	Morocco	South Korea
Austria	Ghana	Namibia	Spain
Bahamas	Greece	Nepal	Sri Lanka
Botswana	Honduras	Netherlands	Sweden
Brazil	India	New Zealand	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Indonesia	Niger	Taiwan
Burkina Faso	Iran	Nigeria	Tanzania
Cameroon	Israel	Norway	Turkey
Canada	Italy	Pakistan	Uganda
China	Jamaica	Philippines	Ukraine
Colombia	Japan	Poland	United Kingdom
Congo	Kenya	Portugal	Uruguay
Costa Rica	Lesotho	Romania	USA
Croatia	Macedonia	Rwanda	Uzbekistan
Denmark	Malawi	St. Vincent	Vietnam
Egypt	Malaysia	Serbia	Zambia
Eritrea	Moldova	Senegal	Zimbabwe

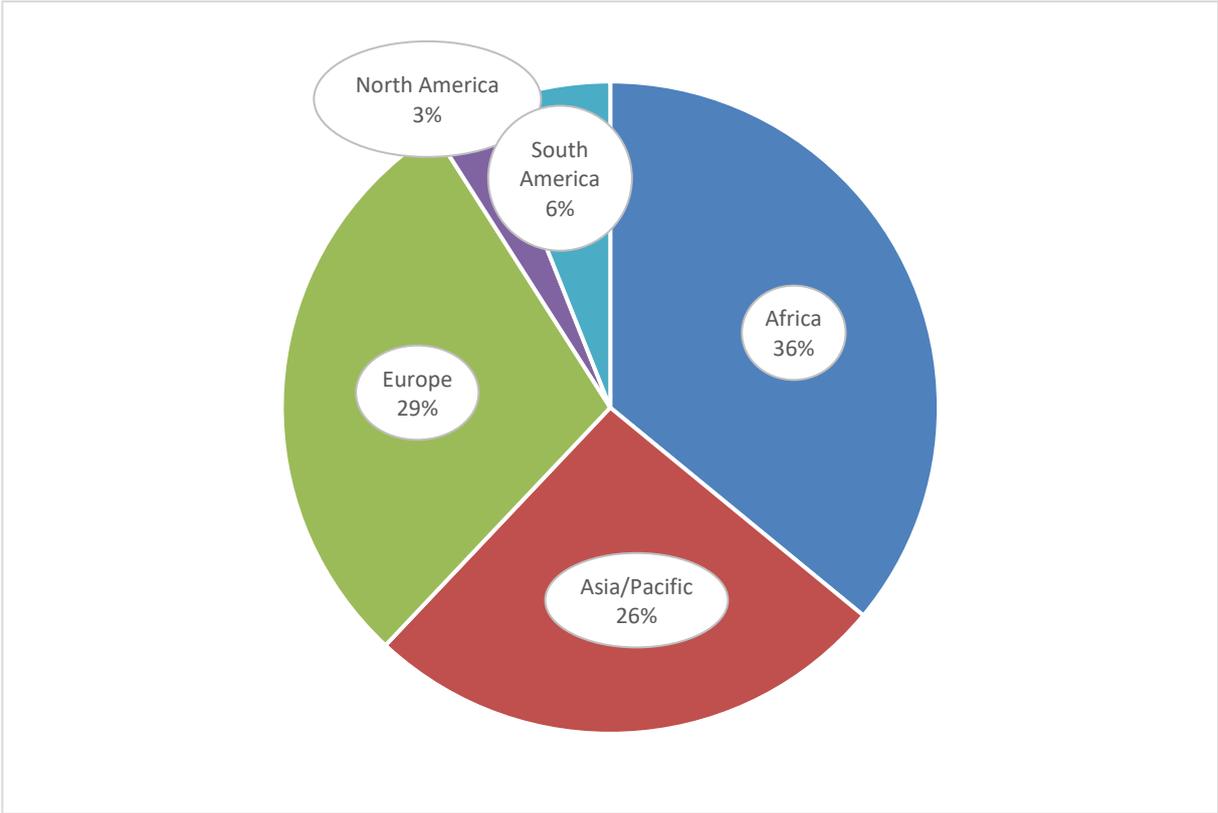
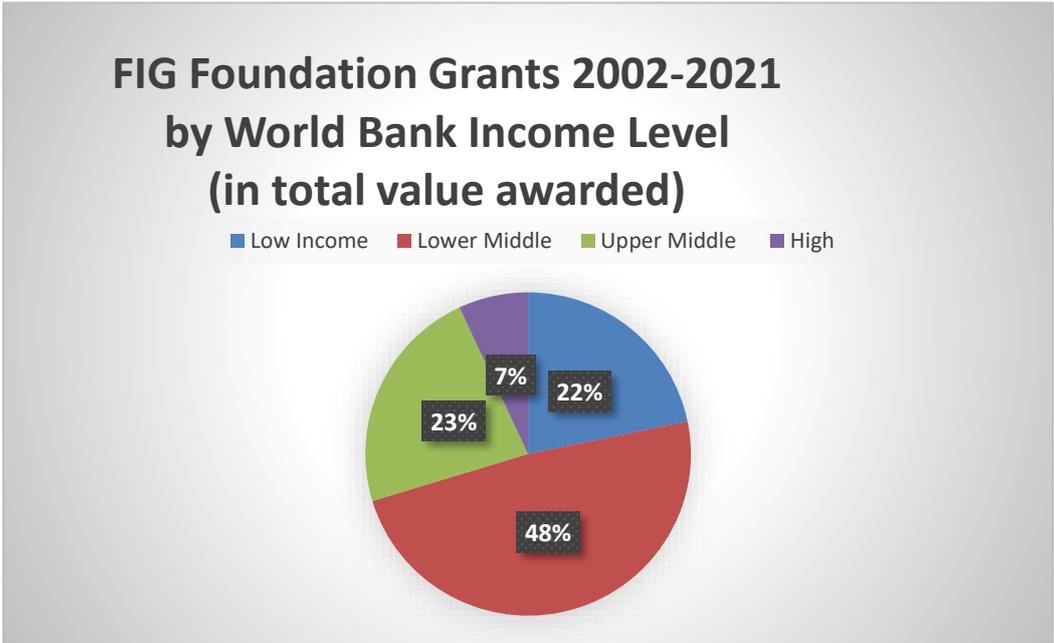


FIG Foundation Grants Awarded 2002 - 2021



THREE PRIMARY GRANTS ARE AWARDED ANNUALLY:

### **ACADEMIC RESEARCH GRANT**

The FIG Foundation will be providing research grants of up to 40,000 euros spread over three years.

**Applicants shall:**

1. be based in a surveying/geomatics academic programme that teaches surveying in a country listed by the World Bank as a low-income, lower-middle or upper-middle income economy,
2. have an established record of published research - at least two articles in good quality internationally recognised peer reviewed journals serves as a useful guideline, and
3. have experience in managing postgraduate students.

Grants will be awarded to a focused research project. The grant holder is expected to conduct the bulk of the research themselves (it is not a research manager's grant), but at the same time the development of highly qualified personnel (HQP) should be a major component of the project. Postgraduate students should be full time students, and this grant should provide financial support for their degree studies. However, the principal investigator should be intimately involved in the work.

### **PHD SCHOLARSHIP**

The FIG Foundation will be providing research grants of up to 4,000 euros.

**Applicants shall:**

1. be studying for a PhD degree and registered solely in a surveying/geomatics academic programme that teaches surveying in a country listed by the World Bank as a low-income, lower-middle or upper-middle income economy,
2. must have had a paper accepted by a peer reviewed international journal based on their doctoral research project; applicants should be the lead author, and the paper should be co-authored with their supervisor,
3. should not have submitted their final thesis at the application deadline.

### **YOUNG SURVEYOR GRANTS TO ATTEND FIG CONFERENCES**

The FIG Foundation has decided to provide grants in support of young surveyors/students of surveying and related studies attending FIG conferences (FIG Congresses and Working Weeks). These grants are available to all young surveyors who meet the definition of a young surveyor as defined below (regardless of where you live). To qualify for the funds, you must meet the requirements to be Young Surveyors as FIG defines Young Surveyors (YS):

- Surveyors aged 35 years or under
- Students of surveying and all related studies



Eva-Maria UNGER (Austria)  
Chair, FIG Young Surveyors Network 2015-2018  
Foundation Fellowships

*"I want to say a big Thank you to the board of the FIG Foundation. It is remarkable and outstanding how supportive you are towards the FIG Young Surveyors Network. All the things we are doing and in which we are successful have always the stamp of the FIG Foundation on it. What I want to say by that is that it would not be possible to have this success and this angle in addressing Young Surveyors all over the world without you."*



Bruno Lot TANKO (Nigeria)  
PhD Scholarship

*"The FIG Foundation scholarship made me to have more time for studying and learning which led to the completion of my PhD programme within three years. Earning this prestigious scholarship also made me stand out and become an attractive job candidate as I immediately secured a job with the University of Reading UK (Malaysia campus), helping me to accomplish my dream."*



Habtemicael WELDEGIORGIS (Eritrea)  
Foundation Fellowship

*"The opportunity of participating at a FIG Conference was an eye-opener and changed my world. The contacts opened new doors for me. I was exposed to world class experts where valuable experiences and best practices were learnt. The interactions with such an august body of experts enabled me to initiate revisions into the arbitrary service charge regime... and ensuring modernisation and self-sustainability of the Eritrean Cadastral Office."*



Kaarina Kaadia TOIVO (Namibia)  
FIG Foundation Grant – FIG Working Week 2017

*Overall it was best experience of my entire life and I will forever be thankful to the foundation for granting me this amazing opportunity. Who knew that this small girl from a very small village can one day get on a plane and see the world? I can honestly not put my entire experience in one report no words can fully describe my experience there. I am thankful once again. Having never being on a plane or even just leaving my country, I must say it was extremely terrifying yet exciting at the same time. The journey was long but I finally reached my destination in good time. It was all like a dream really. Ms Claudia was extremely helpful and she directed me so well to the venue. The people of Helsinki were all very friendly and they were so eager to assist me in getting my way around the city."*



Simon HULL (South Africa)  
Research Trip

*"Thanks to sponsorship received from the FIG Foundation I was able to conduct a research trip to the Netherlands and Germany during September and October 2014. The purpose of the trip was to learn as much as possible about the cadastral systems of the two countries. These two cases are the first to be studied as part of a multiple case study towards my PhD. I plan to follow up with several cases from southern Africa in 2015."*



Cemre ŞAHINKAYA (Turkey)  
FIG Foundation Grant – FIG Congress 2018

*"I am feeling very lucky to be granted as a Young Surveyor in 2018 and to be able to attend to the 4th YS Conference and the FIG Congress in Istanbul. The support of FIG Foundation has been definitely encouraging me to improve my professional skills and motivating me to go further."*



James Quick (United Kingdom)  
FIG Foundation Grant – FIG Congress 2018

*"It was such a privilege to be sponsored by the FIG Foundation to be involved in the FIG Congress and FIG Young Surveyors meeting last year. Crucially, it enables younger members in FIG to develop a wider view of the problems in our industry and then encourages them to contribute to some of FIGs excellent thought leadership work."*



Ruth L. TRUJILLO Rodriguez (USA – Puerto Rico)  
FIG Foundation Grant – FIG Working Week 2019

*"First and foremost, I would like to thank the FIG Foundation for giving me the opportunity to apply for the Young Surveyors Grant to attend FIG Working Week 2019 in Vietnam. I felt exceptionally grateful and honored to be able to participate in such a remarkable event."*



Melissa ROBERT (Uruguay)  
Foundation Fellowships, Promoting FIG in Latin America

*"I am very happy and honored for being supported by the FIG Foundation to introduce and promote FIG to the Young Surveyors and National Associations in Latin America and for the opportunity to participate in so many FIG events including the FIG Regional Conference 2012, FIG Congress 2014, FIG Working Week 2015, FIG Congress 2018."*

## FIG Foundation grants funded participation at the following events



FIG Young Surveyors Board Meeting and Future of Surveying Workshop  
Cairo, Egypt 2007



1st FIG Young Surveyors  
European Meeting  
Lisbon, Portugal 2012



1st FIG Young Surveyors Conference  
Rome, Italy 2012



FIG Working Week 2013  
Abuja, Nigeria



8th FIG Regional Conference  
Montevideo, Uruguay 2012



XXV FIG Congress 2014  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



2nd FIG Young Surveyors Conference  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 2014



STDM Training 2014  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



1st FIG Young Surveyors 2014  
North American Meeting  
San Diego, California USA



IV International Training Course in  
Topography for Young Surveyors  
Madrid, Spain 2011

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The FIG Foundation - Celebrating 20 years in helping to Build a Sustainable Future (11292)  
John Hohol (USA)

FIG Congress 2022  
Volunteering for the future - Geospatial excellence for a better living  
Warsaw, Poland, 11–15 September 2022



6th World Urban Forum  
Naples, Italy 2012



FIG Pacific Small Island Developing States Symposium  
Suva, Fiji 2013



X Congreso Nacional y VII Internacional de Topografía  
Bogotá, Colombia 2015



XIV Congreso Internacional de Topografía, Catastro, Geodesia y Geomática  
San José, Costa Rica 2016



FIG Africa Task Force Land Professionals Workshop  
Elmina, Ghana 2012



5th Young Surveyors Meeting  
Santa Fe, Argentina 2015



V International Training Course in Topography for Young Surveyors  
Lisbon, Portugal 2012



2nd FIG Young Surveyors European Meeting  
Berlin, Germany 2014

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3rd FIG Young Surveyors  
European Meeting  
Sofia, Bulgaria 2015



2nd FIG Young Surveyors  
North American Meeting  
Minneapolis, Minnesota USA 2016



1st FIG Young Surveyors  
Asian-Pacific Meeting  
Christchurch, New Zealand 2016



XXVI FIG Congress  
Istanbul, Turkey 2018



5th FIG Young Surveyors European Meeting  
Helsinki, Finland 2017



XXVI FIG Congress  
Istanbul, Turkey 2018



4th FIG Young Surveyors Conference  
Istanbul, Turkey 2018



3rd FIG Young Surveyors  
North American Meeting  
College Park, Maryland USA 2018

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1st FIG Young Surveyors  
Africa Meeting  
Gaborone, Botswana 2018



3rd FIG Young Surveyors  
Asian-Pacific Meeting  
Hanoi, Vietnam 2019



32nd IGSM  
International Geodetic Students Meeting  
Warsaw, Poland 2019



2nd FIG Young Surveyors  
Africa Meeting  
Dakar, Senegal 2019

The FIG Foundation will strive in its third decade to continue to help build a sustainable future in support of FIG and the global surveying profession.

## REFERENCES

Presentations at previous FIG conferences, reports to FIG General Assembly  
FIG Foundation website: [fig.net/figfoundation](http://fig.net/figfoundation)

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

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