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Volunteering
for the future –
Geospatial excellence
for a better living

Enhancing Surveying Education through Blended Learning

Chapter 5 – *The benefits of blended learning for surveying education*

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This paper set to answer the following questions:



What do we understand by "surveying education"?



What are the benefits of a blended learning environment?



How are Regional Networks engaging in this space?



What is the role of blended approaches beyond the lecture hall?



What is the way forward?

Surveying Education

- **Tertiary education and training in surveying**
 - residential programmes at the institutions
 - qualifications - Diplomas and Degrees
- **Continuous professional development**
 - MOOCs
 - Short courses
 - completion certificates
- **Soft skills and knowledge allied to the domain of surveying**
 - Networking, volunteering, leadership, time management etc.
 - Mentoring programme
 - short industry courses

The benefits of blended learning

- **The FIG Publication 46:** Enhancing Surveying Education through e-Learning set the scene for blended learning. COVID fast tracked us all into this space
- **Positive aspects:**
 - accessibility
 - scalability
 - convenience
 - digestibility
- **Negative aspects:**
 - practical work
 - examination
 - ICT requirements, expertise
 - student engagement

Policy considerations

Benefits in The FIG Publication 46: Enhancing Surveying Education through e-Learning

- increases the availability
- cost-effective assembly and dissemination
- more students

Are students benefitting through blended learning and are their learning outcomes the same?

If so, we can give

- **access** to more students through off-campus deconcentrating of learning to
- a **diversity** of academic lecturers, industry leaders, and their expertise

How are Regional Networks engaging in this space?

Regional Networks can be academic, education or capacity building.

- UN-HABITAT Global Land Tool Network – GLTN
- Eastern Africa Land Administration Network – EALAN
- Latin America Land Administration Network - LALAN

Objectives:

- support capacity development
- exchange experiences
- increase knowledge

Lessons from the education sector:

- Seminars can be shared online to increase reach
- Capacity development – but consider the cons too

Lifelong Learning, CPD and Alternative Career Pathways

- **CPD** is required for professional registration
- **Networking**
 - Face-to-face – networking is easier
 - Online – synchronized short meetings can facilitate engagement and foster connection
- **Flexible:** fully online & synchronous <~> blended & a-synchronous – flexible for working professionals
- **Multimodal**
 - frequent online quizzes, live polls (e.g. Mentimeter), short videos, readings, forums
 - Increases connection and engagement with subject
- **Sharing of available opportunities:**
 - MOOCs and online training – shared through African Regional Network
 - Reduce the digital divide

Conclusion – blended learning is here to stay because of its

- Availability
- Equitable access – close the rich-poor divide and rural/urban divide
- Resilience in times of uncertainty, such as
 - Natural disasters (UCT fire 2021)
 - Health emergencies (e.g. COVID pandemic)
 - Protest action and wars (e.g. Rhodes Must Fall/Fees Must Fall)