Sustainable Sovereign State Spatial Skills Supply

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SUMMARY

Sustainable Spatial Skills Supply

Many professional surveyors are conscious of the changing environment and workplace in which our skills and competences are applied. Technology trends, data trends, teaching and educational trends, plus others, have all impacted on the Spatial and Geospatial skills expected and required of the professional surveyor. These trends have also affected associated and affiliated roles: planning, land administration, data visualisation, the development of the natural environment, infrastructure and modelling of the built environment. The trends though are depleting the supply of the new next generation surveyors.

As the UN Technical authority, FIG has a unique role in establishing, preserving and promoting spatial skills, competencies and the key attributes of the surveyor. Providing a platform, FIG can also support and advocate for the surveyor to be involved in key commercial and government roles. Surveyor roles are critical for informed decision making and of strategic importance – this is the conventional thinking – but with less numbers of surveyors, an aging demographic and challenges in inclusivity and diversity is this sustainable?

The paper aims to present the changing context and general trend in spatial and geospatial education and looks to what the future strategic actions that FIG, its commissions and the organisations in which the senior surveyors operate, could consider addressing the inexorable decline in the future supply chain of skilled professional surveyors.