

The Surveyor of the XXIst Century

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ABSTRACT

The paper discusses the international trends and challenges within the professional areas of surveying and the related trends and challenges within surveying education.

There is no doubt that the main challenge of the future will be that the only constant is change. To deal with this constant change the educational base must be flexible. There is need to change the focus in surveying education from predominantly an engineering focus to a more managerial and interdisciplinary approach. Graduates must possess skills to adapt to a rapidly changing labor market and they must possess skills to deal even with the unknown problems of the future.

It is argued that any future educational profile should comprise measurement science and land management, and that it should be supported by and embedding in a broad interdisciplinary paradigm of spatial information management. The focus should be developing key professional competences within the interdisciplinary paradigm of surveying. Professional and technical skills can be acquired and updated at a later stage in one's career; skills for theoretical problem-solving and skills for "learning to learn" can only be achieved through academic training at the universities.

University graduation must be seen as not the end in itself but as only the first step in a lifelong educational process supported by CPD activities. In this regard there will be a need to establish a new balance between the universities and professional practice. This new balance should allow the professionals to interact with the universities and thereby get access to continual updating of their professional skills in a lifelong learning perspective.