

Each year, the Slovenian Land Surveying Day is an opportunity for the profession to stop, take a breath, look back on the road it has followed, and a look forward to its prospects. Looking back is necessary to underline everything that was good and successful, and to have the courage to admit that some attempts were not successful and that one could try to change a thing or two in their future endeavours. It is by all means essential to proudly recount everything that was good and give due recognition to good individuals. This increases the self-confidence of the land surveying profession and the awareness that we have knowledge and abilities. It is not a sign of weakness to admit deficiencies; on the contrary, it only proves that the profession has enough power for correction after it embarked on a wrong course of action. This means that we are capable of self-criticism and self-appraisal, while not harming our land surveying pride. To look back is to see the road we have travelled.

To look forward is to raise one's head and focus one's gaze on the desired goals. Everyday obligations and rush force one to drop the gaze and only see a few steps in front of them, not leaving enough room for a professional thought and a keen imagination; both of which are catalysts of advancement in engineering. It remains unknown, which road we will take and what it will be like. In truth, it is not actually necessary because all the roads are right if they lead towards a goal.

The complexity of the occupation of a surveyor engineer lies not only in technical skills and knowledge but also in understanding the responsibilities – one could say respect – towards the individuals that use their products and services on a daily basis. In short, a surveyor engineer is a comprehensive personality that perceives modern technology as a tool or a means, and not merely as a mechanical solution that enables them to produce solutions – so often played out in their surveying-engineering souls – that 'burden' them, all the while remaining conscious of their moral and professional responsibility.

Grandiose plans, developing visions, and great expectations stem from a wealth of experience and achievements in land surveying. We have attempted to capture all of the abovementioned aspects in the presentations that were given during panel discussions on the 46th Slovenian Land Surveying Day. We are confident that the event will provide numerous opportunities for a careful reflection on professional challenges, solutions and dilemmas; as well as for a vision on the development of surveying techniques on one side and the profession itself on the other. We hope that the gathering has been a useful reminder to surveyor engineers on their achievements, the challenges in front of them, and, last but not least, the road they want to take.

We have to bear in mind that a surveyor engineer is not only a surveyor inside and engineer or an engineer inside a surveyor, but an upright individual that pursues both vocations with excellence.

With best wishes!