

Autumn has been opening its doors wide these days. Along with rich colours that wink at us on autumn mornings on our way to work, it brings slightly shorter days. You might use these longer evenings to read *Geodetski vestnik*, the autumn issue of which brings interesting submissions from research as well as professional fields.

Shorter days also create an opportunity to devote more of our time to different professional forums. Not only in our profession and not only in Slovenia – one can often come across the remark that we are not interested (any more) in active involvement in professional discussions, that we are hard to motivate to take part in the shaping of professional standards. Low levels of engagement from the expert community are especially worrying when strategic development guidelines are being developed, when new legislation with a direct impact on our profession and our work is being drafted. A ‘reaction’ has only been triggered now, when changes are actually implemented – too late, without any doubt.

It is not easy to find the answer as to why the motivation of individuals for active involvement in such important forums has been increasingly lower. We often search for reasons in the fast pace of life, overextension at work and a chronic lack of time ... Undoubtedly, one of the important reasons is the fact that even those who want to be and actually are involved often go unheard and considered. Social psychology is well-acquainted with the term of reciprocity or mutuality, a social norm that enables the establishment of constant cooperation, association. One of the modern dictionaries defines reciprocity as ‘the exchange of something between people or groups of people when each person or group gives or allows something to the other’. I am convinced that individuals would be more motivated to get involved in the shaping of strategic development solutions and ‘the rules of the game’ in the profession and in society as a whole if they had the feeling of being heard, of being taken seriously.

As far as the development of the profession and expert solutions are concerned, I have to underline the significance of mutual cooperation between public administration, the private sector and academia. Not so long ago, there was a reluctancy about connections between institutions from public, private and academic spheres; luckily, strong positive trends have been noted in our profession recently. Undoubtedly, this is a motivation for our future work – be it in public administration, research or academic institutions, or in a private undertaking.

The role of the Association of Surveyors of Slovenia has been and remains prominent. The activities of the Association and its regional societies, all of them being apolitical organizations, offer a forum for exchange of opinions and discussions between experts active in different spheres and representing different generations. So, dear reader, you are kindly invited to contribute, we will gladly accept new ideas and initiatives! As the editor of a professional journal, I especially address those of you who would like to share your expert knowledge or impressions from expert and societal activities, and invite you to gather your courage and enrich our common journal with your contributions. I promise that your voice will be ‘heard’.