

2022 – A remarkable year in all aspects, in Slovenia and globally. A myriad of things, but sadly too many were negative. I believe everyone has contemplated the world we live in, the direction we are heading, the future of our children, and our inheritance left for them. Wars, disputes between countries, divided societies, separations into 'ours' and 'yours', hatred, greed for material possessions, and so many other such things. In short, too many negative and too few positive aspects. Undoubtedly, nobody wishes for such things, but they keep occurring. Of course, they occur, while we pay attention to others instead of ourselves. We keep looking for reasons and excuses in others instead of looking for solutions and changes in ourselves. First and foremost, we lack positive thinking.

And what was 2022 for the surveying profession? Defining in several aspects. The profession was directly influenced by the Real Estate Cadastre Act and the implementation of a new cadastral information system, both of which were a source of widespread dissatisfaction and created discord. Each legislative change and each increase in digitalisation aspire to raise the quality of the profession, to simplify and accelerate procedures. Full implementation of these changes depends on several factors: a healthy dialogue, readiness for change and positive thinking. Regrettably, it was proved again that we in our profession are still not capable of this. Like it or not, this must be acknowledged.

In the over two years since I became the president of the association and have attended different events, I have recognised with some sadness how many divisions, even hatred, troubles, inability to communicate, and lack of will for mutual understanding are present. We still do not want to see and only defend our positions. Do we really need that? Is there really no other way? Are we aware of the extent of damage we inflict on ourselves, the profession and society as a whole? I think it is high time for personal reflection; it is high time to change our ingrained habits and thinking. Let us take a step back to be able to make some positive steps forward. Let us talk, let us help one another, and let us seek common professional solutions. Let us stop creating divisions between private and public sectors, between 'ours' and 'yours'. Let us be responsible to ourselves and make positive efforts for the good of the profession. As a profession with high value for the society, it is our duty. Let us search for clear and decisive solutions to present-day challenges. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you who maintain high professional standards in your work, who devote your time and energy in the process of change.

The organisation of this year's Land Surveying Day in Velenje proved who and what is a Land Surveyor. We received plenty of positive feedback, from professionals and politicians alike. This means that we know how things are done. I can only express sadness that some people were not able to overcome their inhibitions and boycotted the event. This was also the boycott of themselves and the profession. I do not wish it would remain so in the future. Let us interact, let us talk and seek solutions. I am sure that, despite everything that took place in 2022, the year has taught us many positive lessons.

Good luck, land surveying!

I wish you all the best in 2023, let us be healthy and let us bring back the soul of the surveying profession.

