

Ogledalo The mirror

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V uvodniku letošnje pomladne številke je kolega glavni urednik dr. Petrovič naslovil pomladitve v strokovnem okolju. V izteku leta, ko se že po tradiciji oziramo nazaj in delamo ocene minulega obdobja, pa je meni pripadla čast uvodničarja zadnje letošnje številke, in to prav v pozni jeseni moje poklicne poti.

Po teh nekaj aktivnih desetletjih še ne bom razmišljal o staranju, tudi ne bom pisal o velikih spremembah v strokovnem okolju, čeprav bi, po teoriji vse hitrejši rasti znanja in tehnološkega razvoja, o tem verjetno lahko zapisal več, kot so v primerljivem obdobju kolegi predhodnih generacij. Pa to nikakor ni mišljeno slabšalno, naše strokovne predhodnike globoko spoštujem in njihovi dosežki so bili v tedanjih razmerah za delo včasih prav neverjetni. O intenzivnem strokovnem razvoju pričajo že prispevki v Geodetskem vestniku ter predstavitev na letnih Geodetskih dnevih, in tako naj tudi ostane.

Na našem pravkar izvedenem letnem strokovnem druženju mi je misli zaposlila druga pomembna, pa čeprav nikakor nova tema – morda kar nekoliko premalo polemična predstavitev z naslovom Ekonomski vidiki geodetskih storitev. Posredovane misli, podane iztočnice in navedeni podatki, ki jih sicer že vrsto let spremljam tudi sam, bi terjali poglobljeno razpravo. Upam, da je predstavitev pritegnila pozornost tudi drugih prisotnih kolegov geodetov. Prav bi bilo, da se z javno objavo iztočnice in podatki posredujejo širše, da jih ponotranjijo predvsem tisti, ki so jim res namenjeni. Tisti, ki nam močno krojijo v prispevku izpostavljeno slabo podobo stroke v družbi.

Vtis, pravzaprav posebej prvi vtis, je izjemno pomembna »dobrina«, ki se je geodeti premalo zavedamo. Še več, uglajen nastop celo pogosto javno zavračamo kot »nepotreben arhaizem«, ostalino preteklih časov, snobizem! Ali je to res, naj se vpraša vsak od nas v svojem odnosu do okolice. Ali staro reklo »Obleka naredi človeka.« res ne velja več? Ali res ne ravnamo in sprejemamo množice vsakodnevnih odločitev na podlagi ustvarjenih vtisov, hitrih splošnih ocen? Ali se v prometu ne umaknemo (pa čeprav godrnjaje) hitreje bahavim nemškimi »ledvičkam« kot pa manj cenjenim francoskim »strešicam«? Priznajmo si, da se prvih vtisov, ki pogosto postanejo globoki predsodki, težko znebimo. Popravimo torej prvi vtis o geodetih skupaj. Vsak od nas mora prispevati svoj delež!

Če je v polpretekli zgodovini podoba geodeta, »gospoda žolnirja«, močno bleščala, mu je nadaljnji razvoj prinesel bolj kislo mesto v družbi. Hiter tehnološki preskok, ki je prispeval tudi k poenostavitvi opazovanja in določitve lokacije v vse manjšem svetu, je pomembnost geodetskega strokovnjaka močno

zatresel. A tudi odprl nova obzorja, omogočil izvedbo zanimivih nalog, pred geodeta postavil zahtevne izzive, s katerimi se prej v domačem okolju ni srečeval. V našo stroko se je hitro razširila nekakšna dvoplošnost. Uspešno izvajamo zahtevne naloge, predstavljamo inovativne rešitve, opazne v samem svetovnem strokovnem vrhu, in s tem prestavljamo mejnike dejavnosti. Po drugi strani pa cepetamo na mestu in žanjemo neprestane očitke okolice pri izvedbi tradicionalnih nalog na področju zagotavljanja podatkov o temeljni človekovi pravici, pravici do (nepremične) osebne lastnine.

Opisano težavo smo zaznali že pred desetletji in med poglavitnimi akterji, tako imenovanimi »stebri« strokovne dejavnosti, zastavili izboljšavo podobe in dvig strokovne usposobljenosti geodetskih strokovnjakov v državi. Brez poudarjanja zaslug posameznikov lahko ugotovimo, da so se programi izobraževanja geodetskih strokovnjakov izdatno posodobili, in tudi periodično usposabljanje je postalo samoumevna stalnica v stroki. Geodetski inženirji, šolani v Sloveniji, so iskani in se hitro uveljavijo ter zasedajo vodilna mesta tudi v tujini. Število doktorjev znanosti s področja geodezije je, glede na ne tako davne čase, prav neverjetno naraslo. Tudi stanovsko revijo Geodetski vestnik nam je uspelo iz pretežno društvenega glasila lokalnega pomena povzdigniti na raven močno razširjene, v svetu priznane strokovne revije. Posebej velja poudariti še eno izjemno mednarodno priznanje domači stroki, saj kar več slovenskih kolegov zaseda vodilna mesta v organih stanovskih organizacij na evropski in svetovni ravni. S tem in tudi z organizacijo slavnostne akademije ob 50-letnici izdajanja Geodetskega vestnika in medaljo za zasluge, ki jo je Zvezi geodetov Slovenije podelil predsednik republike, smo dokazali, da se geodeti dobro znajdemo in vrtimo tudi na položčenem parketu, v slavnostnih oblekah!

Žal je ta intenzivni tok vzpona izrazilo zavrla zadnja pandemija, katere kvarne posledice za družbo so opazne vsepovsod. Nenadoma je prav vse postalo težje, skoraj nemogoče. Splošne vrednote in z njimi tudi delovne navade so se spremenile, poslabšali so se medčloveški odnosi. Moti me, da v jutranjih radijskih oddajah iz tedna v teden poslušam: »Groza, zopet je tu ponedeljek ...« in proti koncu tedna: »Hvala bogu, da je petek ...«, delo menda ni več vrednota, pa je res trpljenje!? Nikar si ne dovolimo tega – v stroki je treba streti še veliko trdih orehov, obilo je zanimivih izzivov za radovedne posameznike in ne nazadnje, geodezija je tista, ki nam reže kruh! Zavedajmo se, da moramo kot posamezniki stroki pomagati, jo graditi in s tem tudi vračati od nje prejeto.

Mi pa zopet ugotavljamo, da imamo slabo podobo v javnosti. Da stroka ni visoko cenjena, je boleča resnica! Pa se zavedamo, da to lahko spremenimo zgolj mi sami in nihče drug!? Da moramo v stroki pravzaprav najprej pozorno pogledati v ogledalo in prenehati z odvrčanjem pogleda!?

Prepogosto sem ob svojem delu žal seznanjen oziroma se srečujem tudi s prav neverjetno slabimi gradivi stanovskih kolegov in prav sram me je, ko vsebina in oblikovanje na primer preprostega vabila strankam, kaj šele končnega elaborata geodetske storitve, nista primerni oziroma nista »na nivoju« podobe, za katero vzdihujemo. Ko pa takšen pisni stik s stranko, poleg sramotno polomljene slovenščine (kolega se je nekoč drastično izrazil kar z »retardirano«), površne ali celo napačne izvedbe spremlja še »pomečkan« osebni nastop, neurejenost, morda sprejem stranke v copatih ali kratkih športnih hlačah, podoba »gospoda žolnirja« kljub vsemu nakopičenemu strokovnemu znanju hitro izpuhti!

Seveda tudi z lastnimi izdelki nisem vedno zadovoljen, vsakomur kdaj zdrsne, se mu kaj ponesreči, ne opravi naloge z odliko, a to je razumljivo, popravljivo in nikakor ni primerljivo z omenjenimi slabimi

gradivi. Kar nekaj resnih razočaranj bi lahko naštel v stroki, a naj bosta dovolj dve najbolj izstopajoči izkušnji. Če bodo akterji morda prebrali prispevek in se prepoznali, upam, da vsaj ponovno zardijo. Osebnost me je bilo najbolj sram, ko me je mladi kolega s pravkar doseženo najvišjo stopnjo akademske izobrazbe v zvezi s takšnim neprimernim gradivom vprašal: »Kaj bomo storili s tem zmazkom?« Pri tem je dobro vedel, da gre za elaborat kolega z enako stopnjo akademske izobrazbe, ki sem ga osebno priporočil kot enega najbolj kompetentnih za izvedbo strokovno zahtevnejše naloge. Že splošni pregled elaborata bi celo nestrokovnjaku vzbudil dvom o kakovosti izdelka kot celote, dotični avtor tega žal ni sprevidel niti po seznanitvi z nepravilnostmi.

Kljub takšni izvedbi se tudi ta kolega vztrajno pritožuje nad nizkimi urnimi postavkami in splošno podcenjenostjo stroke ter ob tem našo zunanjo kontrolo, brez sramu, dolži »dlakocepstva« – je to pravi vzor in popotnica novim rodovom geodetov? Če je, me je dvakrat sram!

Nadaljujem še z največjim razočaranjem, ki sem ga doživel glede tedaj in še vedno dobro stoječega geodetskega podjetja – v želji po čim večjem dobičku so, po odločitvi tedanjega vodstva, namerno potvorili rezultate oziroma popravili slab izdelek! Šarlatanstvo je zopet razkrila dobra zunanja kontrola in dobiček je »kazensko« sicer izpuhtel v ponovitvi del, a zavedanje o nepričakovano nizki poslovni in strokovni etiki mi je pustilo res zelo grenak priokus.

Takšne podobe v ogledalu ne želim gledati, ne želim biti del takšne podobe! Prav vsi si moramo letvico strokovne odličnosti postaviti višje in pri tem vztrajati, če želimo spet izboljšati strokovno podobo in povečati svoj vpliv (in ceno) v družbi. Pri tem si ne moremo dovoliti nikakršnih odklonov in ker v vseh okoljih obstajajo tudi »umazani« igralci, ostajam zagovornik doslednega zunanjega nadzora. Pridružujem se pobudi za vzpostavitev sistemske zunanje kontrole kakovosti izvedbe geodetskih storitev in dosledno sankcioniranje nedovoljenih odstopanj. Ne čakajmo, s sodelovanjem pri vzpostavitvi takega sistema si v stroki medsebojno pomagajmo že danes, za boljši jutri geodetov novih rodov!

Prav mladi kolegi, ki jih v zadnjih letih srečujem tako v ožjem delovnem okolju kot v okviru širše stroke, me navdušujejo. Po dolgem obdobju poudarjenega individualizma v družbi in stroki opažam prebujanje potrebe po druženju, skupinskem delu, pogostejši izmenjavi pogledov in željo po aktivnem sodelovanju pri reševanju problemov. Vesel sem tega spoznanja, saj posameznik ne more oziroma težko resneje vpliva na dogajanje v širšem okolju. Rezultate daje le skupen nastop, sodelovanje oziroma delovanje širše sredine v dogovorjeni smeri.

Prav zaradi spoznanja o »novem vetru« in elana, ki ga je čutiti v teh rodovih, sem optimist za prihodnost geodetske stroke. Stroke, katere predstavniki smo že večkrat dokazali ne le trdoživost, temveč tudi usposobljenost in znanje, da ostanemo pomemben člen gospodarskih temeljev države Slovenije in dobrobiti njenih državljanov tudi v bodoče.

In his introduction to this year's spring issue, my colleague, editor-in-chief Dušan Petrovič, PhD, addressed the rejuvenation of our profession. Now, at year's end, when it is usual to look back and take stock of what has passed, the honor of penning this final editorial has fallen to me – fittingly, perhaps, in the autumn of my own career.

After several active decades, I'm not ready to dwell on aging yet, nor will I write about profound transformations in our profession – though given the rapid pace of knowledge and technological advancement, I could likely fill more pages than my predecessors of comparable tenure. This is meant with no disrespect; I hold our professional forebears in the deepest regard, and their accomplishments, achieved under the constraints of their time, were often nothing short of extraordinary. A rapid development of our profession has also been reflected in the pages of Geodetski Vestnik and in the presentations at our annual Land Surveying Days – and long may it continue.

At our recent annual professional meeting, my thoughts were taken up with another pressing matter – though hardly a new one. The presentation “Economic Aspects of Geodetic Services” was perhaps too measured, too diplomatic for the urgency of its message. Everything said, the questions raised, and the data presented – figures I've been tracking myself for years – call for a wider debate. I hope the presentation caught the attention of other colleagues in attendance. The insights and statistics presented deserve to be published, especially to reach those they were predominantly addressed to; those who are inadvertently sculpting the poor public image of our profession that the presentation laid bare.

Impressions – especially first impressions – are precious currency we surveyors too often undervalue. Worse still, we routinely dismiss polished professional presentation as “pointless formality,” a dusty relic, or mere pretension. But is this really the case? Let each of us examine our own conduct. Has the old adage “clothes make the man” truly lost its meaning? Don't we navigate our daily lives based on snap judgments and subjective impressions? Don't we instinctively yield road space – albeit grudgingly – to those sleek German sedans with their distinctive kidney grilles rather than to cheaper French models? Let us be honest: first impressions stick, often hardening into stubborn prejudice. So, let us reshape the first impression of surveyors together. Each of us must play our part!

While a surveyor of yesteryear – the distinguished “gentleman surveyor” – once cut an impressive figure, subsequent developments have dealt the profession a harsher hand. The rapid technological development that made positioning and measurement widely accessible in our shrinking world has undermined the geodetic professional's perceived indispensability. Yet it has also opened up new horizons, enabled fascinating work, and set before us challenges that our profession in Slovenia had never faced before. One could say that this has caused a curious split in our field. On the one hand, we successfully take on demanding projects, pioneer innovative solutions that gain recognition at the pinnacle of global expertise, and push the boundaries of what is possible. On the other, we are stuck in place and targeted for persistent criticism for our handling of traditional tasks – particularly in providing the information needed to ensure a fundamental human right: ownership of property.

We recognized this predicament decades ago, and the main players, the so-called “pillars of our profession”, moved to enhance both our public image and the competence of surveying professionals nationwide. Without singling out individuals for praise, we can observe that education programs in surveying have been thoroughly modernized, and continuing professional development has become standard practice. Surveying engineers trained in Slovenia are sought after even internationally, quickly proving themselves and rising to leading positions abroad. The number of PhDs in surveying has grown remarkably compared to the recent past. We've transformed our professional journal, Geodetski Vestnik, from what was essentially a local association newsletter into a

widely circulated, internationally respected publication. Particularly noteworthy is the international recognition our profession has earned, with numerous Slovenian colleagues holding leadership positions in European and global professional bodies. Through all this and through hosting the ceremonial academy marking the 50th anniversary of Surveyors' Day – where the President of the Republic of Slovenia awarded the Medal for Merit to the Association of Surveyors of Slovenia – we've demonstrated that surveyors can hold our own even in formal settings, navigating the polished floors of ceremony in our dress clothes with grace.

Sadly, this steady advancement was dramatically slowed by the recent pandemic, whose corrosive effects rippled through every corner of society. Overnight, everything became harder, nearly impossible. Core values shifted, and along with them work habits deteriorated and human relationships frayed. It troubles me to hear week after week on morning radio: "Ugh, Monday's here again..." and come Friday: "Thank God it's finally the weekend..." – as if work itself has ceased to be worthwhile, has become mere drudgery! We mustn't allow this attitude to take root. Our profession still has plenty of tough problems to crack, abundant challenges for the intellectually curious, and let's not forget – surveying puts food on our tables! We must recognize that as individuals we have a duty to nurture and build our profession, giving back what it has given us.

Yet, here we are again, confronting our poor public standing. The uncomfortable truth is that our profession commands little respect. But do we grasp that we alone – and no one else – can change this? That we must first take a hard, honest look in the mirror and stop averting our gaze?

Far too often in my work I encounter truly abysmal output from professional colleagues, and I'm mortified when the content and presentation of something as simple as a client invitation – let alone a final geodetic survey report – fall woefully short of the image we aspire to project. When such written communication, marred by appallingly mangled language (one colleague once described it bluntly as "intellectually deficient") and work that is sloppy or downright wrong, is coupled with a disheveled personal appearance, slovenliness, or perhaps greeting clients in house slippers or gym shorts – well, the dignified image of the "gentleman surveyor" evaporates instantly, all our accumulated expertise notwithstanding.

Naturally, I'm not always satisfied with my own output either. Everyone has off days, makes mistakes, falls short of excellence occasionally – that's understandable, easily remedied, and not remotely comparable to the egregious work I'm describing. I could catalog numerous serious disappointments within our profession, but let me confine myself to the two most glaring. Should the parties involved recognize themselves in these pages, I hope they have the decency to feel shame anew. My greatest personal embarrassment came when a young colleague with a freshly minted doctorate asked me, regarding such substandard work: "What are we supposed to do with these shambles?" He knew full well this was the output of a colleague with identical academic credentials; someone I had personally vouched for as among the most qualified to handle technically demanding assignments. Even a cursory review would have raised red flags for a layperson about the overall quality – yet the author remained oblivious even after being confronted with the deficiencies.

Despite delivering such work, this same colleague persistently bemoans low hourly rates and the profession's general underappreciation, while shamelessly dismissing our quality oversight as "nitpicking" – is this the example we want to set for the next generation? If so, my shame is doubled!

My greatest disappointment involves a geodetic firm that was – and remains – well established. Driven by profit maximization, the then management made the deliberate decision to falsify results and doctor a substandard

product. Good external oversight exposed this fraud, and their ill-gotten gains “evaporated punitively” in the cost of redoing the work – but the revelation of such unexpectedly low professional and business ethics left an exceedingly bitter taste.

I refuse to see such a reflection in the mirror. I refuse to be part of such an image! We must all raise the bar of professional excellence and hold fast to it if we hope to restore our professional reputation and command greater respect (and compensation) in society. We cannot tolerate any compromise on this, and because every field has its bad actors, I remain a firm advocate of rigorous external oversight. I support the initiative to establish systematic external quality control of surveying services with consistent enforcement of penalties for violations. Let us not delay – by working together to build such a system, we help one another today, creating a better tomorrow for the surveyors who come after us!

The young colleagues I’ve encountered in recent years, both in my immediate workplace and across the broader profession, make me feel heartened. After a long era of pronounced individualism in both society and our field, I see signs of a renaissance: a renewed appetite for collegiality, collaborative work, vibrant exchange of ideas, and genuine engagement in problem-solving. This gives me hope, because individuals in isolation struggle to meaningfully influence the broader environment. Real results come only from united action, from a community moving purposefully together.

It is precisely this sense of “fresh winds blowing” and the energy I feel in these younger generations that makes me optimistic about the future of the surveying profession. Time and again, we’ve proven ourselves not merely resilient but capable and knowledgeable – ensuring we remain a vital pillar of Slovenia’s economic foundation and the well-being of its citizens for years to come.