

**Report to the 41th General Assembly
FIG Congress 2018, Istanbul, Turkey**

FIG Commission 1 – Professional Practice and Standards

Report of Activities 2017-18 (15-18)

1. General

Through its Work Plan for this quadrennium, Commission 1 was originally structured in 5 Working Groups (WGs) with a Vice Chair allocated to each. After the first 12 months and following the Working Week (WW) in Christchurch in 2016 WG 1.4 *Engaging Private Practice* was disbanded through lack of support and interest. This was despite the WG being established at the suggestion of a number of delegates and individuals at the WW in Kuala Lumpur in 2014. This, therefore, was somewhat disappointing but without the commitment of people to structure a Working Group it was expedient to disestablish the WG and concentrate on those where support was forthcoming.

Nevertheless, the other 4 WGs have performed well and have all have produced, or are producing, produced some outcomes, though in some cases their task may not be completed within the term of this 2015-18 period. In these cases, the topics will roll over into the next quadrennium under the direction of the new Commission Chair.

2. Working Groups

2.1 WG 1.1 International Ethics and Standards (Gary Strong)

Gary Strong has represented FIG as a Trustee on the International Ethics Standards Coalition (IESC) with Brian Coutts as his substitute. FIG is fortunate that this is also a part of Gary's regular work at the RICS and as a result no costs have been incurred. The IESC has produced a 10-point international ethical standard. Quite a number of FIG Member Associations have already adopted this new ethical statement for themselves. Commission 1 recommends that FIG also replace its current statement on ethics with this international standard, and this recommendation has been placed on the Agenda of the General Assembly in Istanbul.

2.2 WG 1.2 Women in Surveying (Robyn McCutcheon and Winnie Shiu)

The question that the Commission 1 WG 1.2 asked in the 2015 /18 plan for was - *are women still underrepresented in the surveying industry?* It also asked if there was a need for a Women in Surveying Network (WISN), to 'spin-off' from Commission 1 in the same way the YSN was created. The WG is now attempting to find out if anything has changed from the results of earlier studies that indicated low numbers of women in the industry. Statistics have been gathered over the years to monitor the number of women and their work in the surveying and spatial industry in Australia and New Zealand.

The current study includes data collected through a survey of FIG member organisations. The aim was to use social networking and online communications to analyse the status of women in the surveying workforce across the FIG community. Using this data, the WG has been investigating if the situation is similar across the international FIG community. The latest results indicate that there is little difference in the relative numbers of women across the Member Associations but that there is a positive climate for change. It is anticipated that the WG will recommend that a Women in Surveying Network be created and will provide recommendations on ways to actively promote women in the surveying industry resulting from discussions at the Congress in Istanbul.

2.3 WG 1.3 International Boundary Settlement and Demarcation (Don Grant)

Don Grant and his Working Group members have been preparing a follow-up publication to FIG Publication 59 *International Boundary Marking* edited by Hiam Srebro, which was produced through Commission 1 in 2013. This new volume is an addendum to # 59 and will consequently be considerably smaller than the original. It is expected to be published before the end of 2018.

2.4 WG 1.4 Forum on Engagement of Private Practitioners

This Working Group was disbanded following the Working Week in Christchurch in 2016 through lack of interest and support.

2.5 WG 1.5 Forum on Mutual Recognition (Kate Fairlie)

A successful series of workshops were held during the WW in Helsinki in 2017. Significant interest was generated in the topic and there were good attendances and much discussion at each of the sessions. A core outcome from the sessions was agreement on the need for a platform to assist in the sharing of information and guiding documents between professional associations. There was also considerable discussion around support for assessing international qualifications (such as academic), as the prerequisite step for jurisdictional registration. The next steps for the Working Group will be to update the current FIG Publication No. 27 *Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications* and to undertake a preliminary scoping for the development of a information sharing platform. Necessary on-going work in this area may be outside the ambit of Commission 1.

3. Events

It has not been necessary or appropriate for Commission 1 to undertake any events beyond the Congress and the intervening Working Weeks.

4. Communication and publications

Two newsletters have been generated by the Commission, prepared for publication by Vice Chair Communication and Administration Winnie Shiu, one in 2015 and one in October 2017. As already indicated, it is anticipated that a formal publication will be available by the end of 2018.

