

# **Task Force on FIG Scientific Journal**

**Final Report**

**General Assembly – 29 May 2017**

# Participants & Contributors

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# Background

- ❑ **The existing peer-review process for papers sent to FIG's annual conventions (working weeks and congresses) has not yet produced the desired results:**
  - ❑ **The level of review is not consistent - as some reviewers are not strict enough about the level of review; papers of inferior standard pass the filtering process and are accepted**
  - ❑ **The current process does not benefit members of the academia since their accepted publications under FIG are not quoted in the citation databases of peer-reviewed literature**
- ❑ **The 2015 GA had established the Task Force**

# Two Options were Considered

- ❑ **Establishing a new scientific FIG journal with all its implications –**
  - ❑ **Establish an editorial board (editor-in-chief & associate-editors)**
  - ❑ **Initiating a printing/publishing mechanism**
  - ❑ **Get the approval of leading citation databases to index our journal**
  
- ❑ **Collaborating with existing geomatics journals (or publishers)**
  - ❑ **Establish an editorial board (editor-in-chief & associate-editors)**
  - ❑ **Carry out the reviewing process within FIG**
  - ❑ **Publish our papers in these journals**

# A new FIG Journal

- ❑ FIG covers too many topics to be included in one journal
- ❑ A scientific (FIG) journal which is not focusing on a specific topic might prevent potential readers to use it
- ❑ The Impact Factor of a journal is dependent on its number of readers (number of citations of its papers)
- ❑ A regular journal with 3-4 issues a year requires at least ~ 30-50 accepted papers per year
- ❑ Based on the current number of submitted (and accepted) papers in the full-peer-review channel to our annual events – this is not a reachable target

# The Alternative Solution

- ❑ **Collaborating with existing journals**
  - ❑ **To establish an international editorial board with leading figures (academic professors as well as high-level professionals).**
  - ❑ **The peer-review process to be carried out by the editorial board, will be rigorous with high scientific and/or professional standards.**
  - ❑ **The peer-review process will be transparent to these journals.**
  - ❑ **These journals will accept (adopt) our peer-review-process without applying their additional peer-review process.**
  - ❑ **The accepted papers will be published in these journals (as special issues or within their regular issues).**

# Contact with Journals

## In an alphabetic order:

- Applied Geomatics
- Cartographica
- CaGIS
- CEUS
- Computers & Geosciences
- Geoinformatica
- Geomatica
- Geo-spatial Information Science
- Int. Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation (JAG)
- Int. Journal of Digital Earth (IJDE)
- ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information (IJGI)
- Journal of Applied Geodesy
- Journal of Land Use Science
- Journal of Spatial Science (TJSS)
- Journal of Surveying Engineering
- Land Use Policy
- Marine Geodesy
- Surveying and Land Information Science (SaLIS)
- Survey Review (SR)
- The Cartographic Journal
- Transactions in GIS
- URISA Journal

# Recommendations (1)

- ❑ **Adopting the solution to publish the accepted papers during our annual working weeks and congresses in existing geomatics journals for a period of 5-10 years**
- ❑ **Establishing a consistent and structured peer-review mechanism**
  - ❑ **The editorial board will be nominated by the council and be approved by the GA.**
  - ❑ **The nomination of the editor-in-chief and the 3-4 associate-editors will be for a term of 4 years**
  - ❑ **The editorial board will have a status that is equivalent to a permanent “Task Force” .**



# Recommendations (2)

- ❑ The editor-in-chief and the associate-editors will be responsible to nominate 20-25 reviewers as an editorial (advisory) board
- ❑ The editorial staff (editors and editorial board) will be acting as an independent body for all purposes
- ❑ This editorial staff will abide by the rules of leading journals
  - ❑ It will handle the review process of papers sent for publication during FIG annual working weeks and congresses
  - ❑ The 10 commission will have the option to adopt this mechanism for their annual workshops

# Recommendations (3)

- ❑ The current channels of “full-peer-review” & “abstract-review” for submitting papers to our annual working weeks and congresses will be kept as is
- ❑ Papers submitted to the full-peer-review channel will be classified into 3 groups (levels):
  - ❑ Fully accepted – to be published in the international scientific journals
  - ❑ Partial accepted – to be published as accepted papers (full-peer-review) in FIG website (as it is done for the last 8-9 years with the full-peer-review papers)
  - ❑ Rejected papers – will be reviewed again in the non-peer-review (abstract review) channel

# Recommendations (4)

- ❑ **Postponing the decision of establishing a FIG Scientific Journal to a later date, perhaps for 5-10 years (to be discussed by the council during the term 2023-2026).**
- ❑ **To authorize the editor-in-chief and the associate-editors to reach an agreement with 5-7 journals, and determine the framework for common future activities.**
- ❑ **In order to reduce costs - the administrative activity of the editorial staff will be handled by FIG office (in a similar process to what was done until now toward working weeks and congresses)**

# Proposed Timetable

- ❑ **29.5.2017**: The Task Force activity is reported to the GA
- ❑ **31.7.2017**: Council nominates an editor-in-chief and 3-4 associate-editors
  - ❑ The 2018 GA in Istanbul have to approve the nominations
- ❑ **31.10.2017**: Editor-in-chief and associate-editors will nominate 20-25 reviewers as an editorial (advisory) board
- ❑ **31.10.2017**: The editor-in-chief and associate-editors will finalize MOUs (agreements) with 5-7 journals for mutual collaboration.

# Proposed Timetable (cont.)

- ❑ **Nov. 2017: FIG office will inform (toward the 2018 congress) all its members about -**
  - ❑ The new structure of the peer-review process
  - ❑ Names of the editor-in-chief, the associate-editors and the editorial board (reviewers)
  - ❑ Names of the journals that will be publishing the accepted papers
- ❑ **May 2018: A report by the editor-in-chief and associate-editors will be submitted to the GA during the congress in Istanbul**

# Thank You for Listening

**Yerach Doytsher, Chair**

**Task Force on FIG Scientific Journal**