

# Exchange of Best Practices of GEO Education to Meet Changing Labour Market Needs in Europe

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## SUMMARY

Educating the next generation and making sure they select the courses that make them fit for their professional life in the surveying and geospatial industry is differing in every country. Each country has its own challenges with the number of new Young Surveyors and linking the students to the needs from the labour market, both in quality and quantity. In Europe there is a growing demand for an adequate number of well-trained students on level in fields of land surveying, mapping data collection, storage processing, delivering and turning data into information. But the GEO education community cannot keep up the pace and are not producing enough qualified graduates. To tackle the mismatch in quantity and quality we can learn from each other with examples from tools, insights and methods. In the Netherlands a foundation was established in 2008. Within the foundation the education sector and the labour market in the Netherlands joined forces for the development of the geo education on vocational, master and bachelor level. The approach of the foundation is based on three pillars: innovation in education, recruitment of young people for the GEO profession and promoting the cooperation between education and employers. After 5 years time the outcomes of the approaches can be measured. And more important, the outcomes contain valuable information for countries with similar challenges. To extend the lessons learned, and thus by enhancing the relevance, the experiences of the Netherlands are shared and exchanged in the Life Long Learning Project on 'Geo Skills Plus' with partners from Belgium, Bulgaria, Lithuania and international branch organisations CLGE and EuroGeo. With the dissemination of the Dutch insights and the first results of the European project this paper contributes to a more harmonized education community and labour market, worldwide.