

**Report to the 35th General Assembly
FIG Working Week 2012 in Rome, Italy**

Bids to host the FIG Working Week 2015

Summary of the evaluation

The following evaluation is based on information given in the bidding documents and no site inspection has been made to any of the proposed cities or conference venues.

Sofia, Bulgaria

Rotation of the conferences (region)

Region: Europe.

Previous and planned conferences:

Congresses: 2014: Asia and the Pacific (Malaysia); 2010: Asia and the Pacific (Australia); 2006: Europe (Germany), 2002: North America (USA); 1998: Europe (United Kingdom); 1994: Asia and the Pacific (Australia)

Working Weeks: 2013: Africa (Nigeria); 2012: Europe (Italy); 2011: Africa/Arab countries (Morocco); 2009: Asia/Middle East (Israel); 2008: Europe (Sweden); 2007: Asia (Hong Kong SAR, China); 2005 Africa/Arab countries (Egypt); 2004: Europe (Greece); 2003: Europe (France); 2001: Asia (Republic of Korea); 2000. Europe: Czech Republic.

Country (hosting of earlier FIG events)

The Union of Surveyors and Land Managers in Bulgaria (FIG member since 1959) organized the XVII FIG Congress 1983 in Sofia. This is the first and only FIG congress held in one of the former socialist countries. The Union hosted also the 31st meeting of the Permanent Committee (general assembly) in 1964 in Sofia. In total Bulgaria has hosted five FIG international symposiums: 1964, 1972, 1978, 1985, and 1991.

Further the Joint FIG Commission 3 and 7 Workshop took place in Sofia in November 2010. This workshop was organized by FIG Commissions 3 and 7 and the Chamber of Graduated Surveyors of Bulgaria.

Member association (its activeness, commitment to FIG and to FIG 2015)

The bid for hosting the FIG Working Week has been made by the Chamber of Graduated Surveyors has been established in 2006 and joined FIG in 2008. The Chamber of Graduated Surveyors has 60 members.

Bulgaria has also another member association in FIG: The Union of Surveyors and Land Managers in Bulgaria (member since 1959) that has 200 graduated members.

Supporting organisations (local support to the Working Week)

The Working Week will be supported by the Chamber of Graduated Surveyors and the Association of Surveying Firms.

Host city (characteristics and interest from congress programme point of view)

Sofia is the capital of Bulgaria and located at the foot of Mount Vitosha, a mountain resort well equipped with state-of-the-art skiing facilities. An hour's drive from Sofia is the resort of Borovets. Sofia is one of the most ancient cities in Europe. Within the boundaries of the city centre, 14 group and 829 single architectural and archaeological sites have received the status of cultural heritage monuments.

Sofia boasts an extensive array of modern meeting facilities and offers a good selection of international standard of accommodation at competitive prices. Over 150 restaurants and night clubs in the city offer a wide choice of local and international cuisine and nightlife entertainment.

Venue (technical issues of proposed congress centre, hotels etc.)

The National Palace of Culture – Congress Centre Sofia is the largest multifunctional complex in South-eastern Europe. It is located in the city centre and surrounded by a number of 4 & 5 star hotels just minutes away. Only 15 minute drive from Sofia International Airport, the Congress Centre is easily accessible via public transport.

The centre has 123,000 sq.m. area on 8 floors and 3 underground levels and 15 meeting rooms with capacity ranging from 100 to 4,000 seats and exhibition area exceeding 17,000 sq.m. Wi-Fi internet access, catering services – coffee breaks, lunches, receptions, gala dinners, parties and cocktails. The venue is the winner of the following industry awards: Runner-up at the AIPC Apex Award for World's Best Congress Centre (2010), New European Economy Silver Award for Best Congress Centre (2009) etc.

Venue is within a short distance from the main hotels, business establishments, numerous historical and architectural monuments and buildings.

The venue is 2.5 km/1.5 miles from the Central Railway and Bus Stations (5 min drive).

The Venue is fully accessible for wheelchairs.

Access (flight connections)

Bulgaria's biggest international and domestic airport is just a 15 minute (18 km) drive from the city centre, with 500 flights and 21 passenger airlines flying to Sofia each week.

Safety and security (including political stability)

Bulgaria is politically stable country and a member of the European Union.

Environment issues

The main strategic objective of the environmental protection policy of Bulgaria is the preservation of the quality of environment in the environmentally clean areas of the country, as well as improvement of the conditions in the damaged and contaminated regions.

Proposed dates (in relation to FIG requirements)

The National Palace of Culture - Congress Centre Sofia has preliminary been booked for 8-15 May 2015 (first priority) and 17-24 April 2015.

Provisional bookings for the aforementioned date periods are provided.

Technical programme (coverage of all FIG Commissions, potential partners)

The Chamber of Graduated Surveyors will provide the necessary contribution to the technical programme, including full assistance to all FIG commissions with their projects and their potential partners.

Technical tours (coverage of all FIG Commissions)

Proposal locations for technical tours: Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency; GIS Sofia; Cartographia LTD; Faculty of Geodesy; University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy; National Institute in Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography; Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Social programme (attractiveness and variety)

The Social programme includes the Welcome Reception in the National Museum of History in Sofia situated on the territory of the Official Governmental Residence; Bulgarian Folklore Dinner and Party will be organized especially for the participants.

An attractive typical Bulgarian programme - social and tourist, will give everyone the opportunity to visit many towns and monuments under UNESCO`s protection.

Attendance (expectation of international, regional and local attendance)

Expected around 800 international and over 200 national participants that are the estimates for the draft budget.

Accommodation (hotel costs)

Sofia offers a wide range of options and rate categories to suit meetings of any size. You will find high international standard of accommodation at competitive prices. In the immediate vicinity of the venue, there are 3, 4 and 5 star hotels with total capacity exceeding 2,000 rooms and other 3-star hotels within 10 minutes, bringing the total number of rooms to 3,000. The city boasts more than 5,000 rooms with the prospect of having their number increased to 6,000 by 2014.

Four & five star hotels with perfect location in the heart of the city just minutes away from the Congress Centre Sofia. International hotels such as Hilton, Sheraton, Kempinski, Dedeman are available in the price range of 150 – 180 EUR for 5 stars and 90- 110 EUR for 4 stars.

Finances (estimate of surplus and financial risks)

The proposal budget`s balance is more than 200,000 EUR.

The draft budget is based on the following registration fees: early registration: 520 EUR and late/ on-site registration 650 EUR.

Sponsorship (estimate sponsorship and exhibition income)

Being an international event with big importance for the business end economy, we believe that FIG Working Week 2015 will attract many sponsors from the private and public sector, Bulgarian representatives of international leaders like Trimble, ESRI, Leica, etc.

Possible pros and cons:

Issues supporting Sofia

- Bulgaria has been active in FIG and the last bigger event has been organized in 1983.
- There has not been an FIG Working Week or Congress in East / Central Europe in the last years and the conference would benefit both FIG and the region.
- Proposed venue will work for the FIG Working Week purposes.
- Economically the conference would work based on the provided preliminary budget information, however the expected number of participants may be high compared to previous events.

Issues against Sofia

- The Chamber of Graduated Surveyors who has made the bid is relatively new member in FIG
- The Bulgarian member associations are small in size that may impact the organization of the conference.
- Proposed venue may be challenging but cannot be evaluated from the bidding material

Nepal

Rotation of the conferences (region)

Region: Asia.

Previous and planned conferences:

Congresses: 2014: Asia and the Pacific (Malaysia); 2010: Asia and the Pacific (Australia); 2006: Europe (Germany), 2002: North America (USA); 1998: Europe (United Kingdom); 1994: Asia and the Pacific (Australia)

Working Weeks: 2013: Africa (Nigeria); 2012: Europe (Italy); 2011: Africa/Arab countries (Morocco); 2009: Asia/Middle East (Israel); 2008: Europe (Sweden); 2007: Asia (Hong Kong SAR, China); 2005 Africa/Arab countries (Egypt); 2004: Europe (Greece); 2003: Europe (France); 2001: Asia (Republic of Korea); 2000. Europe: Czech Republic.

Country (hosting of earlier FIG events)

There has not been an FIG conference or General Assembly in Nepal in the past. This is the first attempt from a South Asian country to host a major FIG conference.

Member association (its activeness, commitment to FIG and to FIG 2015)

The Nepal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has been established in 2008 and has joined FIG in 2010, NICS has 27 members.

The Nepal Surveyors Society was a member of FIG 1994-2000.

In the bid it is stated that there are about 5,000 surveyors practicing in the government and private sector in the country.

Nepal has hosted the 23rd Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS) in 2002

Supporting organisations (local support to the Working Week)

Strong willingness from the government agencies including Survey Department (FIG affiliate member), the National Mapping Organization of Nepal, and Land Management Training Center (FIG academic member), and Kathmandu University.

Host city (characteristics and interest from congress programme point of view)

Kathmandu is the capital city and largest metropolis of Nepal. The city stands at an elevation of 1,400 metres in the bowl-shaped valley in central Nepal surrounded by four major hills. With the most advanced infrastructure among urban areas in Nepal, Kathmandu's economy is tourism centric. The city's rich history is nearly 2000 years old. It has historic temples with pagodas, temple of living goddess Kumari, etc. The average temperature in April/May is between 12 and 28 degrees, which is one of the peak touristic seasons of the country.

Venue (technical issues of proposed congress centre, hotels etc.)

Birendra International Convention Center (BICC) is the first choice for the conference. BICC is located at the center of Kathmandu Valley. Currently, the center is being used by the Constituent Assembly and Legislative Parliament of the country. The center has state-of-the-art facilities for conferences and conventions with sophisticated audio, video, lighting, communications, catering, ventilation and parking facilities. 23rd Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS) was organised in this center.

An alternative venue is Soaltee Crown Plaza – a five star hotel.

Access (flight connections)

There are several airlines flying to Kathmandu, but number of flights is lower than to many other venues which could impact the travel time and air fare.

Safety and security (including political stability)

Nepal is described being the safest destination for international visitors in South Asia.

Environment issues

Nothing expressed in the bidding document.

Proposed dates (in relation to FIG requirements)

Second Week of April, 2015.

Technical programme (coverage of all FIG Commissions, potential partners)

The activities during the Working Week including opening ceremony and technical sessions, will be organized as scheduled by FIG. Most probably, the Prime Minister of the country will be the Chief Guest of the Opening Ceremony. Details of the program will be developed in consultation with FIG.

Technical tours (coverage of all FIG Commissions)

The activities during the Working Week including technical tours will be organized as scheduled by FIG. Details of the program will be developed in consultation with FIG.

Social programme (attractiveness and variety)

The activities during the Working Week including opening ceremony, social tours, social events, closing ceremony will be organized as scheduled by FIG. Details of the program will be developed in consultation with FIG.

Attendance (expectation of international, regional and local attendance)

The target numbers in the bid are international participants with full registration fee: 500, international students: 100 and local participants: 200.

Accommodation (hotel costs)

Kathmandu has a number of international class hotels to suit every one's fancies and finance. Soaltee Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, Hotel Yak & Yeti, Hotel Everest, Hotel Annapurna, Hotel Radisson, Hotel Hyatt and Hotel Le Meridian are the five star hotels in Kathmandu. The other hotels are Hotel Dwarikas, Summit Hotel, Shanker Hotel, etc. One can also find cheap hotels in the city with affordable accommodation and safety.

Finances (estimate of surplus and financial risks)

The bid is based on international registration fees early bird 570 EUR (750 USD) and late registration 760 EUR (1,000 UAD) and for local participants 45 EUR (early) and 70 EUR (late).

Sponsorship (estimate sponsorship and exhibition income)

Nothing stated in the bidding document.

Possible pros and cons

Issues supporting Kathmandu

- There has never been an FIG event in Nepal or Kathmandu.
- Nepal would be an attractive venue from tourism, cultural and nature aspects.
- Nepal is a country where surveyors need support from international surveyors.

Issues against Kathmandu

- The association has been a member of FIG only from 2010 and is a small association.
- The venue and destination would fit well for an FIG Regional Conference. There are limitations for a full size Working Week.
- The costs are high both for participants (air fare, hotels so total costs) and partly limited access. This will impact the number of participants.
- Proposed registration fees are high and the target numbers will be difficult to reach. The expected numbers are also lower than in the other bids of other candidates.
- The economic risk is increased by the high number and the registration fee for local participants. This problem could only be solved by big sponsorship income (for the Nepalese government).
- Nepal is a “far away destination” to most participants as normal participation from South Asia is very low.
- The bid is not given all information about the venue (breakout rooms) and professional programme (technical tours, local contributions to technical programme)
- The venues are not planned for major conferences with broad parallel programme.
- According to the FIG policy on organising conference, Nepal would normally be considered as host for a Regional Conference.

Bucharest, Romania

Rotation of the conferences (region)

Region: Europe.

Previous and planned conferences:

Congresses: 2014: Asia and the Pacific (Malaysia); 2010: Asia and the Pacific (Australia); 2006: Europe (Germany), 2002: North America (USA); 1998: Europe (United Kingdom); 1994: Asia and the Pacific (Australia)

Working Weeks: 2013: Africa (Nigeria); 2012: Europe (Italy); 2011: Africa/Arab countries (Morocco); 2009: Asia/Middle East (Israel); 2008: Europe (Sweden); 2007: Asia (Hong Kong SAR, China); 2005 Africa/Arab countries (Egypt); 2004: Europe (Greece); 2003: Europe (France); 2001: Asia (Republic of Korea); 2000. Europe: Czech Republic.

Country (hosting of earlier FIG events)

There has never been a major FIG event in Romania.

Member association (its activeness, commitment to FIG and to FIG 2015)

The Union of Romanian Geodesy (UGR) has been a member of FIG 1930-1987 and then again from 1992. UGR has 150 qualified members.

The Romanian Association of Private Surveyors (APCGC) has been a member of FIG since 2007. APCGC has 260 qualified members.

The bid is made by National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration (ANCPI), UGR and APCGC.

Supporting organisations (local support to the Working Week)

The National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration.

Host city (characteristics and interest from congress programme point of view)

Bucharest is the capital of Romania and has population of 2 million. During spring (April-May), average daytime temperatures vary from 17 to 22 degrees with a monthly average of 6.5 days of rainfall.

Venue (technical issues of proposed congress centre, hotels etc.)

The proposal for the venue is the Bucharest International Conference Centre that is placed in the Palace of Parliament, the largest building in Europe, having more than 5,000 rooms. The centre has 10,000 m² (conference and exhibition area), 8 meeting halls from 50 to 1,200 seats. BICC has hosted numerous national and international conferences with more than 1,000 participants, exhibitions, congresses and scientific seminars.

RIN Grand Hotel is proposed in the bid as alternative venue. It is located to south-east of Bucharest, 25 km away from Henri Coanda International Airport, and 7 km from the University Square. The hotel has 570 rooms and suites and 28 conference rooms. The meeting rooms have modern technical infrastructure.

Access (flight connections)

The international airport is located 16 km from the city centre. 5 million passengers used the airport in 2011. Good connection to main European airports.

Safety and security (including political stability)

No information provided in the bid.

Environment issues

No information provided in the bid.

Proposed dates (in relation to FIG requirements)

Proposed possible dates in 2015: 17-26 April; 8-17May; 15-24May or 22-31May

Technical programme (coverage of all FIG Commissions, potential partners)

Normal FIG programme to be planned with FIG.

Technical tours (coverage of all FIG Commissions)

Normal FIG programme to be planned with FIG.

Social programme (attractiveness and variety)

No detailed proposals made in the bid.

Attendance (expectation of international, regional and local attendance)

The bid is based on following estimates: international participants: 900; local participants: 300 so in total 1,200 persons.

Accommodation (hotel costs)

If the Bucharest International Conference Centre (Parliament Palace) will be selected at the venue JW Marriott Grand Hotel is proposed for the conference hotel. If the conference will be held at the RIN Grand Hotel, then it would also work as the conference hotel.

At the moment, the cost of a hotel room in Bucharest varies from 98 to 135 EUR depending on the type and the level of comfort of rooms.

Finances (estimate of surplus and financial risks)

The bid is based in early bird registration fee 450 EUR and late registration fee 600 EUR. The draft budget is showing 100,000 EUR surplus.

Sponsorship (estimate sponsorship and exhibition income)

Sponsorship income is estimated for 30,000 and exhibition income 75,000 EUR.

Possible pros and cons:

Issues supporting Bucharest:

- There has never been an FIG major event in Romania.
- There has not been an FIG Working Week or Congress in East / Central Europe in the last years and the conference would benefit both FIG and the region.
- Proposed two venues offer a solution that will work for the FIG Working Week concept.
- Economically the conference would work well based on the provided preliminary budget information.

Issues against Bucharest:

- The Chamber of Graduated Surveyors who has made the bid is relatively new member in FIG and has relatively small membership base.
- Bucharest International Conference Centre may have limitations to cover the number of breakout rooms if there will be a large number of parallel session in technical programme. RIM Grand Hotel has the meeting rooms needed but BICC is better located.
- The expected participant figures are high compared to previous events in Central Europe, but the budget will most likely respond well to FIG expectations.