

Dear Readers of Geodetski Vestnik! Three months have passed since the publication of the previous issue of our journal, and something holds true – this spring has many new changes to our profession.

At the end of April, another satellite was launched in the framework of the European *Copernicus Programme*. *Sentinel-3B* is the seventh satellite in a series, and its launch marks a successful end of the first phase of the Earth observation mission. The latest news from Brussels is also very encouraging: at the beginning of June, the European Commission proposed spending €16 billion on the EU space programme in the next long-term EU budget for 2021–2027. The funding covers investments in infrastructure for satellite positioning, including the systems *Galileo* and *EGNOS*, infrastructure for Earth observation, the *Copernicus* system, and investments in application solutions that rely on the above infrastructure. Clearly, this presents numerous challenges and opportunities for the surveying and geo-information professions.

Another critical change from this spring, which is relevant to the majority of us, regardless of where we work – in academia, public services or the private sector – is the final implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation. The regulation, also known as the GDPR, entered into force back on 25 May 2016, but its provisions were meant to be directly applicable in all Member States two years after its entry into force. Slovenia has been late in transposing the regulation into its legal order, which is why numerous provisions of it have been substituted (at least temporarily) by the provisions of the Personal Data Protection Act from 2004.

The last, but not least significant change is the enforcement of the new legislation on the regulation of engineering practices in Slovenia. It is true that the changes only relate to a regulated part of the surveying profession; nevertheless, one cannot avoid the question of whether the suggested solutions are really a step in the right direction. In official explanations of the new legislation, one may come across statements that changes were needed because of the EU requirements. Being familiar with regulations that govern the surveying profession in other European countries and ongoing debates on the European level, I have to conclude that new legislative regulations lack comparability with European practices and recommendations in many aspects. Even more worrying is the fact that the legislation lacks clarity regarding numerous issues. How is this still possible, when the majority of legal provisions are officially enforced? Perhaps the root of the problem lies in the fact that we are not sufficiently informed. I sincerely hope that it is so.

Undoubtedly, technological advancements create much less uncertainty and bring many more interesting challenges to our profession and go hand in hand with societal demands for data and services in the fields of land surveying and geoinformatics. You may find ample proof of that in interesting scientific and professional articles published in this issue of the journal. The number of submissions from professional associations is also on the rise, and I hope this shows that we are back on the right, common and optimistic track ...

I wish you pleasant reading, and I hope that you will be able to find some time for a well-earned rest in the summer months ahead.