

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

Bids to host the FIG Working Week 2016

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 2016)

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 and same timeframe is proposed for Working Week 2016.

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 2016 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 ion 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

New Zealand

Rotation of the conferences (region)

Region: Asia and the Pacific.

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 55th FIG Permanent Committee meeting was held in Wellington in October 1988.

Member association (its activeness, commitment to FIG and to FIG 2016)

The New Zealand Institute of Surveyors is established in 1888 and has been a member of FIG since 1969. NZIS has 1034 members.

Supporting organisations (local support to the Working Week)

The application is supported by the City Council of Christchurch.

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

Christchurch, recognized as New Zealand's Garden City has 400,000 inhabitants. Christchurch is located at the centre of New Zealand's South Island with very easy access to the mountains, lakes, rivers, harbours and beaches.

Christchurch has the experience of hosting the 9th South-East Asian Survey Congress in 2007, which was supported by the ASEAN Federation of Land Surveyors and Geomatics and FIG. The conference was the largest surveyors' conference held in New Zealand.

Christchurch has experienced recent damage and trauma as a consequence of the earthquakes that hit Christchurch and the Canterbury region in 2010 and 2011. The re-building of Christchurch will be a poignant backdrop to the 2016 Working Week.

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

The proposed venue is the Christchurch Convention Centre – a 120 million investment, construction due to start in 2013 with a 2016 completion date.

Prior to the earthquake conferences at the Christchurch Convention Centre contributed over 27 million EUR annually to the local economy. Key to the redevelopment will be a central location in close proximity to accommodation, and attractions that integrates seamlessly with the rest of the city.

The venue will use latest modern design, architecture and green building.

It will have the functional flexibility to cater for conventions, exhibitions and tradeshow up to 2,500 delegates.

Access (flight connections)

Christchurch International Airport is the major gateway to the South Island of New Zealand. A number of International airlines fly direct into Christchurch from Australia, Asia, Japan and the Pacific Islands. Onward flights connecting to Europe and the Americas are also easily accessible. Christchurch is a short 75 minute flight from Auckland with an extensive schedule of international airline connections directly from Australia, Europe, USA, South America, Middle East, Asia and Japan.

The airport is located 12 km or 15 minutes drive from the central city.

Safety and security (including political stability)

New Zealand are no travel warnings to New Zealand.

Environment issues

The conference centre is following latest ecological standards.

Proposed dates (in relation to FIG requirements)

April 2016.

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

The activities of NZIS are covering all FIG Commissions.

Technical tours (coverage of all FIG Commissions)

In addition to normal technical tours the project and reconstruction of Christchurch offer interesting visit opportunities and case studies.

Social programme (attractiveness and variety)

There is a big variety of options for social events and tours.

Attendance (expectation of international, regional and local attendance)

The budget has been made for 500, 600 and 700 participants. Out of the participants 15 per cent are expected to be from New Zealand so in total 100-150.

Accommodation (hotel costs)

There is a variety of hotels next to the Convention Centre. The price level varies from 80-90 EUR in three star hotels to 120-190 EUR (200-300 NZD) in 4-5 start hotels.

Finances (estimate of surplus and financial risks)

The bid is based on international registration fees early bird 590 EUR (957 NZD) and late registration 660 EUR (1,067 NZD) and for local participants 480 EUR (early, 770 NZD) and 540 EUR (late, 880 NZD).

Indicative surplus in the bidding document is estimated to be between 65,000-130,000 EUR.

Sponsorship (estimate sponsorship and exhibition income)

The sponsorship income is estimated to 144,000 EUR and the exhibition income to 144,000 EUR.

Possible pros and cons

Issues supporting Christchurch

- New Zealand is interesting destination.
- Surveyors in New Zealand are well qualified and able to provide a quality program on all professional aspects.
- In addition to normal technical tours reconstruction after the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes offer special project and visit opportunities
- The proposed venue us a brand new world class convention centre (opens in 2016)

Issues against Christchurch

- New Zealand is remote to most participants based on the statistics from recent conferences, and this will make the conference expensive to many participants and thus the participant number target may be difficult to reach.
- The expected numbers in the bid are lower than at FIG Working Weeks lately
- The estimated sponsorship and exhibition income is high compared to normal FIG Working Weeks.
- The new conference centre will be finalized in 2016 which may cause some problems in the arrangements.

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 2016)

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 2016: 15-24 April; 6-15 May; 13-22 May or 20-29 May

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.