

## FOREWORD

I am honoured to address you, as I was tasked with writing the Foreword to the latest issue of *Geomatics, Landmanagement and Landscape*. I was eager to undertake the task, but it made me rather anxious at the same time. Before I discuss the content of the journal, please indulge me for a few “philosophical” remarks that come to mind after numerous online conversations among our scientific community.

We might say that the world has turned topsy-turvy. Everything seemed to be in order, with short-term and long-term plans precisely laid out, when suddenly this little thing, measuring 60–140 nanometers, put things to a halt. Scientists had developed their research plans, designed measurement experiments, made plans for their research fellowships. We knew to what conferences and where we would travel, what papers we would be presenting, and with whom we would be discussing our research findings. And what has become of all that? True, we can still read publications, talk remotely over the Internet, but can this replace direct contact, scientific disputes, or joint research? In my opinion, it can't. Although we do not know what awaits us, even in the near future, in my opinion this pandemic that we are now experiencing will have a long-lasting effect on the development of some scientific disciplines, including our own.

Engineering scientific disciplines generally require direct contact with their subject of study. Yes, one can resort to computer simulations, but only to a degree, and only for a while. When I was a young scientist, and I was very eager to create simulation tests, my mentor Professor Bogdan Dzegniuk asked me this question: “Does reality know how to behave in accordance with your ideas, did you inform it about them?” I recall this today, because surveying, which is considered by some to be a craft, requires interaction with reality and the implementation of practical measurements and studies. Especially at the beginning of any scientific career, it is necessary to conduct experiments and analyses as well as to learn how to draw conclusions correctly. Meanwhile, today, experiments in our discipline are severely limited.

Returning to the content of the current issue, the papers represent a wide variety of research topics, ranging from matters related to land and building records, to the real estate market, to various aspects of GIS and digital mapping. These topics are very different, but they share a common ground. Significantly, each involves obtaining data without a necessity to move around or come to contact with large numbers of people. Therefore, these are scientific papers that meet the current research opportunities and constraints.

I would like to wish all Readers of this issue a fruitful perusal of the articles. May they trigger a scientific discussion (even remotely, online). We hope that this reading will inspire you to launch new interesting research from the privacy of your offices, without risk to your life and health.

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