

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a big honour for me to open the EUREF Symposium 2004. First, let me welcome you in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, which is a new member of the European Union. During these days NATO Parliamentary Assembly takes place in our city, so please accept my apologies regarding the complications caused by this Assembly - that's why so many checkpoints, policemen and soldiers are in the streets. Today it will be finished, so I hope you will be able to enjoy your stay in Bratislava fully undisturbed.

Now, I would like to introduce the sector of Geodesy Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the Authority"), the central body for geodesy, cartography and real estate at the ministerial level. It is linked to the state budget by its revenues and expenses. In order to fulfill entrusted tasks, the Authority has established and directly controls the Geodetic and Cartographic Institute in Bratislava, which is inter alia responsible for geodetic control in Slovakia, the Cadastral Institute in Žilina and the Research Institute of Geodesy and Cartography. The local authorities of state administration of geodesy, cartography and real estates are 8 Cadastral Offices, which execute state administration in regions and 79 District Cadastral Registries, which execute state administration in districts. There are 2,800 staff members within the sector of geodesy and cartography.

In addition to public sector, geodetic and cartographic activities are also carried out by commercial sector.

The main tasks of the Authority in the field of geodesy and cartography are as follows:

- Draft concepts and trends of the development of geodetic and cartographic activities,
- Elaborate generally binding regulations, guidelines and instructions,
- Stipulate binding geodetic datums and location standards,
- Provide the establishment, maintenance and modernization of geodetic control, the monumentation and measurement of the geodetic points of the state boundary,
- Stipulate the terms of quality for the performance of selected geodetic and cartographic activities
- Provide the production, updating and edition of the state map series
- Provide the setting up of National Geospatial Database
- Control and coordinate research, scientific and technological development,
- Ensure and coordinates international cooperation
- etc.

I am sure that during this Symposium you will have enough time and opportunity to discuss many problems, new trends and activities in the sphere of geodesy and cartography, that's why I would not speak for a long time. I am very pleased that so many excellent specialists accepted the invitation and favoured our country with their visit.

I wish you very agreeable stay, many good news and useful discussions and presentations.

Enjoy also the social events of this Symposium.

Jelena Hudcovská  
President of ÚGKK SR