

Volunteer Community Surveyor Programme



Together with Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), the FIG Young Surveyors Network (FIG YSN) established a competence based volunteer programme for young surveyors also known as Volunteer Community Surveyor Programme (VCSP). VCSP is an innovative volunteer programme that intends to be a powerful driver for both social impact and professional development. The VCSP leverages on the skills, experience, talents and education of young surveyors, matches



this competence with the needs of GLTN, particularly in GLTN's county level implementation plans and programmes. VCSP represents opportunities for young surveyors to

touch a particular cause, or bring surveying skills and knowledge to contribute and impact communities through one's volunteered capacity. VCSP is about matching the right person with the right skills and knowledge, at the right time, to the right opportunity through GLTN with the overriding aim to achieve greater impact.

The VCSP is inspired by the conviction that volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people in tackling development challenges worldwide. Every young surveyor can be a VCS by contributing their time, skills and knowledge through volunteerism, and their combined efforts can be a significant force for achieving development on the ground. The young surveyor will be challenged to transfer useful knowledge and contribute at the community level while gaining a greater understanding of

the issues affecting these communities that are often marginalised and vulnerable. The Volunteer Community Surveyor Programme is a pilot programme. It is a small-scale, short-term pilot that helps GLTN/ UN-Habitat and FIG YSN to learn how a large-scale programme might work in practice. It provides a platform for all stakeholders to test logistics, prove value and reveal benefits. "

Eva-Maria Unger, Chair Young Surveyors Network

More information
www.fig.net

Arctic Spatial Data Pilot



Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) co-sponsored a recently completed Arctic Spatial Data Pilot, executed by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC). The objective of the Pilot was to show how geospatial data can be used as a tool for making more informed decisions and providing more efficient administration of the Arctic region. The Pilot tested interoperability of standards, increased access to Arctic data, and demonstrated the diverse, rich and valuable potential of providing geospatial data using standards.

The idea behind the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI) is to bring together data and information – the most authoritative information available – to aid in our understanding of what is happening in the Arctic environment and to allow smart decisions to be made as a result. The Arctic SDI is an invaluable opportunity to bring together geospatial experts and scientists in a voluntary cooperation between the eight

national mapping agencies of the Arctic countries (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States) in direct support of the priorities of the Arctic Council and other important stakeholders.

GSDI commends both NRCan and USGS for providing financial resources to influence and support international geospatial initiatives and the formation of compatible spatial data infrastructures. The Arctic Spatial Data Pilot had a North American focus, yet is scalable to the circumpolar community. The Arctic region is of increasing interest to the whole world as a result of its linkage to global climate systems, opportunities for economic development, geo-political strategic importance, and its environmental importance as homes to indigenous populations and other residents and sensitive ecosystems. To be successful, the Arctic Spatial Data Pilot took particular requirements into account, including responding to priorities of Northerners and Aboriginal Communities, working in zero/low

bandwidth regions, and considering the realities of frontier economies.

The final demonstration of the Arctic Spatial Data Pilot, held in March 2017, showcased data intensive scenarios including sea ice evolution, caribou migration analysis, effects of new shipping routes, food security and landslide susceptibility mapping. Videos and the Final Engineering Report, which will be evaluated by Arctic SDI to inform ongoing strategic priorities, can be found online.

More information
www.gsdiassociation.org
www.opengeospatial.org/pub/ArcticSDP/index.html
<https://arctic-sdi.org>