



The 25th anniversary of  
Slovenian Association of Geodesy and  
Geophysics (SZGG)  
membership of the IUGG

Solemnity and Annual Meeting, 30th January 2020, Jože Rakovec

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# 1. Introduction

The Slovenian Association of Geodesy and Geophysics was founded on 26th February 1993.

On that day, the founding assembly of SZGG was assembled at the SAZU, with 46 founders, representing several institutions dealing involved in geo sciences, geo services and surveys.

So 27 years have passed since the founding assembly.

As is lasted two more years to fully adhere to IUGG, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of SZGG being a member of IUGG.

Although the per-rollam vote in IUGG affirmed unanimous acceptance of SZGG already on 3rd of March 1994, the formal acceptance of the SZGG for full membership happened only at the IUGG General Assembly in Boulder (USA, Col.) on 2nd of July 1995.

## 2. The foundation of IUGG 100 years ago

International integration in Earth sciences, services and surveys is already quite old.

E.g. Alexander von Humboldt coordinated international measurements and observations for the study of magnetism as early as the first decade of the 19th century and Karl Friedrich Gauss several decades after.

Mainly due to the needs of maritime transport, international coordination in meteorology started in 1872, first at a smaller meeting, followed by the International Meteorological Congress in Leipzig, which commissioned the Standing Meteorological Committee to prepare the rules and statutes of the International Meteorological Organization (IMO).

The task was carried out in Utrecht in 1878, and IMO arose at the International Meteorological Congress, which was held in Rome in 1879.

The International Association of Surveying was founded  
in 1886.

Seismology joined the Permanent Seismological  
Commission in 1899, which was transformed into the  
International Seismological Association four years later.

The oceanographers gathered in the Maritime  
Association in 1900 in the initiative of Prince of  
Monaco, Albert I.

Obviously, the international connections were more or less needed by all the sciences studying our planet - Earth.

Thus, before World War I, there were international organizations for geodesy, seismology, meteorology (including geomagnetism and geoelectrics) and oceanography (according to EOS 2009, vol. 51, available at <http://www.iugg.org/#n>).



Following the end of World War I, scientists from several countries gathered in London and Paris in 1918 to form the

International Research Council (Brussels, 1919)

That council established on

28th of July 1919 the

International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG).

IUGG started with only nine Member States and with six sections

for geodesy, seismology, meteorology, terrestrial magnetism and electricity, physical oceanography and volcanology. Three years later, the hydrology section joined, while the cryosphere section is rather young - under IUGG umbrella since 2007.

### 3. The foundation of Slovenian Association for Geodesy and Geophysics

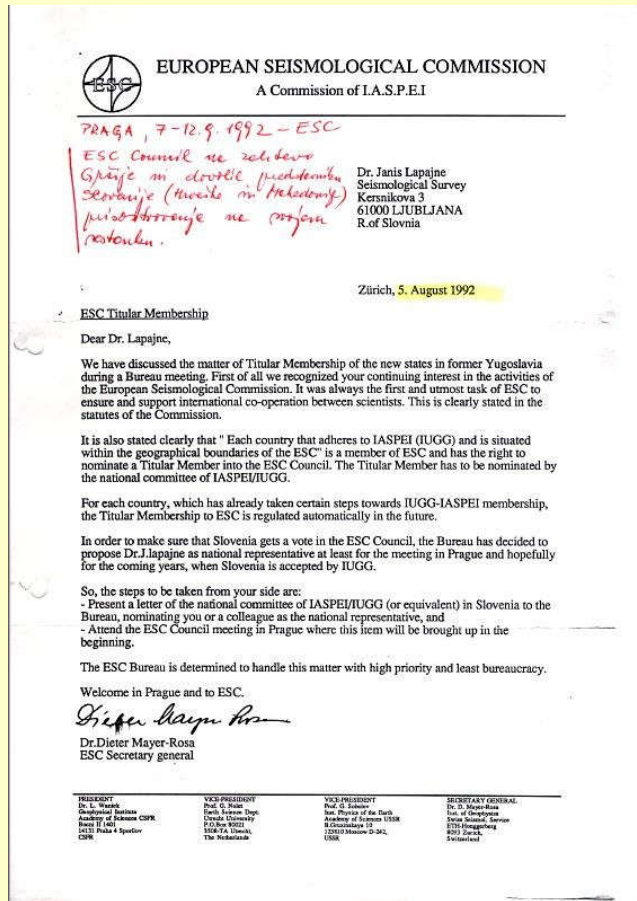
SZGG

What was the reason for the establishment of the SZGG  
and what was the immediate cause?

There were several reasons:

- Slovenia became an independent state and was joining the international organizations, conventions and associations. One of them is the IUGG - International Association for Geodesy and Geophysics.
- Some of the current sections have had their own associations or associations before, and some have not: so they have encouraged a venture - a national body modelled on the IUGG.

- But there was also an immediate cause ...



(from SZGG Archive, 1992-1993 folder)

The Deputy Director of the Seismological Institute of the Republic of Slovenia dr. Janez Lapajne was invited by the Secretary General of the ESC to the meeting who appointed him national representative of Slovenia - ad hoc, at least for the forthcoming meeting in Prague. At that meeting, however, Greece did not allow Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia to participate in the work of the ESC Council.



## EUROPEAN SEISMOLOGICAL COMMISSION

A Commission of I.A.S.P.E.I

PRAGA, 7-12.9.1992 - ESC

ESC Council ne zelitevo  
Spraje in dovolje predstavnika  
Slovanije (travite in trahedonij)  
pisostranje ne prajera  
postolen.

Dr. Janis Lapajne  
Seismological Survey  
Kersnikova 3  
61000 LJUBLJANA  
R. of Slovnia

Zürich, 5. August 1992

### ESC Titular Membership

Dear Dr. Lapajne,

We have discussed the matter of Titular Membership of the new states in former Yugoslavia during a Bureau meeting. First of all we recognized your continuing interest in the activities of the European Seismological Commission. It was always the first and utmost task of ESC to ensure and support international co-operation between scientists. This is clearly stated in the statutes of the Commission.

It is also stated clearly that " Each country that adheres to IASPEI (IUGG) and is situated within the geographical boundaries of the ESC" is a member of ESC and has the right to nominate a Titular Member into the ESC Council. The Titular Member has to be nominated by the national committee of IASPEI/IUGG.

For each country, which has already taken certain steps towards IUGG-IASPEI membership, the Titular Membership to ESC is regulated automatically in the future.

This impelled Dr. Lapajne to look for alternative ways to get involved in international connections. He reviewed the rules of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and the International Association of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) and found that it was best for Slovenian geodesy and geophysics to join the IUGG.



I was told that there may have been some other activities:

from Graz University geodesy  
(as the then president of the IUGG was geodesist)

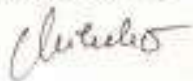
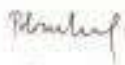




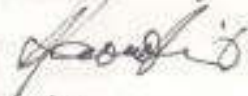
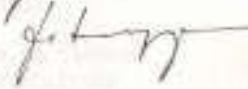
to encouraging geodesy at the University of Ljubljana to  
join the  
International Association of Geodesy (IAG).

In this regard, I have not found any documents in the  
SZGG archives.

Nevertheless, Janez Lapajne first checked the idea with several colleagues over the telephone and considered who to invite to the National Committee initiative. Then, he as a seismologist, invited a hydrologist, four surveyors, two geophysicists (in a narrow sense), a meteorologist, two oceanographers and a volcanologist/geologist to a first meeting of the National Committee of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics.

NACIONALNI KOMITE MEDNARODNE ZVEZE ZA GEODEZIJO IN GEOFIZIKO  
v ustanavljanju

UDELEŽENCI SESTANKA INICIATIVNE SKUPINE, 1.10.1992

IME IN PRIIMEK	INSTITUCIJA, NASLOV, TEL, FAX	PODPIS
Zoran Mihelič	Zveza geodetov Slovenije, Lj., Šarunovičeva 12	
POLONA KRALJ	Geodetski zavod Ljufajna, <u>IGGG</u> Dimičeva 14, Ljufajna	
A. BREZIGAR	GGZ, IGGG, Dimičeva 14	
DUSAN KOČOJ	FAGG - geodezija Jamova 2 Lj.	
VLADO MALAČIČ	IBU, Morsko biološka postaja Piran	
MITJA BRILLY	SLOV. KOMITE ZA HIĐROLOŠKE RAZISKAVE	
Raouik Šuško	Geofizikalna Univerza	
Jenaa Lapajne	Seizmološki zavod RS	

At the meeting of the Initiative Group on three substantive decisions were adopted:

- The Committee should express its scientific and research perspective.
- Meteorologists from the University of Ljubljana should also be invited to participate.
- The constituent assembly should show individual activities.

The aforementioned IUGG president was  
Acad. Prof. dr. Dr. Helmut Moritz,  
a geodesist from Graz.

This was all the more right, since the President was  
pleased to attend the Constituent Assembly in  
Ljubljana.

For example, if he were from the other end of the  
world, it would be harder to attract him to visit  
Ljubljana.

The Slovenian Association for Geodesy and Geophysics  
was then  
founded on February 26, 1993,  
when 46 founders met at the SZGG Founding  
Assembly.

After the constituent assembly, it was necessary to do  
this and that.

The Executive Committee elected the first President of  
the SZGG - this became the seismologist Dr. Janez  
Lapajne, the Deputy Director of the Seismological  
Institute of the Republic of Slovenia.

So let's repeat:

27 years have passed since the founding assembly of the  
SZGG, and

25 years will soon have passed since its adoption  
at the IUGG.

Let us also say that at the end of 1995 the SZGG  
organized its first annual professional consultation:  
another 25th anniversary.

And of course: the 100 years of IUGG.



## 4. SZGG after joining the IUGG

When it was founded, SZGG had seven sections - just like the IUGG then.

Seven presidents have led it so far:



Janez Lapajne  
1993 – 1997



Florjan Vodopivec  
1998 – 2001



Mitja Brilly  
2002 – 2006



Polona Kralj  
2006 – 2010



Jože Rakovec  
2010 – 2014



Rudi Čop  
2014 – 2018



Polona Vreča  
2018 –

As already mentioned: 25 years ago, SZGG also organized its first professional consultation and published its first annual proceedings. This was entirely devoted to the development of some geodetic and geophysical sciences in Slovenia - but not to the volcanology and chemistry of the Earth's interior, geomagnetism and aeronomy (as well as not cryology - which was not only created at IUGG in 2007). The second volume also had a similar content.

At the fourth annual meeting, the annual reports of the sections were presented for the first time, and then volcanology and chemistry of the Earth's interior were presented, at the fifth for the first time aeronomy and geomagnetism, and the research in the cryosphere was first presented later - in the Proceedings of 2011. Next year, when the report on newly established sections for cryology was first presented at the annual meeting, the amendment to the SZGG statute on January 29, 2013 included the cryology - the 8th section of SZGG.

SZGG members also had some important responsibilities in their international societies or associations,

e.g. Peter Suhadolc was Secretary General of the IASPEI Secretary-General in the years 2003-2015 and previously Secretary General of the ESC, and Ina Cecić was President of the ESC in the years 2016-2018.

At the regular Annual General Meeting on December 12, 2002, the then President was prof. Mitja Brilly announced that the SZGG Executive Board had also adopted the SZGG Award Rules. So far, 17 SZGG awards have been awarded, mostly for successful doctoral theses. At most, 11 were proposed by the hydrology section, 4 by the geodesy section, and 2 by the Earth's seismology and physics section. Other fields, however, have not nominated their masters and doctorates for SZGG honours.

Honorary members of the SZGG dr. Janez Lapajne,  
Prof. Danilo Ravnik, prof. Helmut Moritz, prof. Janko  
Bleiweis, Prof. Januzs Śledzinski from the University of  
Warsaw, Prof. Florjan Vodopivec, Prof. Jože Rakovec  
and Prof. Mitja Brilly.





Thank you for your attention!