



Ljubljana 11.7.2021

**Dear colleagues', dear friends;**

It is my great pleasure and privilege to be able to address you on behalf of the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia is a national cadastral, cartographic, and geodetic agency. We are agency within the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. The scope of our activities includes the assignments of the national land survey service, which include the creation, administration and updating of databases in the field of the geodetic reference system, real estate, state border, spatial units and addresses, and in the field of the topographic and cartographic system and in the field of mass valuation of real estate. Currently we have 473 employees in 42 branch office within 12 regional offices.

At Surveying and Mapping Authority we are aware of importance of information about real estate and location and of course precise geo-referencing.

Slovenia's six-month programme of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union is based on **four priorities**. Under the slogan "**Together. Resilient. Europe.**", we will strive to facilitate:

- the EU's recovery and reinforce its resilience,
- reflect on the future of Europe,
- strengthen the rule of law and European values, and
- increase security and stability in the European neighbourhood.

The current large-scale health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic affects all member states, which are unable to appropriately respond on their own, and, therefore, requires a collective response at the EU level. National cadastral and cartographic Agencies within EU were no exception regarding this pandemic affect. That is why Slovenia has highlighted the strengthening the resilience of the European Union as one of its main priorities. We would like to encourage further reflection on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic in all relevant areas of the EU's activity and ensure that it is prepared to deal with different challenges.

We will focus our efforts on strengthening European cyber resilience. More needs to be done for us to be better prepared and to be able to respond in a coordinated manner to potential large-scale cyberattacks.

At the same time, we must ensure a lasting recovery in all sectors of the economy and public life. One of the priorities of the Slovenian Presidency is also the effective implementation of the Next Generation EU instrument and the Recovery and Resilience Facility, with the aim of facilitating the adoption of national recovery plans as soon as possible. It is our wish to make the most of the implementation of these two instruments to accelerate the green and digital transition, which will create jobs, strengthen the resilience of our societies, and ensure the health of our environment.

Digital transformation was one of the EU's objectives even before the pandemic, an event that has only further accelerated this process. Digital technologies have become essential for working, doing business, learning, socialising, and accessing everything from health services to culture. Since the applicable legislation no longer satisfactorily addresses current challenges, progress needs to be made on digital services and markets for the EU to set new standards in the use of digital platforms.

We need to provide trustable reliable and authoritative quality data and services, for faster solving real life problems. Within this process we need to change our existing business models for better response on fast-changing digital age. Digital geospatial data has increasingly become the basis on which governments, organizations and businesses base their decisions. With this, the role of the mapping agency is transforming — from producer to provider of digital platform. We are trying to work out how to secure access to authoritative data within national spatial data infrastructure. It is an evolution in building new functionality, moving the infrastructure layer, semantic layer, financial models and connecting it to the private sector.

Our common European vision is to work with different stakeholders and the geospatial industry to develop the Digital Twin and share it with the entire ecosystem for providing solutions and services. There are new areas of datasets that are expected when it comes to digital twins, with key objects and datasets attached to it. It will require much richer data content.

We will strive for the digital sovereignty of Europe and the ethical use and development of artificial intelligence, which, in connection with the availability of big data, is being identified as one of the key technologies of the future. Within those priorities of Slovenian Presidency, the Surveying and Mapping Authority would like to lead PCC in six-month period.

With Regards,



**Tomaž Petek, director-general**