

INTRODUCTORY WORD

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Geodetic and spatial system (GEOPS) of the Republic of Croatia consists of several mutually connected subsystems. One of the more important is the topographic and cartographic subsystem within the scope of which there are administrative and economic structures. In this subsystem the cartographic and information products encompassing various sorts and densities of topographic data are made by means of different technologies of topographic survey, cartographic production and management of geoinformation data.

The entire geodetic and spatial system of Croatia has been remarkably disturbed due to the whole lot of inherited reasons. The consequences of such situation vary in the individual parts of that system.

In the time of former Yugoslavia, the topographic and photogrammetric survey and production of topographic maps were exclusively in the hands of military authorities at the federal level, while a part of cartographic material at large scales (Basic state map 1:5000) was leaned on the geodetic potential of Croatia.

The independent Republic of Croatia has been left without topographic structures and equipment remaining in other parts of former federation.

State Geodetic Administration being competent for official cartography of the State, has initiated the necessary activities to provide the essential presumptions for updating the situation in the geodetic and cartographic system of the Republic of Croatia.

Thus, within the frame of the project "Restructuring and reprogramming of the geodetic and spatial system of the Republic of Croatia accompanied by the technological unease to its information system (in the new conditions of the independent, sovereign state being included into the European systems)", there was the project concept of the initiating programmes and structures of topographic and cartographic systems elaborated in the subproject titled "Execution of rapid changes and conceptual solution of GEOPS".

Furthermore, the "Treatise on the constitution of the Official Topographic and Cartographic Information System of the Republic of Croatia (STOKIS)" was made, as well as the "Conceptual project STOKIS", and in December 1995 the "Treatise on the substitution of reproduction sources and updating of topographic maps at middle and small scales" was finished and presented to the public, offering to it the researches and performed analysis on the theoretical base, as well as on practical models. It also took into account the fundamental strategy from the project of restructuring of geodetic and spatial system (GEOPS, activities A-9 and A-15) and effected the correspondence with the projects being realized right now (STOKIS, production of DMR-digital relief model etc.).

By the initiative of the State Geodetic Administration, competent for official cartography, the Republic of Croatia became a member of the European Committee for Official Cartography (Comité Européen des Responsables de la Cartographie Officielle - CERCO). Through the participation in the work of this Committee, the first direct contacts with the representatives of the International Cartographic Association - ICA were established. The Statute of ICA says that the state can be represented by the administration competent for official cartography until the national cartographic body is founded, which the State Geodetic Administration fulfilled accordingly.

Due to the extraordinary efforts of Prof. Dr. Frančula, Prof. Dr. Lovrić, M.Sc. Lapaine and the group of famous cartographic experts, as well as to the willingness and understanding of the presidency of Croatian Geodetic Society, the Section for Cartography has been founded with its president, Prof. Dr. Lovrić and the secretary, M.Sc. Lapaine. Their impeccable efforts provided for us the conditions to become a member of this worldly significant association at the great conference in Barcelona.

With great pleasure I do state, that this is an extraordinary historical act for the Croatian cartography, one of the results of our activity in the new, independent sovereign state, as well as the stimulation to mobilize our professional potentials in cartographic representation and contribution to spread the knowledge about Croatia.