

## 33e Symposium International FESF Strasbourg

Des développements récents dans la protection de l'environnement Recent Developments in Environmental Protection  
Neuere Entwicklungen im Umweltschutz

von  
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## Preface

An interesting phenomenon has been existing in Europe for the last 25 years – Faculté Européenne des Sciences du Foncier (FESF), the European Faculty of Land Use and Development, Europäische Fakultät für Bodenordnung, an organization that unites scientists from different fields of science.

Dr. Paul Trappe, President of the Faculty and Professor of Basle University, besides of his function as the leader of this international organization, for the last several decades he also has been working as an editor of a series of monographs entitled Social Strategies (SoStra – Monographien zur Soziologie und Gesellschaftspolitik, Monographs on Sociology and Social Policy).

Regrettably, it was not until 2001 that my colleague Dr. Vida Malienė finally took part in a symposium organized by this faculty. It was the 31st symposium and it took place in Strasbourg.

For the past several years we have been working successfully with Professor Erich Weiss of University of Bonn, who is also an Honorary Doctor of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University. I am very grateful to him for suggesting Vilnius Gediminas Technical University as the venue for the 33rd Symposium.

“Recent Developments in Environmental Protection” was the main subject discussed at the symposium. This issue is the question of the day in Lithuania as well.

We were glad that representatives from twelve countries took part in the symposium: six were from EU member countries (Austria, France, Finland, Sweden, Germany, and Greece), two were from non-EU countries (Switzerland and Russia) and four – from those who that are about to join EU this year (Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovenia).

In total, 19 participants of the symposium were from other countries and they read 16 reports (Germany – 4, France – 2, Poland – 2, Switzerland – 2, and Austria, Latvia, Finland, Slovenia, Sweden, Russia – each one lecture).

Lithuanian specialists did not miss such a great opportunity and got to know many prominent foreign guests. They also presented their reports on various topical issues both to Lithuania and other countries of the world. Lithuania has been represented by 19 participants.

The symposium was unique in that the reports were read in three languages – 13 reports were delivered in English, 9 in German, and 4 in French.

Sociologists, economists, managers, lawyers, geology and ecology professionals, land use managers, surveyors and construction engineers took part in the work of this symposium.

It is interesting that despite the fact that the participants were from most diverse scientific fields, they fully understood each other maybe because they were all interested in the important issues discussed at the symposium, i.e. the recent developments in environmental protection.

The opening speeches were given by Professor Dr. Raimundas Kirvaitis, Vice-Rector of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Professor Dr. Albertas Vasiliauskas, Vice-Minister of Environment and Urban Development and a forestry scientist. The greeting speech in French, German and English was given by FESF President – Professor Dr. Paul Trappe.

Four sessions were held under the chairmanship of these professors: Prof. Dr. A. Kaklauskas, Prof. Dr. H. Mattson, Assoc. Prof. Dr. M. Subic Kovac, Assoc. Prof. Dr. C. Aksamitauskas.

Sessions were held in the University Senate Hall. The participants stayed in Sauls Žiedas Hotel situated nearby the University building. The hotel offered good accommodation for our guests and its vicinity to our university made it possible to save time. Participants actively participated in various activities. After reading the reports speakers took part in lively discussions with the audience. Unfortunately, the symposium lasted for only a few days. Nevertheless, the symposium organizers, the scientists of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, did their best to make it possible for the participants to learn about cultural life of Vilnius. The participants visited the Old Town that has been enlisted on UNESCO's list of cultural heritage, the ancient Lithuanian capital of Trakai with its unique castle of grand dukes built on an island of a lake. On the last evening the participants attended a concert of the State Symphony Orchestra.

During the symposium the sincere and constructive relationship prevailed, therefore we hope that in future the participants will maintain contacts and will willingly take part in the forthcoming FESF undertakings. Despite the fact that only 12 countries were represented in the symposium, geographically speaking the participants came from most various parts of the world: from Scandinavia and Greece, from France and Tomsk, a city in Siberia.

Eight participants from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University took part in the conference, also 11 colleagues from Lithuanian University of Agriculture, various ministries, departments, and research institutions. Colleagues from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University took part by preparing of 7 presentations.

Six major presentations were especially interesting. Ten presentations on recent achievements in 8 European states were of great informative value.

Lithuanian representatives provided presentations on 10 topics which covered a wide spectrum of issues: from law preparation, territory planning and management to earth's crust movement in the Baltic Sea region and geodetic problems in the nearby area of the Ignalina Nuclear Plant.

I am glad to inform you that the participants of the symposium found time to prepare their presentations also in written form and these texts are published in the 40th volume of series of monographs *Social Strategies*.

This provides possibility to introduce the ideas and work of the symposium to a greater audience of scientists and professionals.

I am also glad that Vilnius Gediminas Technical University from now on will be one of the venues for various events of the FESF. I hope that the management of the Faculty will invite representatives of Lithuania to participate in the forthcoming activities of the Faculty, and that later, after Lithuania joins the EU, it will decide to arrange a symposium in the capital of Lithuania. I hope that our University will be granted a possibility to give our colleagues and research friends a warm welcome once again.

I would like to ask the FESF participants to express their ideas in various magazines published at our University:

“International Journal of Strategic Property Management” (Editors E. K. Zavadskas, A. Kaklauskas, VGTU, B. Sloan, Napier University) ISSN 1648-715X;

“Journal of Civil Engineering and Management” (Journal of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University and Lithuanian Academy of Sciences) Editor-in-Chief E. K. Zavadskas ISSN 1392-3730;

“Technological and economic development of economy” (Editor-in-Chief E. K. Zavadskas) ISSN 1392-8619;

“Business: theory and practice” (Editor-in-Chief R. Ginevičius) ISSN 1648-0627;

“Town Planning and Architecture (Editor-in-Chief J. Vanagas) ISSN 1392-1630;

“Geodesy and Cartography” (Editor-in-Chief J. Skeivalas) ISSN 1392-1541;

“Transport Engineering” (Editor-in-Chief A. Baublys) ISSN 1648-4142;

“Journal of Environmental Engineering and Landscape Management” (Editor-in-Chief P. Baltrėnas) ISSN 1648-6897.

I hope that in the future we will maintain our constructive cooperation and productive joint activities with the FESF participants.

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