

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

Easy access to mapped data in the EU

The final conference of the plan4business project took place on **14TH MARCH 2014 IN DUBLIN**, Ireland, hosted by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (R.I.C.S.) at the Headquarters of the Society of Chartered Surveyors of Ireland (S.C.S.I.), represented by **TONY MULHALL**, Associate Director of the Land Professional Group.

High-level contributions supported a lively discussion with the audience. In the first part of the conference, the achievements of the plan4business project were presented: its business solutions, an online demonstration of the features and services of “whatstheplan.eu” platform, the added value and challenges.

This was followed by expert contributions from different levels: **GULNARA ROLL**, Head of the Housing and Land Management Unit at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), was explaining the real challenges of land management and planning in a large number of countries; **BRUCE MCCORMACK**, Planning Inspector at the Irish Government and EUROGI president, was demonstrating the “myplan.ie” platform, an excellent solution for (spatial) planners to work with planning issues; **ANGUS MCINTOSH**, Consultant in Economics and Real Estate Forecasting, Oxford Brookes University, explained the challenges of the real estate world and how private actors may find out the benefits of planning data.

After lunch, **PAUL SMITS**, representing the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, Digital Earth and Reference Data Unit, was addressing the audience via a webconference. His contribution to the discussion was very useful, pointing out the future challenges of the European Digital Agenda in relation with tremendous opportunities of Horizon 2020. In this context of the challenges and future opportunities, **JOHN O'FLAHERTY** explained the new SmartOpenData project, in particular the pilot site in Ireland. After the final conclusions on the long-term sustainability of the platform, presented by **TOMAS MILDORF**, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, the final debate took place on future data applications in the field of spatial planning.

The conclusions of this successful conference could be resumed with the latest words of **BRUCE MCCORMACK**: “We are going to face in the next years and months a ‘data tsunami’, provided by new innovative technologies. It is up to us now to develop appropriate services and solutions.”

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