



Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Kartografie **SGK**
Société suisse de cartographie **SSC**
Swiss Society of Cartography **SSC**

Dr. Thomas Schulz
President

Swiss Society of Cartography SSC, Case postale 745, CH-2002 Neuchâtel 2
thomas.schulz@bfs.admin.ch, Tel. +41 58 463 67 31, www.kartografie.ch

To the
General Secretary and President of the
International Cartographic Association ICA

Neuchâtel, 10th February 2019

Motion: Future and format of ICA News

Dear László, dear Menno-Jan

According with article 10 of the ICA Statues, the Swiss Cartographic Society SGK would like to bring forward the following motion for a decision by the ICA General Assembly in Tokyo. If you or the Executive Committee have any questions regarding the motion, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Thomas Schulz
President SGK

Motion

The ICA Executive Committee is asked by the General Assembly to thoroughly evaluate the format of ICA news, modernise its output to meet current standards and take measures to achieve a wider distribution through various channels. This, in order to highlight the importance of the journal for the community and honour the work that is devoted to every issue by the editor and authors. Furthermore, the Executive Committee is asked to continue to provide printed copies of ICA news on an optional basis and included in the membership fee for those members wishing to receive such. A report on the findings and measures taken should be given to the next General Assembly in 2023.

Reasoning

In 2017, ICA news was discontinued as a printed journal without prior warning of and discussion by the member states of ICA. Since then, ICA news is still being laid out in the same print format and being made available through subsections of the ICA website in two PDF versions. We regret this decision, which we only discovered by chance after more than a year. Printed versions of ICA news, which we received every six months, were always made available for students and the cartographic community in Switzerland through displays at libraries, companies or at university institutes. This possibility does no longer exist with this decision. On the other hand, the PDF version that is created with a lot of effort by the editor and many authors, who we want to thank very much on this occasion, remains very static and hard to find in the web – often merely a footnote in the ICA newsletter.

We strongly believe in ICA news as an important ambassador for the global cartographic community and for all activities of our association – ranging from commission work, conferences, events, awards, reports by member states and messages from and about the faces of ICA. It deserves a wide distribution inside and outside the community, which means today: modern and multiple output formats from a single source production, including printed copies for those members wishing to receive and spread them. Printing costs have decreased over the past years with new printing solutions, such as print-on-demand, and should well be covered by membership fees.

The ICA EC supports the motion and asks the new EC to examine it.