

Online Workshop

Formalizing the Informal to Protect Residents in Informal Settlements

Wednesday, 17 June 2020, 14:30-17:00 CEST, WebEx

As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries requested their citizen to ‘stay at home’ to stay safe. Not for everyone home is actually a safe place. Housing conditions and density of informal settlements often do not allow residents to follow basic hygienic measures or to keep the minimum social distance to reduce spreading the virus.

This joint UNECE - FIG online workshop looks at the situation of informal settlements in the pan-European region and ways to formalize informal developments. The [Guidelines for the Formalization of Informal Constructions](#) will be launched and illustrated by case studies from the region. The publication was developed jointly by UNECE Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). It is a brief, practical and easy-to-read guide, explaining how to structure a program for the formalization of informal constructions.

As countries are preparing for post-COVID recovery, these Guidelines may be of particular interest. Benefits from formalizing informal settlements could contribute to economic recovery by integrating them into land markets, with clear ownership titles and registration. Security of tenure, right to ownership of land and property provides access to credit and environmental, planning, construction, and utility-provision improvements can be initiated to a standard where people can live in adequate and healthy homes.

The publication was planned to be launched at the FIG Working Week 2020 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands at a special joint UNECE - FIG session. As the Working Week was cancelled, the launch has been converted into this online workshop. The workshop will take place online.

Provisional Agenda

as of 11 June 2020

14.30-14.45 **Welcome and Introduction to Meeting by Moderator**

Moderator: Mr. Rik Wouters, *Senior Program Advisor at Netherlands Enterprise Agency and former Vice-Chair of WPLA*

14.45-15.00 **Opening**

- Ms. Doris Andoni, *Chair, UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management*
- Prof Rudolf Staiger, *FIG President*
- Ms. Leilani Farha, *Global Director of the Shift, former UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing*

15.00-15.20 **Presentation of the ‘Guidelines for the Formalization of Informal Constructions’**

- Prof Chryssy Potsiou, *Honorary FIG President and WPLA Vice-Chair*
- Mr. Steven Nystrom, *NewStream Companies and former FIG Commission 9 Chair*

15.20-15.40 **Q&A**

Questions can be submitted when registering or during the meeting in the chat window.

15.40-16.10 **Presentation of Case Studies**

- **Albania**
Ms. Doris Andoni, *Head, Housing Policy, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania*
- **Greece**
Prof Chryssy Potsiou, *Honorary FIG President and WPLA Vice-Chair*
- **Kyrgyzstan**
Ms. Nadia Yeremenko, *UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit*
- **Republic of North Macedonia**
Ms. Sonja Dimova, *State Advisor for geomatics, Agency for Real Estate Cadastre, Republic of North Macedonia*

16.10-16.35 **Q&A and Discussion**

Questions can be submitted when registering or during the meeting in the chat window.

16.35-16.45 **Results of Online Poll**

16.45-17.00 **Conclusions and Closing by Moderator**