

Informal Notice 2

Working Party on Land Administration

Sixth session

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2010–2011

REPORT ON RESPONSES TO A QUESTIONNAIRE ON WORKING PARTY ON LAND ADMINISTRATION WORKSHOPS HELD IN 2009

This report complements the findings of a self-evaluation questionnaire of WPLA workshops (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2009/8). It incorporates responses to the same questionnaire after it was distributed in events held in Sofia, Bulgaria (23-24 April 2009) and Rome, Italy (3-4 June 2009). A total of 36 responses were received. The questionnaires survey participants' opinions on the topics covered, the content and quality of presentations as well as organizational aspects.

I. OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOPS

1. For about 30% of the participants at the Sofia and Rome events that was their first Working Party workshop they ever attended. 30% of the Sofia attendees and over 70% of participants in Rome had participated in Working Party events fewer than four times before. Only 10% of the Sofia respondents had attended more than 10 Working Party events, while none of the Rome attendees had been involved in more than five (see Figure1).
2. The overwhelming majority of participants at the Sofia and Rome events thought that WPLA workshops supported land administration practices in the UNECE region and were of “excellent” or “good” quality (*see* Figure 2a)
3. Majorities of workshop participants—76% in Sofia and over 90% in Rome—noted that the workshops and associated programmes brought major contributions to the Working Party's programme of work (*see* Figure 2b)

Figure 1: Attendance at workshops in Rome and Sofia

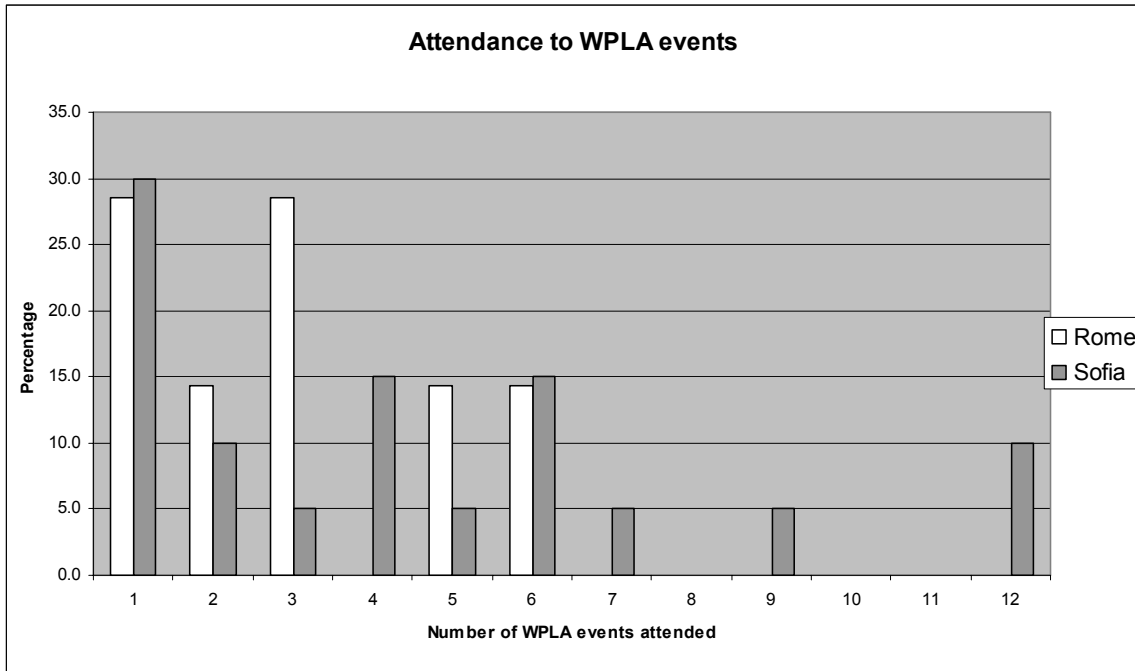
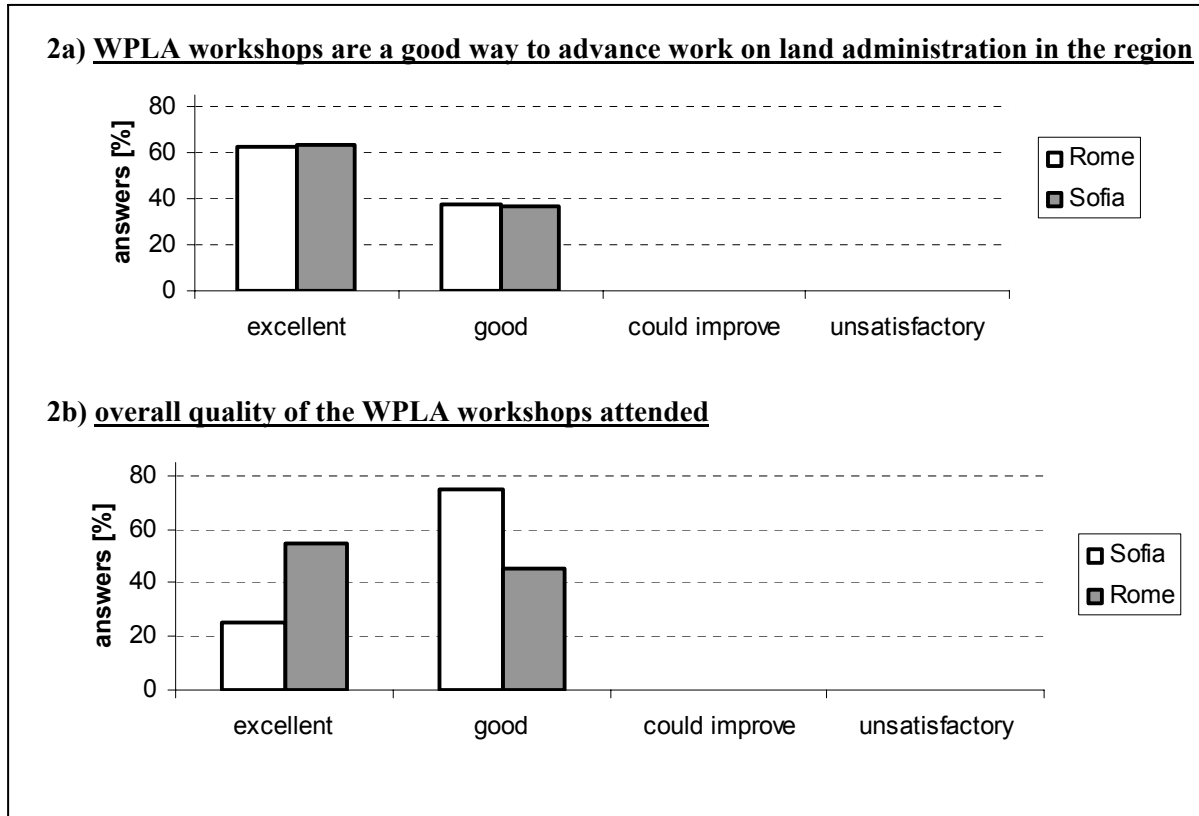


Figure 2: Evaluation of the development and overall impression of the workshops in Rome and Sofia



4. A vast majority of the responding participants—again, 76% in Sofia and over 90% in Rome— noted that the workshops made a major contribution to land administration practices in the UNECE region. Similarly, 80 % and over 90 % of the responding participants noted that the sessions and presentations were very useful to their work (*see* Figures 3b and 3c).

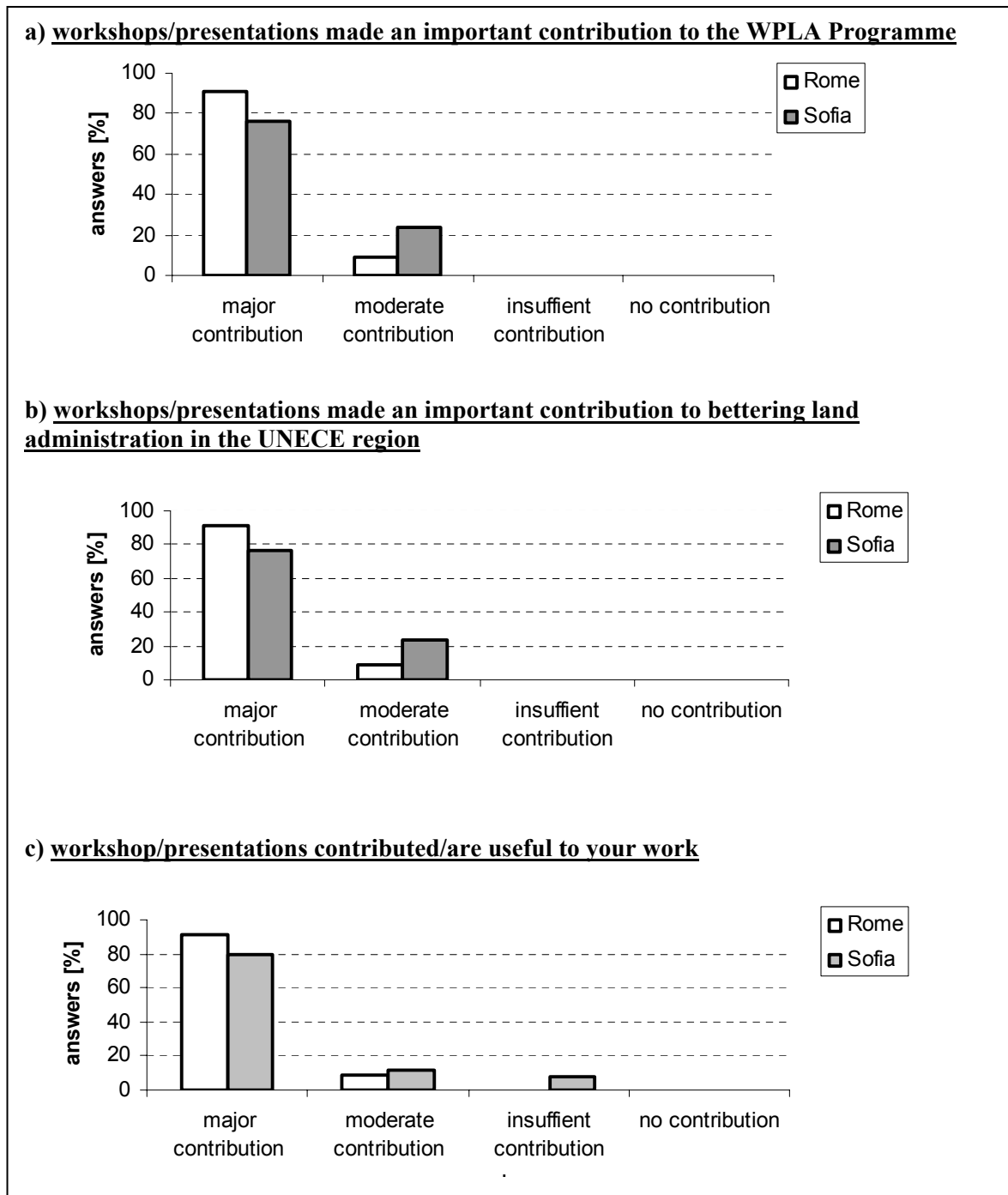
5. It was mentioned that the most positive features of Working Party workshops were the well-organized sessions, the relevance of the topics covered, the informative presentations, and the group discussions and debates. Participants in Rome also appreciated the list of principles, noting especially the relevance of the discussions during the first session. Additionally, Working Party workshops were appreciated as international arenas where participants can share experiences and engage in informal networking. However, some participants felt that the topics of presentations could have been more specific. In particular, some mentioned that PowerPoint presentations would have been desirable for all speakers.

6. As far as content is concerned, topics like the unified real property cadastre and register system, e-services, cost models and revenues, and land consolidation were

considered to be especially valuable. As underrepresented topics, respondents listed benchmarking of land administration systems (e.g. World Bank study on benchmarking), online examples of e-cadastre and e-land registration, progress and details of the Bulgarian information system (IS) for cadastre land registry. Participants in Rome also called for more discussions about tangible projects that could have immediate impact in the economy; they also noted the desirability of having more presentations by decision makers who will focus on the political aspects of land-administration issues.

7. Responses frequently pointed out that the possibility to exchange experiences and hear about progress being made in other countries was very useful.

Figure 3: Evaluation of the workshops and sessions in Rome and Sofia



II. SESSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

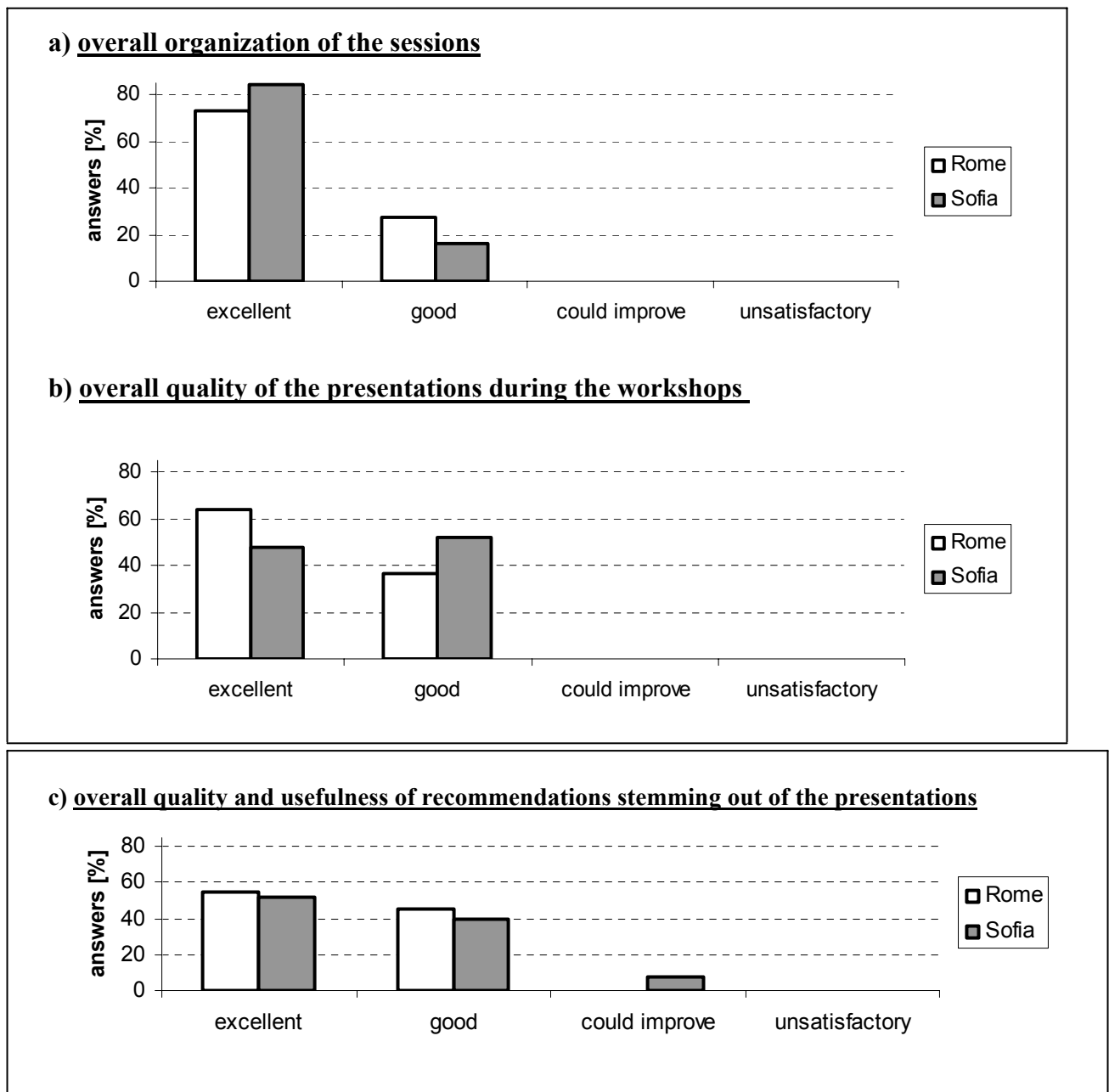
8. The majority of survey respondents found the organization of the sessions to be “excellent” (84% in Sofia and 73% in Rome), while the rest thought it was “good” (*see* Figure 4). The quality of the presentations was judged positively by a large number of participants: in Sofia, 48% of the respondents evaluated them as “excellent” and 52% considered them to be “good”; in Rome, 64% thought they were “excellent” and 36% thought they were “good.”

9. With respect to the recommendations emerging from the presentations, they were regarded as “excellent” by 52% and 54% of respondents in Sofia and Rome, respectively.

10. Numerous respondents appreciated the good overall organization of the programme and the interesting and comprehensive presentations. They further signalled out the extended time for discussion and debate as an important positive feature of the workshops.

11. In particular, the high attendance of Bulgarian participants and speakers was highlighted by respondents in Sofia.

Figure 4: Overall evaluation of the workshops and sessions in Rome and Sofia



III. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

Workshop topics

12. Participants made both general and concrete proposals for future workshop sessions (see Table 2). Many participants stressed the importance of e-governance and e-

conveyance matters. Digital archiving was also mentioned as an emerging issue warranting further discussion.

13. In Sofia, some participants would have preferred to have fewer presentations devoted to cadastre and registration issues and to focus more on land management instead. In Rome, one respondent mentioned the need to focus on the topic of social housing.

14. Participants mentioned the need to address the judicial aspects of land management, such as court trials (ownership of parcels, borders between parcels, etc.), fraud prevention, etc.

Presentations

15. Some participants stressed that it would have been desirable for every speaker to use a PowerPoint presentation and/or handouts in order for the others to follow the talk more easily. It was also proposed that invitations should mention specifically the tools that speakers could have access to.

Organisational issues:

16. The insufficient seating space was mentioned as a drawback of the Sofia workshop. Other participants in both events stressed that internet access must be assured at all times.

17. Finally, some participants were unsatisfied with smoking in the tea/coffee area. It should be reminded to participants that WPLA workshops, according to UN rules, are non-smoking events.

Table 2: Suggestions of topics for further Working Party sessions

Administrative aspects	Juridical and political aspects	Technical aspects	Service-oriented and economic aspects	Developmental and social aspects
E-governance	Figures about quarrels at the courts (ownership of parcels, borders between parcels, etc.)	E-conveyance, e-service, new e-products	Influence of different WPLA guidelines on LA business	How to reach a balance right to information and security of personal data
Land management instruments	Fraud prevention	Long-lasting (permanent) digital archiving e-documents	Capacity building and organizational/business transformation; benchmarking	Public awareness, consultation, interaction with the public; involve private sector more – notaries, lawyers, valuers, real-estate specialists, data providers
EULIS (The European Land	Use of cadastre	Statistics – which	Real-estate markets	Awareness and

Information Service)	data for other government bodies/municipalities	e-services are most popular (in private/public sector, for citizens, free or not free)	and property rights	capacity building regarding land management
		E-services and GIS data. GIS data sharing, technical solutions and practical experience		Social housing

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

18. The participants’ general impression vis-à-vis the Rome and Sofia workshops ranged from satisfactory to excellent. The organization of the workshops was regarded as very good, on average.

19. Informal exchanges during the workshops were seen as very important by the participants. Such interactions should be further facilitated during future events.

20. The discussion and debate time was considered to be very helpful. In general, the participants appreciated the workshops’ structure with maximum 15-minute presentations.

21. In Sofia, the sharing of experiences between the countries where World Bank projects had been implemented was highlighted as a positive feature of the previous workshop. This topic should remain among the notable ones in future sessions.

22. More e-cadastre, e-registration information and online examples would be strongly encouraged.

23. Inviting new, higher-level speakers involving the private sector—such as notaries, lawyers, valuers, real-estate market specialists, data providers, etc.—should be encouraged.