



# Study on the Challenges of Fraud to Land Administration Institutions

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# Fraud prevention in land administration

## **Background**

The fraud survey was commissioned by UNECE Working Party on Land Administration in June 2009 at its sixth session.

## **Scope**

To consider the fraudulent use of electronic land registration data and related incidents of identity theft.

# Fraud prevention in land administration

## Statistics

- ❖ Questionnaire sent to 39 of the 56 countries in UNECE region
- ❖ 32 responses from 30 member states
- ❖ 18 out of the 27 EU countries
- ❖ 15 out of the 27 transition countries in the UNECE region

# Accessibility to electronic services

## High level findings

- ❖ All jurisdictions provide public access to information
- ❖ All jurisdictions have electronic systems
- ❖ 66% provide cadastral data or excerpts from the register online
- ❖ Most limit information available online in some way
- ❖ Most require applicants to register details

# Experience of fraud

## High level findings

- ❖ Only one authority thought that fraud was increasing
- ❖ 28% say they identify attempted fraud and monitor trends
- ❖ 9% identified trends in fraudulent activities coinciding with the introduction of new electronic services
- ❖ But only one authority identified clear links between fraud and the introduction of new electronic services
- ❖ 72% thought that fraud had reached a steady level
- ❖ 9% thought that fraud was decreasing

# Measures to counteract fraud – National strategies

## National strategies

47% of authorities have fraud prevention/detection methods in place, including:

- Staff training
- Internal Controls
- Dedicated counter-fraud staff
- Intelligence sharing with police or other authorities

84% believe sharing intelligence between jurisdictions would be helpful in combating fraud

# Measures to counteract fraud – Compensation schemes

## Compensation schemes

47% have compensation schemes

Most of these are also able to pursue fraudsters for reimbursement

About 40% of these are successful in recovering some or all sums paid in compensation

# Measures to counteract fraud – International collaboration

## International collaboration

69% think a region-wide strategy would prove more successful

Spread of best practice and cross-border assistance in combating fraud generally welcome



# Measures to counteract fraud – notaries

## Notaries

53% of authorities have a notarial system in their jurisdiction

These authorities generally believe that the participation of notaries reduces fraud

# Conclusions

- ❖ Based on experiences from individual jurisdictions, the report makes many recommendations on good practice to counteract fraud
- ❖ It constitutes an important tool to aid the understanding and prevention of registration fraud, emphasizing the need to create awareness of risks and protective measures both among the public and registration staff in order to create an anti-fraud culture.