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Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda

Review of the implementation of the programme of work 2013-2014

Land administration and management

Overview of the activities undertaken by the Working Party on Land Administration

Note by the Working Party

This document describes the activities of the Working Party on Land Administration in carrying out its programme of work for 2014-2015 (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2013/3), which was approved at the eighth session of the Working Party on 18 March 2013. The first three parts of the document are organized according to the clusters in the programme of work; the fourth part describes additional activities and work of the Bureau of the Working Party.

The Committee is invited to take note of this information.

I. Capacity-building and international knowledge sharing

1. Since the seventy-fourth session of the Committee in October 2013, the Working Party has held one workshop, “The socioeconomic potential of land administration services”, in Copenhagen in May 2014. The workshop explored different aspects of open data in land registration systems and how data interoperability between government agencies could increase citizens’ well-being.
2. Immediately before the workshop, the Working Party also organized a meeting of international agencies to explore opportunities for synergy and cooperation in their activities. In addition to the Working Party, the following organizations participated in this meeting: the Council of Geodetic Surveyors, EuroGeographics, the European Land Information Service, the European Land Registry Association, the International Federation of Surveyors, the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
3. The Working Party organized several sessions during the “Land and poverty conference”, organized by the World Bank in March 2014 in Washington, DC. This included organizing an interregional panel to discuss land administration organizations worldwide and a session to discuss the work of the Working Party.
4. The Working Party and secretariat have also presented the work of the Working Party at various international events focusing on land administration, including:
 - “Towards a sustainable real estate market – Real Estate Registration, Investment, Regulation and Capacity Building”, organized by the Dubai Real Estate Institute in January 2014 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Chair of the Working Party and the secretariat presented the work of the Committee and the Working Party.
 - “International conference on collateral risk: A historical perspective and German and United States case studies”, organized by the private sector and by non-governmental organizations in March 2014 in Berlin. The secretariat made a presentation on the work of the Working Party and the Real Estate Market Advisory Group
 - “Development of additional functions of property management systems”, organized by the Governments of Belarus and Sweden in April 2014 in Minsk. The secretariat made a presentation on the work of the Working Party
 - “Geospatial World Forum”, organized by a non-governmental organization in May 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Working Party contributed to the opening session of the workshop and organized the session “Land as the Basis for Smart City Management” as part of this Forum.
 - “Approaches and best practices in urban planning and land administration”, organized by the Government of Uzbekistan and the ECE in June 2014 in Tashkent. The Chair of the Working Party made a presentation on the work of the Working Party, including its work in Uzbekistan.
 - “Plenary meeting of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union”, hosted by the Government of Greece and PCC in June 2014 in Athens. The Chair of the Working Party made a presentation on the work of the Working Party.
 - “Europe and Central Asia land and e-learning session: Monitoring voluntary guidelines implementation at country level – Voluntary Guidelines Land

Governance Assessment Framework information mapping”, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in July 2014 via the Web. The Chair of the Working Party made a presentation on the work of the Working Party and its connection to the Land Governance Assessment Framework.

5. The Working Party will organize two more workshops in 2014 and 2015: one, to take place in Vienna in October 2014, and another, to take place in Baku in 2015. The working party will also organize a seminar on land administration to take place in Baku in November 2014.
6. The Bureau of the Working Party and the ECE secretariat developed an online wiki¹ to facilitate the sharing of information with the public and between its members. It has also developed brochures to promote the publications of the Working Party and published a special issue of the newsletter *Vital Spaces*, which focuses on the work of the Working Party.

II. Land-administration reviews

7. The Working Party undertook two land administration reviews in 2013 and 2014, in the Republic of Moldova and in Uzbekistan.
8. The review of land administration and real estate markets in the Republic Moldova was developed by representatives from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.
9. The review of land management and land administration in Uzbekistan was developed by a representative from the United Kingdom.
10. These reviews will be published as chapters in the country profiles on housing and land management for these countries.

III. Studies on selected topics in land management

11. In 2014, the Working Party completed the study *Survey on Land Administration Systems in the ECE Region* (ECE/HBP/180).
12. The Working Party completed the study *Informal Development: Challenges and Solutions from South-East Europe* (Informal Note 5).
13. The Working Party also drafted an outline for the draft study “Land Registration and Cadastre: One or Two Agencies?” (Informal Note 6). This study is scheduled to be completed in 2015.

IV. Work of the Bureau of the Working Party

14. Since the seventy-fourth session of the Committee, the Bureau of the Working Party met three times: in January 2014, in Dublin; in March 2014, in Venice, Italy; and in May, in Copenhagen. Each meeting was organized by the hosting country.
15. The Bureau also assigned to each Bureau member selected member States from the ECE region, with the goal to collect data on the land administration systems from these

¹ Available at <https://www2.ECE.org/wiki/display/HLMWPLA/Home>.

countries and to monitor current land administration trends. Each ECE member State is so covered by a member of the Bureau.

16. The Bureau has also divided its members into task groups to work on contributing in specific ways to the programme of work. These include:
- Task group one on seminars and workshops
 - Task group two on land administration reviews and participation in country profiles on housing and land management
 - Task group three on the publication of studies and guidelines on specific land administration and land management topics
 - Task group four on the benchmarking and preparation of inventories of land administration systems
 - Task group five on cooperation with related national organizations
 - Task group six on cooperation with related international organizations and interregional cooperation
 - Task group seven on the study “Land Registration and Cadastre: One or Two Agencies?” and its promotion

Annex: Programme of work for 2014-2015

This programme of work (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2013/3) was approved by the Working Party at its eighth session on 18 March 2013.

I. Capacity-building and international knowledge sharing

1. Objective: To increase the capacity of ECE member State representatives and other stakeholders to formulate policies on land management, land administration, address registers and cadastres.
2. To complete this objective, the Working Party will:
 - Organize four workshops in the ECE region to allow for experience and knowledge sharing, to improve the human capital of stakeholders and enhance land management practices.
 - Contribute, as requested and available, to ECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group roundtable discussions.
 - Present the work of the Working Party and topics in land management at workshops, conferences, seminars and other events focusing on land management.

II. Land-administration reviews

3. Objective: To provide, upon member State request, an assessment of member State land-administration systems and to provide guidelines to enhance these systems.
4. To complete this objective, the Working Party will, upon invitation by Governments and subject to the availability of funding, create reviews of member State land-administration reviews as part of the ECE Country Profiles on the Housing Sector.

III. Studies on selected topics in land management

5. Objective: To study an issue in land management of interest to member States and issue a publication containing an analysis of this issue to help member States better understand the current status of land management and thus formulate more targeted and effective policies.
6. Activity: The Working Party will conduct a study on the structure of land-administration and cadastre agencies to examine the organizational structure of these agencies. The study will provide guidelines and policy recommendations to ECE member States for the organization of these agencies and suggest the conditions under which different organizational structures are advisable.