

Working Party on Land Administration

Promoting best practices

The WPLA:

- Holds workshops on e-governance, sustainable land management, informal settlements and real estate markets.
- Prepares land administration reviews: detailed analyses of countries' land management systems. These reviews form part of the UNECE country profiles on housing and land management.
- Benchmarks land administration systems to help countries evaluate their own systems, and see what might be improved.
- Shares the results of research with governments, non-governmental organizations, academia, companies, and anyone with an interest in improved land management.

We are also expanding our activities in transition countries, where new land systems are rapidly developing, as well as continuing to encourage inter-regional cooperation.



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Land — Basis for a Prosperous Economy

Land is the world's primary resource – it cannot be consumed, but no production is possible without it. Land provides space for living, resources for industry, parks for leisure, and much more. How land is administered, registered and used affects every family's happiness, and every country's prosperity:

- Security of tenure forms the basis of decent housing. People with secure tenure can gain access to credit, education and home renovation, improving their businesses and lives.
- When people feel secure in their homes, they have more time to work, as well as nurture their children and care for their health.
- Well-administered land markets enable people to buy, sell and rent their homes, giving them more control over their lives and increasing mobility of labour.
- Transparent and consistent land administration reduces risks to borrowers and developers, giving lenders confidence and drawing investment funds into a country.
- Well-registered property ownership supports efficient and fair taxation on a national and local level, ensuring sustainable income for the state.

Promoting better land administration

The UNECE Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) is an intergovernmental group of policymakers and experts, which helps countries use land to maximize their economic potential and develop resources sustainably. It promotes the improvement of land administration and land management in the UNECE region.

The WPLA promotes security of tenure, creates more effective land registries, as well as sustainable land policies. It provides a neutral platform for knowledge-sharing and discussion between governments and other land stakeholders, developing best practice in land registration, land consolidation and informal settlement management.

It also advises governments on land management issues, and methods to strengthen and modernize land administration systems. It contributes to land policy formulation, implementation and monitoring, and the promotion of sustainable land management programmes and projects. To help countries develop better land registry and cadastre systems, we advise on policy formulation, promote best practices, and improve data collection.

The working party coordinates activities with other stakeholders, and encourages partnerships in the public and private sector. For example, we work closely with national and local governments, and with international organizations. These include:

- United Nations Programme on Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT)
- United Nations Regional Commissions
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- European Land Information Service (EULIS)
- International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)
- Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC)
- International Centre of Registration Law (CINDER)
- European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information (EUROGI)
- EuroGeographics
- European Land Registry Association (ELRA)
- World Bank

In addition, we encourage cooperation with educational institutions.