



UNECE



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

COVID-19 and Property Markets: How is the pandemic affecting property markets in the UNECE region?

Date: Thursday, 15 April 2021

Time: 1-2:30 p.m. CET

Platform: Zoom

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected real property markets. In this context, the UNECE Working Party on Land Administration, jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), is arranging a series of webinars for experts in land administration and management, to exchange on national responses, share experiences and lessons learnt.

For over a year now, we are living in a different world. We are witnessing a tremendous shift of paradigms in every part of our lives. We have observed some immediate effects like accelerated digitalization of services and processes, transformation of communication and marketing methods, and changed travel patterns and routines. The pandemic will most certainly have long-lasting effects on people, technologies and governance.

The pandemic has affected national economies and with no exception for property markets all over the world. We observe a lot of data coming out on the impact of COVID-19 on property markets. While some countries tackle other big challenges on top of a multiplicity of already existing economic, political and social challenges, other countries report growing economic activity, number of sales and average prices, despite lockdowns and various restrictions to conduct property valuations and inspections.

The webinar "COVID-19 and Property Markets in UNECE region» will look at the recent development and most important driving forces underpinning national property markets; examples on how national land registries are coping with challenges and maintaining crucial social services; and how the private sector is tackling social restrictions and adapting to the situation.

This is the second webinar of a series of joint WPLA – FAO webinars on “Land Administration during the COVID-19 pandemic”. Conclusions, outcomes and learning of these exchanges will be presented at the twelfth Session of the UNECE Working Party on Land Administration on 31 May and 1 June 2021.

Questions for panel discussion:

1. Countries with established and functioning e-services and e-outreach to their citizens have shown the resilience in maintaining public services at “business as usual”- level.

How did and do land registry authorities in your country respond to the pandemic/ supported property markets? Please share both success and failure stories and the reasons for those.

2. How has the pandemic affected access of economically vulnerable groups to private property?
3. How are AirBnB and short-term rental property market affected by lockdowns and significantly reduced tourist flows?
4. Some property market experts say that despite the market uncertainty caused by COVID-19, property markets will continue to be influenced by the underlying realities of supply and demand. What is your opinion on the main drivers of the property markets in the recovery of COVID-19?

Webinar programme, 15 April 2021

Time CET	Contribution title	Speaker
13:00-13:10	Welcome and address	Ms. Elena Szolgayova , former Chair, UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management
13:10 – 13:20	The impact of COVID-19 on the property market – Norwegian Association of Real Estate Agents' experience	Mr. Carl O. Geving , Managing Director, Norwegian Association of Real Estate Agents
13:20 – 13:30	The impact of COVID-19 on the property market – Notaries' experience	Mr. Lionel Galliez , International Union of Notaries (UINL) Vice President for Europe
13:30 – 13:40	Sales Price Register and impact of COVID-19 on the property market in the Federation of BiH	Ms. Jelena Zelić , Expert advisor, Federal Geodetic Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina
13:40 – 13:50	The impact of Covid-19 on the real estate market in Republika Srpska and the use of new technologies and services in response to the pandemic in Republika Srpska	Ms. Dragana Svitlica , Senior Associate and Mr. Stanko Svitlica , Assistant director, IT Sector, Republic Authority for Geodetic and Property Affairs of Republic of Srpska and Mr. Dejan Jeremić
13:50 – 14:05	Panel discussion	Mr. Darko Vucetic , Head of Centre of Excellence for Geospatial Information Management, Republic Geodetic

14:05 – 14:25	Answering the 4 questions	Authority of Serbia
		Ms. Paloma Taltavull de La Paz , Chair, UNECE Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group on a study on Shared Economy
		Mr. Wolfgang Kälberer , Member of the Steering Committee, HypZert Germany
14:05 – 14:25	Q&A, Discussion	Speakers and participants
14:25 – 14:30	Conclusions	Mrs. Elena Szolgayova , former Chair, UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

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