Activities of the UNECE Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA)

Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist, Chair, WPLA
The UNECE Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA)

Continuous dialogue and benchmarking for promotion and improvement of land administration and management in the ECE region – a holistic perspective

Activities are based on cooperation and exchange of experience among member states through:
- Seminars and workshops (>= 2 per year)
- Webinars (2-5/year)
- In-country land administration reviews upon requests from governments as part of Country Profiles
- Publication of studies and guidelines on specific topics
- Benchmarking

Collaboration with FIG, UN-GGIM, PCC, EuroGeographics, FIG, FAO, UNDP, WB, UN-Habitat, etc.
WPLA Bureau members

Ms. Victoria Abbott (United Kingdom)
Ms. Elena Busch (Norway)
Mr. Filippo Cadamuro (Italy)
Ms. Tatjana Cenova Mitrevska (Republic of North Macedonia)
Ms. Mari Khardziani (Georgia)
Mr. Konstantin Litvintcev (Russian Federation)
Ms. Kirsiikka Riekkinen (Finland)
Mr. Dimitris Rokos (Greece)
Ms. Pilar Verdejo Garcia (Spain)
Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist (Sweden), Chair
The holistic perspective

Transformation within boundaries - just, secure, inclusive, sustainable

- Equal access, use and control of land is fundamental for social and economic development, environmental stewardship, peace and stability, and securing human rights
- Good land governance is key for achieving the SDGs
A holistic fit-for-purpose approach supporting the SDGs

Information infrastructure, land policy framework, collaboration
National geospatial data – captured, maintained and disseminated by an ecosystem of actors for the benefit of society

Forest and open areas – orthophotos by the Land administration agency

Building, addresses, roads - Municipalities

Water areas - Maritime Authority

State roads – National Road Authority

Real property/cadastre – Land administration agency

Power lines infrastructure – electric power companies

Nature reserves – County Administration

Development plans – municipalities

Heritage- National Heritage board

Agriculture land - Board of Agriculture
Expanded role of land administration authorities

- Smart cities
- Climate change initiatives
- Integrate planning and building process
- Government-as-a-platform (key registers)
- Spatial data infrastructures
- Utilisation of UAVs
- 3D/4D and closing the gap between BIM and GIS
- Open data strategies

Consequences for the land authority:
- Increased interaction
- More complex decision-making processes
- New competences
- Increased business intelligence and international collaboration
Global megatrends and specific drivers related to the LA domain

- Collaboration, sharing and interoperable solutions
- Usage of big data, AI, IoT and other new tech
- Information security and integrity aspects related to new technologies (the cloud, AI, blockchain, digital identity...), legislations (GDPR, PSI...), and policies (open data, government as-a-platform...)
- Respond to next-generation demands requires new digital workflows and new financial, information and business models; scalable, interoperable and evolutionary arrangements
- Expanded role for LA authorities to support new state priorities (climate adaptation, integrate planning and building processes, 3D/4D applications, smart cities, NSDI, open data etc.)
- Policies, legal frameworks and governance are sometimes legacies of the passed preventing innovation and development rather than enabling it
- Innovation through crowd-sourcing, open source programming, policy and society hack...
- Geospatial as an enabler for new collaboration ecosystems, e.g. integrated land development processes
- VGGT, FELA, IGIF and Agenda 2030
- ...
Scenario study on future land administration - objectives

• Understand emerging developments expected to shape the future
• Provide LA authorities with a framework based on scenario analysis and used to explore their future and to facilitate national LA strategies
• A dialogue tool (in-country/global) to identify common challenges and opportunities, share best practices for solutions and risk mitigation measures and to improve preparedness for future disruptive changes
• Contribute with relevant thought leadership to the long-term strategic work of the authorities for them to stay relevant, liable and provide trustworthy and future-proof services
• Final report: https://unece.org/publications/housing-and-land-management

*) Austria, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland
Land administration arrangements 2030 – scenario study

Traditional/Hierarchical
- Centralized, hierarchical
- Regulated
- Process-oriented
- Silo/redundancy
- Robust but difficult to evolve
- Non-integrated information and services

Conventional
- Defined services
- Process-oriented
- Regulated
- Centralized
- Data custodians
- PPP arrangements

As-a-service
- Multiple actors and data sets
- Less or no regulation
- Open data
- Automated decisions
- Distributed value
- Crowdsourced
- Organic, evolutionary
- Interconnected business models

Distributed
- Government as-a-platform
- Integrated government data, products and services
- Information-oriented
- The once-only-principle
- Customer-oriented
- Fundamental data sets
- Economies of scale

Platform

GOVERNANCE

OPERATIONS

Private

Public
24 guiding principles for land administration systems in 2030

- The land administration system is uniform throughout the country, and contains information about all properties, regardless of type, use and ownership.
- The land administration system is robust and capable of reflecting the dynamic nature of information stored in it over time, including information on rights, responsibilities and restrictions, thereby containing historical data on properties, such as information about changes in ownership and parcel boundaries.
- The land administration system provides 3D information about the vertical and horizontal limitation of properties, with their related rights, restrictions and responsibilities.
- The land administration system facilitates linkages with building information models.
- The land administration system offers real-time registration of transactions, largely subject to automatic digital checks only. Transaction documents are standardized for machine reading. Only complex cases are checked manually by the land administration authority;
Webinars spring 2021

COVID-19 pandemic and land administration

• “Accelerated Digitalisation: The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Land Administration sector” (HMLR, UK)

• "COVID-19 and Property Markets: How is the pandemic affecting property markets in the UNECE region?" (Kartverket, Norway)

• “NSDI, geospatial data and technology: The role of geospatial and cadastre agencies in the COVID-19 pandemic response” (Rosreestr, Russia)

Recordings/presentations available at: https://unece.org/info/events/unece-meetings-and-events/housing-and-land-management
Recent webinars (spring 2022)

Future Scenarios in land administration

• Joint WPLA-Finnish Land authority webinar “Cadastral, mapping and land registration authorities’ strategies in Europe” 3 February 2022;
• Joint WPLA-University of Gavle webinar “Geospatial information – advanced education and competence needs” 22 March 2022;
• Joint WPLA-Colegio de Registradores de la Propiedad, Mercantiles y de Bienes Muebles de España webinar “Benefits and challenges of open data in land administration” 27 April 2022;
• Joint WPLA-Norwegian Kartverket webinar “Socio-economic benefits of geospatial information”, 19 May 2022;

Recordings/presentations available at: https://unece.org/info/events/unece-meetings-and-events/housing-and-land-management
Recent publications

- Scenario Study on Future Land Administration in the UNECE Region
- Study on Fraud in Land Administration Systems
- Public-Private Partnership in Land Administration
- COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for informal settlements in the UNECE Region
- Sustainable Development and Security of Property Rights in the UNECE Region: An assessment of perceived tenure security for land and housing (Prindex)
- Upcoming joint WPLA/FAO/FIG publication: *Accelerated Digitalization and the Future Role of Land Administration in the UNECE Region and Beyond*

The publications are available at: [https://unece.org/publications/housing-and-land-management](https://unece.org/publications/housing-and-land-management)
Upcoming land administration reviews upon requests from governments

- Monte Negro – the issue of informal settlements and absence of national property register
  - Illegal buildings on state land
  - No capacity for inspection
  - Avoid legal procedures and property tax
  - Mortgage not sufficient incentive for registration
  - Supervision using orthophoto has not prevented illegal constructions
  - Urban development in a participatory process demonstrates success in Serbia

- Albania
Suggested focus areas in autumn/winter

• Linking land administration, SDI and urban development
• Ecosystems of actors and functions in land administration
• Digitalisation, security matters and open data
• Land administration for building resilience
Geospatial information for land use planning and land development - harmonization
Data interoperability, access and reuse

Digitally enabled ecosystems:
- New collaboration and business models
- Data standards and shared information models
- Accessible national data platforms
Programme of work 2022-2023

I. Capacity-building and international knowledge-sharing

1. Objective: To increase the capacity of ECE member States to formulate policies on land administration and management.

2. To achieve this objective, the Working Party will:

(a) Organize four workshops in the ECE region, in person and/or online, to allow for experience- and knowledge-sharing, to improve the human capital of stakeholders and enhance practices in land administration and management;

(b) Promote the work of the Working Party, and provide advice on land administration at workshops, conferences, seminars and other events focusing on land administration and management, as well as through other channels, such as the planned regional observatory on urban-related Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Provide policy advice to national and local governments in the implementation of the COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the ECE Region;

(d) Contribute, as requested and available, to ECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group roundtable discussions; and

Programme of work 2022-2023

II. Land administration reviews

3. Objective: To provide, upon the request of a member State, an assessment of the member State's land administration arrangements, and guidelines to enhance them.

4. To achieve this objective, the Working Party will, upon invitation by Governments and subject to the availability of funding, develop member State land administration reviews as part of the ECE country profiles on housing and land management.
III. Studies on selected topics in land administration and management

5. Objective: To study issues in land administration and generate publications and formulate more targeted and effective policies, strategies and action plans.

6. To achieve this objective, the Working Party will:

(a) Continue to elaborate and, if necessary, update the scenarios for future land administration and land management solutions, including the self-assessment questionnaire, taking into account 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda as well as current global transformative forces, such as urbanization, digitization, climate change, and open data, in order to enhance preparedness to adapt to future new developments, increase flexibility and build resilience to disruptive events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensure holistic land administration and land management solutions;

(b) Continue ongoing work on benchmarking of land administration systems. Initiate studies related to different critical aspects of land administration, e.g., on measures to enhance data quality in land administration systems; concepts and strategies for open data and data-driven solutions and practices in the support of approximation among the land administration, land management and geospatial management domains; review of educational programmes in land administration and geospatial management; analysis of perceived tenure security in the ECE region; and applications of emerging technologies in land administration; and

(c) Develop possible additional studies on the impact of COVID-19 on land administration and management.
Thank you!

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