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**Economic Commission for Europe****Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management****Working Party on Land Administration****Thirteenth session**

Geneva, Switzerland, 4-5 April 2023

**Item 3 of the provisional agenda****Review of programmes of work 2020-2021 and 2022-2023****Review of the programmes of work for 2020-2021  
and 2022-2023****Note by the Bureau of the Working Party***Summary*

This document contains information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for 2022--2023 (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2021/4)<sup>1</sup> of the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA). The first three sections of the document are organized according to the clusters of the programme of work; the fourth section describes additional activities and work of the Bureau of the Working Party.

The document also provides an overview of those activities of the programme of work 2020--2021 (ECE/HBP/2019/4)<sup>2</sup> that were undertaken since the twelfth session of the Working Party that took place 31 May-1 June 2021.

**I. Capacity-building and international knowledge-sharing**

1. Since the twelfth session of the Working Party on Land Administration on 31 May-1 June 2021, the Working Party organized the following capacity-building activities related to land administration and management. The themes were identified based on the results of a survey that was conducted by the secretariat in May-June 2021:

(a) Webinar “Cadastral mapping and land registration authorities’ strategies in Europe” (3 February 2022);<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/ECE\\_HBP\\_WP.7\\_2021\\_4-E.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/ECE_HBP_WP.7_2021_4-E.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Available at [https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2019/ECE\\_HBP\\_WP.7\\_2019\\_4\\_en.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2019/ECE_HBP_WP.7_2019_4_en.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> <https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/364529>.



(b) Webinar “Geospatial information – advanced education and competence needs”, organized jointly with the University of Gavle (Sweden) (22 March 2022);<sup>4</sup>

(c) Webinar “Benefit and challenges of open data in land administration”, organized jointly with Colegio de Registradores de la Propiedad, Mercantiles y de Bienes Muebles de España (Spain) (27 April 2022);<sup>5</sup>

(d) Webinar “Socio-economic benefits of geospatial information” drawing on the experience gained from Norwegian funded activities for implementing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, organized jointly with the Norwegian Mapping Authority and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (19 May 2022);<sup>6</sup>

(e) Webinar “Data Interoperability: The benefits for the Land Administration sector” (24 June 2022).<sup>7</sup>

2. The Bureau and the Working Party secretariat have also presented the Working Party activities at international events focused on land administration, including:

(a) *The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) e-Working week* (21 June 2021).<sup>8</sup> The Chair of WPLA shared the experience of the Working Party on strengthening the role of the geospatial information in responding to crisis and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, drawing on the “Scenario Study on Future Land Administration in the UNECE Region”<sup>9</sup>.

(b) *Eastern Economic Forum, Session Digital Twin. Future Spatial Data*, Vladivostok, the Russian Federation (2 September 2021). The Chair of WPLA participated online and presented the work of the Working Party and best practices in land administration and geospatial information management in Europe.

(c) *Conference and Plenary Meetings of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC)*, Slovenia (11 November 2021). The Chair of WPLA participated online and shared the experience of the Working Party in bolstering the role of national mapping, cadastre and land registry authorities in resilience and recovery programmes.

(d) *Conference and Plenary Meetings of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC)*, Paris, France (31 May-1 June 2022). The Chair of WPLA participated online and shared the experience of the Working Party in valorising digital cadastral data.

(e) *Arab Land Initiative, Reference Group Meeting*, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), Beirut, Lebanon (13 July 2022, in-person). The Chair of WPLA presented the activities of the Working Party in support of land administration reforms in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region and discussed avenues for sharing knowledge with the Arab Land Initiative.

(f) *Special session at the twenty-seventh Congress of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)*, organized jointly with FIG, WPLA and FAO, Warsaw, Poland (14 September 2022).<sup>10</sup> The WPLA secretariat presented work on accelerated digitalization and the future role of land administration in the ECE region and on informal settlements.

3. In preparation for the thirteenth session of the Working Party, the Bureau was planning to organize an online workshop in March 2023 to discuss ecosystems and security in land administration.

<sup>4</sup> <https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/364956>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/366530>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/367024>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://unece.org/info/events/event/368344>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.fig.net/fig2021/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/Scenario%20Study\\_E\\_0.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/Scenario%20Study_E_0.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.fig.net/fig2022/program.htm>.

4. The Bureau of the Working Party and the secretariat continued to use the dedicated wiki page<sup>11</sup> for sharing information with the public as well as between Bureau members. The secretariat, the Bureau and experts also continued to share articles and relevant information via the LinkedIn page<sup>12</sup> of the Working Party, which was set up by the secretariat.

5. The following dissemination tools were used by the ECE secretariat to promote the work on land administration and management: ECE dedicated website at <https://unece.org/land-administration-and-management>, videos, thematic articles, podcasts, press releases and ECE social media platforms.

## II. Land administration reviews

6. In 2022, preparations were under way to carry out reviews of land administration and land management in Albania and Montenegro as part of the “Country Profiles on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management” for the two countries. Subject to the availability of funds, the two reviews will be carried out in 2023-2024.

## III. Studies on selected topics in land management

7. *Digital transformation and land administration – Sustainable practices from the UNECE region and beyond*, developed jointly with FAO and FIG and published in 2022.<sup>13</sup> The initial findings and recommendations were presented to the Working Party at its twelfth session in 2021.<sup>14</sup> The final study was presented to the ECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management during its eighty-third session in San Marino (3-6 October 2022), and the Committee welcomed the study.<sup>15</sup>

8. Inspired by the successful digitalization experiences of land administration in the ECE region and beyond during the COVID-19 lockdown, the study provides a coherent action-oriented reference framework for harnessing technology and innovation for the purpose of unlocking the full potential of land. It features successful case studies, with examples of state-of-the-art digital land administrations systems for documenting, recording and monitoring “people-to-land” relationships. It also highlights the main elements of a strategic approach for ensuring interoperability with other related systems; the required flexibility for responding to emerging needs; broad-based participation in planning processes; and inclusive development.

9. The study served as the basis for a FAO policy brief, “Funding digital transformation of land administration”, which was published in 2022. The policy brief provides practical guidelines for land administrations as they plan and mobilize funds for accelerating digital transformation.<sup>16</sup>

10. *Sustainable development and security of property rights in the UNECE region: An assessment of perceived tenure security for land and housing*, developed jointly with the Overseas Development Institute, United Kingdom and Global Land Alliance, United States and published in 2022 in English and Russian.<sup>17</sup> The initial findings were presented to the Working Party at its twelfth session in 2021.<sup>18</sup>

11. The study shows how tenure security can be strengthened by government policy, further research, and advocacy based on the results of the first-of-its-kind global comparable survey of perceived tenure security of property across 140 countries. The Prindex global,

<sup>11</sup> <https://wiki.unece.org/display/HLMWPLA/Home>.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6610809/>.

<sup>13</sup> <https://unece.org/info/publications/pub/373266>

<sup>14</sup> [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Item%2022\\_PM%20Abbott%20Acc%20digitisation.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Item%2022_PM%20Abbott%20Acc%20digitisation.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE\\_HBP\\_213-E\\_advance.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE_HBP_213-E_advance.pdf), para. 77.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc1880en/cc1880en.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/pub/367641>;

<https://unece.org/ru/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/pub/367641>.

<sup>18</sup> <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Item%206%20Childress%20Prindex%2031-05-2021.pdf>

Property Rights Index survey provides information on 50 out of the 56 ECE member States; the results were collected before the outbreak of COVID-19. The recommendations contained in the study are of particular importance for supporting post-COVID-19 recovery in the ECE region. They demonstrate that the issue of tenure security goes beyond titling ownership policies and requires supporting market transactions with targeted measures for strengthening renter protection. The study also argues for targeted measures for supporting household members, particularly young adults, and address the financial causes of insecurity.

**IV. Report on the work of the Bureau of the Working Party**

12. Since the twelfth session of the Working Party, the Bureau met four times in 2021 and seven times in 2022. The Bureau was planning to meet three more times before the thirteenth session of the Working Party.

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