

84rd Committee Session of Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

Activities of the Working Party on Land Administration

5 October 2024

*Palais des Nations, Geneva,
Switzerland*



The UNECE Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA)



UNECE



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
- Webinars
- In-country land administration reviews upon requests from governments as part of Country Profiles
- Publication of studies and guidelines on specific topics
- Benchmarking

Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work 2022-2023 of the Working Party on Land Administration



UNEP

Capacity-building and international knowledge-sharing - webinars:

- *Cadastral mapping and land registration authorities' strategies in Europe* (3 February 2022)
- *Geospatial information – advanced education and competence needs*, organized jointly with the University of Gavle (Sweden) (22 March 2022)
- *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)
- *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)
- *Data Interoperability: The benefits for the Land Administration sector* (24 June 2022)

Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work 2022-2023 of the Working Party on Land Administration



UNECE



Capacity-building and international knowledge-sharing - Improvement of informal settlements

COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the ECE Region:

- WPLA capacity-building resources to support member States in improvement of informal settlements
- This is continued in the 2023-25 programme of work

WPLA contributions to land administration at international events 2022-23



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

- The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) e-Working week (21 June 2021). 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”
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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) The WPLA secretariat presented work on accelerated digitalization and the future role of land administration in the ECE region and on informal settlements.

Studies on selected topics in land management 2022-23



Digital transformation and land administration – Sustainable practices from the UNECE region and beyond, developed jointly with FAO and FIG and published in 2022

- The initial findings and recommendations were presented to the Working Party at its twelfth session in 2021. 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)
- 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
- 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

Sustainable development and security of property rights in the UNECE region: An assessment of perceived tenure security for land and housing (Prindex), developed jointly with the Overseas Development Institute, United Kingdom and Global Land Alliance, United States and published in 2022

- The initial findings were presented to the Working Party at its twelfth session in 2021
- 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 publications are available at: <https://unece.org/publications/housing-and-land-management>

Partner Organizations



UNECE



- **Collaboration with partner organizations including FIG, UN-GGIM, PCC, EuroGeographics, FAO, UNDP, WB, UN-Habitat, ELRA etc.**

The Outcome of Thirteen Session of WPLA- April 4-5th



UNECE

- Based on outcomes of the thematic workshops and webinars, it was concluded that WPLA should (1) move from the further development of international guidelines to supporting the practical implementation of the existing ones; (2) encourage education and capacity-building of professionals to help them in the application of modern innovative information technologies; and (3) support land administration organizations in making the services more accessible to non-experts; (4) encourage application of socioeconomic impact assessment of geospatial systems using the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF).

Other guidelines and activities to pursue:

- The COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the ECE Region and available Working Party capacity-building resources to support member States in improvement of informal settlements.
- Land administration review of Albania as part of the ECE Country Profiles
- Develop a study on ecosystems and security in land administration
- Strengthening collaboration between the Working Party and the ECE Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group on Climate-Neutral, Energy-Efficient and Sustainable Buildings and Cities.

Programme of Work 2023-24



- **Capacity-building and international knowledge-sharing:**
- **Land administration reviews**
- **Studies on selected topics in land administration and land management**

Capacity-building and international knowledge-sharing



UNECE

- a) Organize four workshops in the ECE region, in person and/or online, to allow for experience- and knowledge-sharing on best practices for improving land administration and management;
- b) Promote the work of the Working Party and provide advice on land administration at workshops, conferences, webinars and other events focusing on land administration and management, as well as through relevant United Nations channels;
- c) Provide policy advice to national and local governments on best practices for strengthening land administration resilience;
- d) Contribute, as requested, to the discussions of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management and the ECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group for Sustainable, Climate-Neutral and Energy-Efficient Buildings and Cities;
- e) Contribute, as requested, to the work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, including the United Nations Expert Group on Land Administration and Management, in line with Economic and Social Council Resolution

Land administration reviews



The Working Party will, upon invitation by Governments and subject to the availability of funding and capacity to carry out the work, develop national land administration reviews as part of the ECE country profiles on urban development, housing and land management.

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.

Ecosystems and security for future land administration arrangements



UNECE

At its Thirteenth session of the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA), the WPLA Bureau highlighted ecosystems and security in land administration as the key areas influencing the domain of land administration and management in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region and beyond, particularly in view of the current global megatrends.

WPLA future work on ecosystems and security in land administration will be based on the principle of policy coherence as established in the 2030 Agenda (SDG target 17.14). This work will also be based on the principles of the Framework for Effective Land Administration 3 of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

Guiding principles for strengthening ecosystems and security in land administration:

- Strategic enablement
- Transparent and accountable
- Reliable, accessible and usable
- Collaboration and cooperation
- Integrated solution
- Sustainable and valued
- Leadership and commitment

How are land authorities adapting their organizational and institutional arrangements to respond to the increased complexity of ecosystems?



UNECE

- The growing and multifaceted interplay between land administration and the social, economic and environmental well-being of citizens and societies is driven by global megatrends
- Urbanization, climate change, digital transformation, the data revolution, distributed networks and front-end technologies are some of the major catalysts and sector-specific drivers detailed in the *Scenario study on future land administration in the UNECE region*
- This interplay is amplified by national factors, including the emerging needs and expectations of citizens and societies and reduced government spending on public services
- In combination with the cross-sectoral nature of land administration, they have given rise to new formations of ecosystems of collaborations and distributed land administration functions,
- The result is new opportunities for bolstering the contribution of land administration to the achievement of the SDGs
- New public-private partnership arrangements, online public services (i.e., government-as-a-platform approaches) and interoperability solutions (technical, semantic, legal and organizational) are examples of initiatives paving the way for that to happen

How are land authorities adapting their organizational and institutional arrangements to respond to the increased complexity of ecosystems?



UNECE

- All of these dynamics and the resulting new ecosystems of actors and functions are context specific but they carry important implications for land administration arrangements
- It is important to investigate these new formations to identify the common aspects they involve, as such aspects are crucial for national policies and regional cooperation arrangements and for fostering global awareness
- These issues will be the focus of the WPLA study on ecosystems and security in land administration in the ECE region. The study will provide recommendations for supporting national and regional policies and initiatives in the area of land administration. The results will be discussed during an online workshop and inform capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities.
- *The Scenario study on future land administration in the UNECE region and Digital transformation and land administration – Sustainable practices from the UNECE region and beyond* will be used as the reference framework for ensuring a forward-looking, inclusive and holistic perspective of ecosystems in land administration
- The WPLA will conduct a survey to understand if land administrations have moved towards the scenarios they expected to
- The way we respond to the increasing complexity of ecosystems, taking advantage of new opportunities and innovations, will require sound strategic decisionmaking, based on evidence, accumulated knowledge and experience as well as best practices to ensure that nobody is left behind

Security in land administration arrangements



UNECE

- As land administration authorities are in the process of modernizing their systems, or are considering doing so, digital transformation is raising numerous security concerns
- Security in land administration should be approached from different levels
- Land security can be divided into three levels: security regarding individual citizens, security regarding land administration systems, and security related to the society, region, or nation. The three levels involve different, albeit partly overlapping, aspects, including tenure security, data security and system security

Tenure security

- The workshop in Madrid will be organized on 2 and 3 November 2023. The title of the workshop is "Tenure Security: special study on the geospatial and legal effects of natural disasters."

Data security

System security

- These issues will form the focus of a study on security in land administration in the ECE region. The study will provide recommendations for supporting national and regional policies and initiatives in the area of land administration. The results will be discussed during an online workshop and inform capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities.

Informal Settlements



UNECE

WPLA will organize webinars on monitoring the progress of formalization of property rights in informal settlements in the region, aiming to unblock complex situations and provide support in problems solving.

WPLA contributions to land administration at international events



UNECE

- 28 May – 1 June 2023 --The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Working week, Orlando, FL, USA.
- 1 September 2023 – ERSA conference UNECE-REM panel on housing affordability, energy efficiency and health challenges, in ERSA2023 Conference in Alicante
- 2-3 November 2023 – Madrid workshop on tenure security

Webinars



- Cyber security in Land Registries / Cadastres, Department of Lands and Surveys, Cyprus, December 2023
- Ecosystems and security in land administration, joint collaboration with UN-Habita, Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), February 2024
- Ecosystem of Lan Administration, National Land Survey of Finland, March/April 2024
- Monitoring the progress of formalization of property rights in informal settlements in the region, National Technical University of Athens, Greece, 2025

WPLA Bureau members 2023-25



- **Ms. Victoria Abbott (United Kingdom) (Chair)**
- **Ms. Kirsikka Riekkinen (Finland) (Co-Chair)**
- **Ms. Pilar Verdejo Garcia (Spain) (Co-Chair)**
- **Ms. Chryssy A Potsiou (Greece)**

Publications



UNECE



- **Sustainable Development and Security of Property Rights in the UNECE region:** An assessment of perceived tenure security for land and housing (Prindex)
- Joint WPLA/FAO/FIG publication: **Digital transformation and land administration** - Sustainable practices from the UNECE region and beyond

The publications are available at: <https://unece.org/publications/housing-and-land-management>