

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Report of the Meeting of the Bureau of the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA)

26 February 2019

15:00 – 16:00 (CET)

Palais des Nations A-239, Geneva

Attendance:

Ms. Mari Khardziani (Georgia)
Ms. Chryssy Potsiou (Greece)
Mr. Bakytbek Djusupbekov (Kyrgyzstan)
Mr. Rik Wouters (The Netherlands), Vice-chair
Ms. Elena Busch (Norway)
Ms. Tanja Cenova (Republic of North Macedonia)
Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist (Sweden), Chair
Mr. Konstantin Litvintcev (Russian Federation)
Ms. Victoria Abbott (United Kingdom)

Observers:

Mr. Zorancho Mukanov (Republic of North Macedonia)
Ms. Galina Kirichenko (Russian Federation)
Mr. Paul Van Asperen (Consultant)

UNECE Secretariat

Ms. Amie Figueiredo

Item 1: Opening and adoption of the agenda

1.1 The Chair of the Working Party, Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist, opened the meeting and invited the bureau to make any amendments to the previous bureau meeting minutes and then to the agenda. No additional comments were made.

Item 2: Programme of work 2018-2019 and including the work of Task Groups and status on actions

Capacity building and international knowledge sharing:

- 2.1.1 The workshop with the tentative title “Digital, Technology, Data: the Impact on Land Administration” was planned for in UK in May/June 2019. The theme was changed to PPP for Land Administration in collaboration with the World Bank, Ordnance Survey and other partners. However, the WB has decided to make this workshop a global one and will host it in Vienna. The WPLA will not be co-organizing.
- 2.1.2 The Common Vision conference in Helsinki, Finland will be held 20-21 November 2019. The focal point for Common Vision Conference coordination

- will be Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist upon Mr. Rik Wouters leaving the WPLA bureau.
- 2.1.3 Ms. Elena Busch, Ms. Victoria Abbott, Tanja Cenova and Chryssy Potsiou attended the WB Land and Poverty Conference, March 25–29, 2019 in Washington, DC. Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist, Ms. Elena Busch, representatives from the Rostreestr and Mr. Rik Wouters will attend the FIG Working Week, 22 - 26 April 2019 in Hanoi, Vietnam
 - 2.1.4 The organization for the workshop on “How to assure rights of indigenous peoples and minorities” in spring 2020 – Canada (Mont Tremblant) seems to be going well. Appoint a focal point in the bureau for coordination with Canada as Mr. Rik Wouters will be leaving the bureau.
 - 2.1.5 Mr. Fredrik Zetterquist will discuss with Kees de Zeeuw about the WPLA involvement in the EG-LAM work, after Mr. Rik Wouters leaving the WPLA bureau.

Land administration reviews:

- 2.2.1 Request an official letter from the Bulgarian cadaster for cooperation on: Technical Assistance Bulgaria for drafting TOR “Strategy for completing the cadastre map and cadastral registration”.
- 2.2.2 The Cadastre will need to devote funding to the project the terms of reference for the project to complete cadaster subsidy projects will need to be defined.

Background from the meeting between Rik Wouters and Violeta Koritarova, Director of the Bulgarian Cadastre GCCA regarding request for WPLA to make experts available for technical assistance. It was specified that limited support by WPLA is possible and that more intensive TA must be financed by other means. The discussion was:

- a) formation of strategy how to complete the land register data and map. Backlog is considerable and no clear vision how to complete the remaining work. Link with Ministry of Justice (responsible for land registration) is not foreseen but relevant when drafting a comprehensive future strategy.
- b) defining a project proposal to apply financial support/subsidy from the EU Commission in Brussels. EU TAIEX program advised for first round of support. Helge Onsrud (Norway) would also be a good candidate.

Studies:

- 2.3.1. Benchmarking of LA systems: The questionnaire for the *Study on the Cost for Registration and Transfer of Real Estate and Registration of Mortgages in the UNECE Countries* was sent to member States. Results were presented by Mr. Paul Van Asperen during the bureau meeting and he will present them at the WPLA 11th session in February 2019. There was discussion to carry out the survey every two years to monitor the trends. Next steps on the finalization of the survey results are planned by May 2019.

- 2.3.2 Fraud in LA systems: The questionnaire was sent, and the deadline is 16 January 2019. The preliminary results will be presented at the WPLA 11th session. The TG will be closed when the study is finalized.
- 2.3.3 Informal settlements: The executive summary was produced and was available as an official document for the WPLA 11th Session. The plan is for the guidelines to be finalized for the WPLA 11th Session.
- 2.3.4 Land consolidation: Walter de Vries presented the finalized study (narrative) as an official document at the 11th WPLA session. The TG will be closed when the study is finalized.
- 2.3.5 Scenarios for future land administration: A roundtable was organized in Amsterdam on 18 December 2018 to continue the discussions started in the June 2018 roundtable. And a subsequent roundtable is planned for 20 March in Vienna. The summary of progress is available as an official document at the 11th WPLA session.
- 2.3.6 Outreach and Promotion: The WPLA LinkedIn page <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6610809/> should be used for the dissemination of WPLA activities, please join if you are not already a member. The new members of the task group are: Tanja Cenova, Chryssy Potsiou, Victoria Abbott and Mari Khardziani. They will meet at the next bureau meeting to establish the new workplan for the group.
- 2.3.7 Further discussion on the next steps in the communication strategy need to be discussed at the next bureau meeting. It was discussed that the WPLA needs to discuss a branding strategy.

Item 3: The 11th Session of the WPLA

- 3.1 There were 120 participants from 37 countries. Bureau elections were held during this session for the term 2019-2021. The composition of the new bureau can be found on the webpage¹ of the WPLA as well as in the report (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2019/2) of the session².
- 3.2 There was a side event co-organized with UN-Habitat/GLTN on the afternoon of 28 February after the WPLA session ended on *Land Indicators and data collection*³.

Item 4: WPLA participation and Upcoming events

- 4.1 List of events:
- 25-29 March 2019 - WB Land and Poverty conference, Washington (Elena Busch will attend)

¹ <https://www.unece.org/housing/working-party.html>

² <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50205>

³ <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50205>

- 22-26 April 2019 - FIG Working Week, Vietnam
- 20-21 November 2019 - Joint CVC conference – Helsinki, Finland
- 10-14 May 2020 - FIG 2020 – Amsterdam
- 20-22 May 2020 - “How to assure rights of indigenous peoples and minorities” – Canada (Mont Tremblant)
- Suggestions for workshops in Georgia and Sweden in 2020

Item 5: Other Business

5.1 There was meeting with the French Association for the promotion of the rural areas during the Session. A summary of the meeting was circulated to the meeting participants. There are discussions on how the WPLA can be involved in this work.

Item 6: Next Bureau meeting

6.1 The Chair closed the meeting and the next bureau will take place on 13 May 2019 in London.