

**UNECE WPLA Workshop – Amsterdam, 13-14 October 2011**  
**LAND ADMINISTRATION IN A NETWORKED SOCIETY.**

The internet has become perhaps the key means of communication and interaction. Today's society is increasingly organizing its relationships in media networks whereby gradually replacing or complementing the social networks of face-to-face communication. This means that social and media networks are shaping the prime mode of organization and most important structures of modern society.

To better understand the changes land registry and cadastre organizations face in a networked society, the UNECE Working Party on Land Administration organized an international workshop on: "Land Administration in a networked society", held on 13 and 14 October 2011 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, which was hosted by Cadastre Land Registry and Mapping Agency of the Netherlands.

The main goal of the workshop was to discuss the challenges and opportunities that an increasingly 'networked society' pose to land registry and cadastre organizations and to analyze their potential to adapt their processes and services. Structured around four major subthemes leading experts discussed the changing role of land registry and cadastre organizations.

Personal communication is replaced by digital technology, with social and professional contacts, as well as the primary interface between them and the state.

Organisations that deal with land administration have had to adapt - and to keep adapting - to these societal changes. What has been the experience of land registry and cadastre organisations in this regard; what does this mean for their primary processes and the role that they play in society?

Over the past decades many countries in the UNECE region have successfully converted their land registration and real property records from large collections of paper documents into computerized form. The use of information technology through e-government application has enhanced the efficiency in the of information, and for the most part resulted in more transparent and efficient land management: data on land and real estate objects can be collected in a speedy fashion, administrative costs for citizens can be minimized, fraudulent activities can be better monitored and prevented and the right to access information on land and real estate can be better guaranteed for the general public.

Presentation by the host authorities and delegates from other countries of the UNECE region exemplified that countries across the ECE-region have been working along the same lines with regard to technology implementation and customer services. Country-specific experiences showcased the latest products, systems and approaches around 'integrated solutions' and their current and potential application in the domain of land administration; promoted advances in E-land administration as part of broader E-government.

Considering the domain of 3D cadastre as a new information source to be potentially used in the domain of land administration the workshop showed that good technologies are available and pilot projects in several countries collect best practices. Discussants emphasized the need for further discussions in particular with regards to related legal, financial and technical aspects.

The workshop emphasized the need to focus on benefits for society in order to further sustain the overall trust of society in public e-authorities. Following this principle any e-land administration system shall ensure transparency as well as guaranty public and easy access to information on land. Participants identified the cornerstones for e-Government systems and elaborated on the challenges that national systems are faced with and on the costs that are inclined with the establishment and the maintenance of such systems.

Discussants concluded (1) that to be used effectively, such e-government instruments require appropriate legislation and a well extended information network, encompassing all regional administrations within member States; (2) efficient and transparent land administration is a pre-requisite for the correct functioning of land and real estate markets, both of which play a fundamental role in guaranteeing a country's prosperity and sustainable development; (3) In order to create a 'Networked society', collaboration of land administration authorities with other government and private organization is a key factor; (4) The 'one-stop-shop'-principle is gradually developing into an integrated e-government environment; (5) Quality management for land administration data is needed to guarantee up-to-date and correct information for the public and the government.

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