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Workshops organized by the Working Party

Summary report on the workshops organized under the programme of work of the Working Party on Land Administration

Note by the Bureau of the Working Party

Summary

The present note contains an overview of the workshops organized under the Working Party since its seventh session. In line with the Technical Cooperation Strategy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE),¹ these activities focused on countries with economies in transition, were provided at the request of Governments or on the recommendation of the Working Party.

Particular attention was given to the involvement of beneficiary countries and the use of national expertise to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of technical cooperation activities implemented under the Working Party's programme of work.

¹ Available on the UNECE website at: <http://www.unece.org/operact/opera/tcoop.html>.

I. Introduction

1. The following workshops were organized by the Working Party:
 - Land administration in a networked society (Amsterdam, 12 to 15 October 2011)
 - Supporting global economic recovery: the role of land registration authorities (London, 10 to 13 October 2012)
 - Spatial information, informal development, property and housing (Athens, 10 to 14 December 2012)
2. The following workshops will be organized by the Working Party:
 - The challenges of land registration (Bishkek, 19 and 20 March 2013)
 - Strategies for e-government and land administration (Uppsala, Sweden, 29 to 31 May 2013)

II. Land administration in a networked society

3. This workshop was organized by the Working Party in cooperation with the Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping agency of the Netherlands.

4. It was attended by representatives of Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

5. The goal of the workshop was to discuss the challenges and opportunities that an increasingly networked society creates for land registry and cadastre organizations and to organize the potential of these organizations to adapt processes and services to national needs.

6. The main themes of the workshop were the changing roles and responsibilities of land registration organizations, land administration as a cornerstone for implementing e-Government, the three-dimensional cadastre, and integrated solutions in land administration for improved decision-making.

7. Approximately 25 speakers gave presentations at this event. Some highlights included:

- In his keynote address, Mr. Peter Welling, secretary general of the Ministry of Environment and Infrastructure of the Netherlands, stated that, “The Government recognizes the front runner role of the Kadaster in the development of e-Government as well as its role in setting up, maintaining and disseminating information on key registers in the Netherlands”.
- Experts pointed out that Kadaster should also have a strong role in the registration of concessions, the issuance of permits to extract resources like water, gas, coal and minerals and the monitoring of the exploitation of these resources.
- In several presentations, the implementation of three-dimensional cadastre throughout the UENCE region was described as or assumed to be inevitable. Professor Peter van Oosterom illustrated a number of examples of implementation of

this system in Australia and Norway and described research into a three-dimensional cadastre in the Russian Federation.

- Ms. Galina Elizarova, deputy director of the land-administration agency Rosreestr of the Russian Federation described the revolutionary electronic exchange of real estate object data between Rosreestr and the federal tax authorities.
8. Participants at the workshop made the following conclusions:
- Land registry and cadastral organisations should consider introducing three-dimensional representations of information. This refers both to a three-dimensional map using the digital terrain model and three-dimensional objects such as apartment buildings, office buildings, sport and industrial complexes, underground facilities and civil infrastructure buildings.
 - Land registry and cadastral organisations should consider referring not only to real estate objects such as parcels and buildings but also to underground resources and the rights and permits to exploit these resources.
 - In order to create a networked a society, land administration authorities should initiate intensive collaboration with other government and stakeholder organizations.
 - The initiative to set up a system of authentic key registers concerning persons, legal entities, addresses, parcels, and buildings is recommended to be taken by cadastral organizations as both holders and users of many of these registers. The system of key registers should be based on law and under the responsibility of one Ministry.

III. Supporting Global Economic Recovery: The Role of Land Registration Authorities

9. The workshop organized by the Working Party in cooperation with Her Majesty's Land Registry of England and Wales.

10. It was attended by representatives of Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and the United States of America.

11. The goal of the workshop was to improve the understanding of how effective land registration can contribute to economic recovery and growth.

12. The main themes of the workshop were re-building confidence in the lending market, providing data to stimulate investment growth, technology to support efficient lending and how land registration authorities can meet changing market needs.

13. Speakers such as Law Society Chief Executive Desmond Hudson and Olympic Delivery Authority Property Director Ralph Luck discussed how efficient land registration can help consumers and developers. The conference highlighted the central role that land registration institutions play in providing the confidence and security necessary for a functioning economy and providing confidence for the lending market.

14. Participants at the workshop made the following conclusions:
- To rebuild lender confidence, land registration authorities should ensure that they operate within a secure legal framework which is easily understood by all. Governments should be clear in their support for keeping a land register which comprehensively includes the tenure, rights, obligations and burdens of each piece of land.
 - Advances in technology should be used to support the drive to rebuild confidence in land markets, as they help to ensure the efficiency of registration processes and the transparency of land-related information.
 - Land registration authorities should always consider the types of data they record and be prepared to adapt data recording processes to the changing lifestyles of the citizens they serve. For example, the trend from property ownership to renting may imply that ownership data is not as relevant as it once was.
 - Land registration authorities should make their data transparent and accessible so that lenders can easily obtain land data from an authoritative source.

IV. Spatial Information, Informal Development, Property and Housing

15. The workshop was organized by the Working Party in cooperation with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

16. The workshop was attended by representatives of Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, China, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uzbekistan.

17. The goal of the workshop was to study the progress and efficiency of the legalization of informal settlements in the UNECE region and its impact on property markets, with an emphasis on the economic, social and environmental aspects of the process and particular reference to:

- Affordable solutions for the fast privatization of squatted land, title issuing and property registration;
- Affordable solutions for the fast legalization of planning and construction illegalities through the pragmatic planning of retrofitting;
- Adoption of pro-growth planning and construction permit procedures to facilitate development and economic growth;
- Raising awareness among local experts and decision makers as Greece goes through structural reforms due to the current economic crisis

18. Participants at the workshop made the following conclusions:
- Though legalization and regularisation projects have been initiated by several Governments, there is a need to raise awareness among politicians, experts and the people on the purposes and expected benefits of these initiatives and to emphasize the need to coordinate conflicting policies.
 - Solutions to problems related to informal settlements must be implemented in an inclusive, pro-growth manner which is sensitive to the needs of socially disadvantaged communities.

V. The Challenges of Land Registration

19. The workshop will be held in Bishkek from 19 and 20 March 2013. It will be organized in cooperation with the Government of Kyrgyzstan and the World Bank.

20. The objective of the workshop is to provide participants with an understanding of the main characteristics and key issues facing land-administration authorities in Central Asia, with international comparative perspectives provided by discussants.

VI. Strategies for E-Government and Land Administration

21. The workshop will be held in Uppsala, Sweden, from 29 to 31 May 2012. It will be held in cooperation with the European Land Registry Association.

22. The objective the workshop is to discuss how e-governance can be developed in a way that gives landowners better service and better enables the administration to serve society more efficiently.

23. Four themes are planned for the workshop: the exchange of experiences of developing an e-government in different countries, collaboration within the public sector and between the public and the private sectors, e-services for the benefit of European citizens and the role of land-administration data in society.
