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Economic Commission for Europe**Committee on Housing and Land Management****Working Party on Land Administration****Tenth session**

Geneva, 8-9 March 2017

Items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda

**Review of the programme of work for 2016-2017 and
Report of the Work of the Bureau of the Working Party****Review of the programme of work for 2016 and 2017 and
Report on the work of the Bureau of the Working Party****Note by the Bureau of the Working Party***Summary*

The present note contains information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for 2016-2017 (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2015/5)¹ of the Working Party on Land Administration and on the work to be undertaken throughout 2017. The first three parts of the document are organized according to the clusters of the programme of work; the fourth part describes additional activities and work of the Bureau of the Working Party.

This note also includes those activities of the programme of work 2014-2015 (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2013/3)² undertaken since the ninth session, which was held on 26-27 February 2015.

When discussing its activities, the Working Party may wish to keep in mind that the programme should reflect the interests of member States and their willingness to contribute to the programme's implementation in terms of expertise and human and financial resources.

¹ <https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2015/WP7/ece.hbp.wp7.2015.5.en.pdf>

² <https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2013/WP7/ece.hbp.wp7.2013.3.e.pdf>

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I. Capacity-building and international knowledge sharing

1. Since the ninth session of the Working Party on Land Administration in February 2015, the Working Party held the following workshops:

(a) “Real Estate Rights and Cadastre Registration as an Element for Development of Land Management Systems” in Moscow”, the Russian Federation, 25-26 June 2015. The workshop gave the opportunity to share experiences and practices in registration and cadastral systems enhancements within the framework of land administration. The workshop covered issues of registration and cadastral systems development, the use of information technologies aimed at improving the mentioned systems, as well as issues of information interaction between subjects of land administration;

(b) “Development of key registers in land administration in the UNECE region” in Baku, Azerbaijan, 28-30 October 2015. The workshop presented best practices in key registers enhancement within the framework of land administration. The workshop covered issues of key registers development and maintenance, the use of information technologies aimed at improving the key registers, as well as issues of information interaction between subjects of land administration. The event provided the opportunity to share insights and innovations in land administration and to develop strategic and productive relationships with land administration professionals from across the globe;

(c) “CENTRIC-UNECE/WPLA Seminar” in Bucharest, Romania, 18 May 2016. The seminar informed on the implementation of the CENTRIC project part of Horizon 2020. The main purpose of CENTRIC is to create a Centre of Excellence which will be capable to achieve, in the medium to long-term, strong scientific presence at the EU and international level, acquiring a position that will enable it to actively participate in and influence developments in scientific domains such as 3D/4D geospatial data, linked geospatial data, land classification, remotely sensed data, etc. Furthermore, the project aims to create a suitable ecosystem at the national Romanian and EU level, through a number of capacity building and dissemination activities;

(d) “State and market: Cadastres and Property Right Registers” in Madrid, Spain, 24-25 November 2016. The workshop focused on the functions of Cadastres and Registries, their respective role related to the State and to the real estate and mortgage market and the ways of interaction to satisfy social and economic needs in UNECE member States. During the workshop, participants discussed experiences and practices in Cadastres and Land Registries interaction within the framework of land administration and the ways to develop strategic and productive relationships with land administration professionals from across the globe.

2. In February 2015, the Working Party also organized the second meeting of international agencies to explore opportunities for synergy and cooperation in their activities. In addition to the Working Party, the following organizations participated in this meeting: Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE), EuroGeographics, Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC), European Land Information Service (EULIS), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO), European Land Registrars Association (ELRA), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). During the meeting, the international agencies shared ideas and information in order to avoid the duplication of

efforts and to identify areas for cooperation in order to improve land management throughout the UNECE region.

3. Members of the Bureau of the Working Party participated in the Land and Poverty Conferences, hosted by the World Bank in March 2015 and March 2016 in Washington, DC. In 2015, a joint UNECE/FAO/World Bank Roundtable "Improving Governance of Land Tenure in UNECE region" was held that included an interregional panel to discuss how to integrate the Voluntary Guidelines principles into the ongoing land reforms in the countries through policy advice and land administration projects. In 2016, the "Land Registration and Cadastre: One or Two Agencies?" study was presented.

4. The Bureau of the Working Party and the secretariat have also presented the work of the Working Party at various international events focusing on land administration, including:

(a) "Geospatial World Forum", organized by Geospatial Media and Communications on 26-27 May 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal. The Working Party organized the workshop "Measuring Progress: Achieving Smarter Cities" as part of this Forum;

(b) Fourth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM³, including the First Expert Group meeting on Land Administration and Management (UN-EG-LAM) on 19 April 2016 at UNECA Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The WPLA is a partner in the UN-EG-LAM and will help prepare the Land Tenure Atlas of the World.

(c) "EU INSPIRE Conference" on 26-30 September 2016 in Barcelona, Spain. The secretariat presented on the work of the WPLA in the workshop, *Financing the Evolution of Spatial Data Infrastructures*. This workshop addressed funding approaches, national budgeting schemas, and the experience of actors on different levels (European, macro-regional, national/sub-national), drawing evidence from the work of the FAO, World Bank, UNECE and the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC);

(d) "Conference on Housing Finance – Market and Structures on 14 November 2016, in Berlin, Germany. The conference discussed the situation with the housing finance and policies supporting achieving affordable housing finance in Germany and other European countries. Bureau members attended and presented on the work of the WPLA.

5. The Working Party will organize two more workshops in 2017: the first to take place in Lausanne, Switzerland in April and the other in Vienna in October.

6. The Bureau of the Working Party and the secretariat use an online wiki⁴ to facilitate the sharing of information with the public and between its members. The secretariat has set up a LinkedIn page for the WPLA and Bureau members articles are published in the newsletter *Vital Spaces*.

II. Land-administration reviews

7. The Working Party undertook two land administration reviews in 2015 and 2016, in Armenia and Kazakhstan.

8. The review of land administration and real estate markets in Kazakhstan was developed by experts from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

³ UN Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

⁴ Available at <https://www2.ECE.org/wiki/display/HLMWPLA/Home>.

9. The review of land management and land administration in Armenia was developed by experts from the United Kingdom.
10. These reviews will be published as chapters in the country profiles on housing and land management of these countries.

III. Studies on selected topics in land management

11. In 2014, the Working Party completed the study “Survey on Land Administration Systems in the ECE Region” (ECE/HBP/180). The study gathered information on countries' land administration systems. This included information on the efficiency of their services, the security of their data and their ability to recover data and services in the event of a disaster. Building upon this study, in 2017, the Working Party initiated a follow-up study through a questionnaire to analyse further the land administration systems in the Region. Preliminary results of the follow-up study are available in (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2017/5). A paper with the final results will be produced later in 2017.

12. The Working Party completed the study on “Land Registration and Cadastre: One or Two Agencies?” (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2015/3) which analysed the effects of the merging of land registration and cadastre institutions in the ECE region. The aim of the study was to understand the relationship between organizational structures and the quality of services of land administration organisations. A follow-up study has been carried out to analyse what forms of integration can be referred to as mergers and how do these forms contribute to a fundamental change in organisational quality. An abstract of the final findings of the follow-up study can be found in document ECE/HBP/WP.7/2017/4. A new paper of the full study will be elaborated in 2017.

13. The Working Party completed the study “Informal Development: Challenges and Solutions from South-East Europe” (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2015/4). This study was completed in 2015 and was published under the name “Formalizing the Informal: Challenges and Opportunities of Informal Settlements in South-East Europe” (ISBN 978-87-92853-31-8)⁵. The study examines the causes of informal housing development in South-East Europe and assesses the Government's policies to address this issue. The study provides recommendations on how member States can address the challenges posed by informal development. In 2016, the *Literature Review: Informal settlements in countries with economies in transition in the UNECE Region*⁶ was produced. The Technical Guidelines on Informal Settlements are planned to be elaborated during 2017 subject to available financial resources to do so.

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

14. Since the last session of the Working Party, held on 26-27 February 2015, the Bureau met five times in 2015, five 2016 and twice thus far in 2017.
15. Each Bureau member was assigned the responsibility to collect data on the land administration systems of the selected countries in the region and to monitor land administration trends.

⁵ <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41174>

⁶ <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43153>

16. The Bureau also participates in task groups to work on contributing to the programme of work in selected areas. There have been some amendments to the groups since the last session⁷, to reflect the changing needs of the work, these include:

- (a) “Group for workshops” will be closed.
- (b) “Group for land administration reviews and country profiles” will be closed. Ms. Julie Barry will prepare report as a guide for future Reviews.
- (c) “Group for publication” will be renamed “Group for Outreach and Promotion”. The purpose of this group is to preserve the history and knowledge of the work of the WPLA and to make sure that the work will be shared with relevant parties and published via appropriate channels.
- (d) “Group for benchmarking and inventories” continues for collection and production of the new survey.
- (e) “Group for cooperation with national organizations” and “Group for cooperation with international organizations and interregional cooperation” will be closed and the cooperation with organizations will fall under the tasks of the Chair.
- (f) “Land registration and cadastre – one or two agencies?” and its promotion, will close once the study is finalized.
- (g) Group for “Cooperation WPLA/REM” will continue to update the Bureau and liaise with the REM.

⁷ ECE/HBP/WP.7/2015/7