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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Housing and Land Management

#### Working Party on Land Administration

##### Eleventh session

Geneva, 27-28 February 2019

Items 3 of the provisional agenda

#### **Review of the programme of work for 2018-2019 and Report of the work of the Bureau of the Working Party**

## **Review of the programme of work for 2018 and 2019 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 2018-2019 (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2017/3)<sup>1</sup> of the Working Party on Land Administration and on the work to be undertaken throughout 2019. 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 2016-2017 (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2015/5)<sup>2</sup> undertaken since the tenth session, which was held on 8-9 March 2017.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2017/ECE\\_HBP\\_WP.7\\_2017\\_3\\_en.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2017/ECE_HBP_WP.7_2017_3_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2015/WP7/ece.hbp.wp7.2015.5.en.pdf>

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## I. Capacity-building and international knowledge sharing

1. Since the tenth session of the Working Party on Land Administration in March 2017, the Working Party held the following workshops:

(a) Joint workshop of the WPLA and the EuroGeographics- the Cadastre and Land Registry Knowledge Exchange Network (CLRKEN) on 21 April 2017 in Lausanne, Switzerland;

(b) “Common Vision Conference: "Tradition meets Innovation" on 5-6 October 2017 in Vienna, Austria. The Conference was hosted by the Austrian cadastre organisation BEV and was a joint event with the Common Vision partners: CLGE, ELRA, EuroGeographics, FIG, EULIS, PCC, and ECE WPLA;

(c) “Joint Workshop of ECE WPLA, FAO and LANDNET” on 19-21 June 2018 in Skopje, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The theme of the meeting was “Best practices on land consolidation legislation”. The workshop presented and discussed the preliminary results of the joint research project on Land Consolidation that was carried out by FAO, Technical University of Munich and WPLA;

(d) “Joint Conference of WPLA, FIG and TCG” on 7 - 9 November 2018 in Athens, Greece. The theme of the meeting was “Economy, Society and Climate Change - Current Trends and Solutions for the Built Environment, Construction Industry and Real Estate”. The Technical Chamber of Greece, the International Federation of Surveyors, the Working Party for Land Administration of the United Nations Economic Committee of Europe, the International Union of Architects (Greek Section), the European Council of Civil Engineers, invited policy makers, senior experts, academics and all relevant professionals to bring together experiences and scientific knowledge that would impose setting up land policies and actions in the fields of sustainable land and real estate and for dealing with the impact of climate change and other mega-trends. The Conference facilitated the interchange of multidisciplinary ideas on the impact of the current and future mega-trends in the built environment, construction industry and real estate;

(e) International workshop "My City, My Home, My Business" on 15 November 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria. An interactive session “The Cadastre – a Sustainable Basis for Property Registration and Investments” was organised in collaboration with the National Real Estate Association of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria.

2. Members of the Bureau of the Working Party participated in the Land and Poverty Conferences, hosted by the World Bank in March 2017 and March 2018 in Washington, DC. In 2017, at the World Bank conference a proposal for the development of the Tenure Atlas, a comprehensive information platform on land tenure, was presented; the proposal was elaborated as part of the work with the UN-GGIM<sup>3</sup> Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (EG-LAM). In 2018, the draft outline for the Technical Guidelines for the Formalization of Informal Development in the ECE region elaborated by the WPLA Bureau were presented.

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) <http://ggim.un.org/>

3. 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) “The Third International Conference on Eurasian SDI: From National to Regional Cooperation” (29 - 30 June 2017), Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. The Conference was aimed to introduce new technologies in the Kyrgyz Republic in cooperation with ECE WPLA and the World Bank and to discuss NSDI as a way of enhancing the accessibility, communication, and use of geospatial data to support a wide variety of decisions at all levels of society;

(b) INSPIRE Conference workshop “Data Driven Economy in Central and Eastern Europe: Challenges and Perspectives” on 5 September 2017 in Kehl, Germany. The workshop explored the implications and possibilities related with data driven economy in Central and Eastern Europe. It was organized in collaboration with other international actors such as the World Bank, UN Economic Commission for Europe and the FAO working within the target region on relevant topics. Particular emphasis was put on benchmarking between countries and understanding the state-of-play of data-driven economies in the target region, and their possible implications and trade-off with EU member States;

(c) “Discovery Day 2017: Technology’s contribution to improve tenure governance and deal with the world’s most pressing issues towards achieving the SDGs” on 5 October 2017, in Rome, Italy. Discovery Day 2017 was focused on technology’s contribution to improve the governance of tenure and address some of the world’s most pressing issues, ranging from climate change to violent conflicts and mass migration. Bringing together speakers from government, the private sector, FAO, the World Bank and the ECE, Discovery Day 2017 demonstrated how technologies could improve accountability and transparency, contribute to gender equality and increase public participation. Good practices from Serbia and the UK in establishing Centres of Excellence to support government institutions to make the best use of available spatial data and technologies will demonstrate how innovations have increased the social and economic benefits of investments. Innovative solutions such as the use of very high-resolution satellite imagery and imagery collected with drones, machine learning and crowdsourcing technologies will demonstrate how to deal with complex situations and achieve more with less resources and time;

(d) World Urban Forum 9 Special session “Security of tenure, land market and segregation” on 9 February 2018 in Kuala Lumpur. This session addressed the importance of land and security of tenure in an inclusive and well managed manner in order to achieve the social, economic and environmental functions to promote in both the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) First Arab Land Conference on 26-28 February 2018, in Dubai, UAE. In cooperation with UN-Habitat and the World Bank, the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and other partners the Working Party contributed by sharing experiences from the ECE region with the presentation “Capacity Development and Regional Cooperation to improve land administration and management – Proven experience from the ECE region”;

(f) “The Nordic Cooperation of National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies (NMCAs)” in Kleivstua, Norway, on 21-23 August 2017. The objective of the participation of the Working Party was to share information about ongoing activities and discuss strengthened engagement from the Nordic countries with respect to the building of trusted land administration authorities;

(g) FIG Working Week “Surveying the world of tomorrow – From digitalisation to augmented reality”, 29 May-2 June 2017, Helsinki, Finland. A key note presentation by

the Working Party Chair addressed the global megatrends and their impact on land administration;

(h) Smart Land Administration, 2-3 December 2018, Helsinki, Finland. The workshop was jointly organized by the National Land Survey of Finland, Aalto University, Finnish Location Information Cluster and the World Bank. The agenda included three sessions: Disruptive technologies, Platforms in land administration and Benefits from using the data. The Working Party was invited to share experience related to the study on Future Scenarios in Land Administration;

(i) FIG Congress, 6-11 May 2018, Istanbul, Turkey. “Embracing our smart world where the continents connect: enhancing the geospatial maturity of societies”. Several Bureau members of the Working Party presented papers related to the ongoing studies.

4. The Working Party will organize one more workshop in 2019 to take place in Helsinki, Finland in fall 2019.

5. The Working Party collaborated with the Real Estate Market Advisory Group on the organisation of a session on "Real Estate Markets (REM): Sound Principles for Social & Economic Benefits" as part of the “Joint Conference of WPLA, FIG and TCG” in Athens in 2018. The Working Party also provided comments to the update of the REM draft publication “Policy Framework on Real Estate Markets”.

6. Collaboration with the UN-GGIM and the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (EG LAM) has continued and included participation in the Eighth session of UN-GGIM which was held on 1-2 August 2018 in New York as well as a side event for the EG LAM titled “Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Development in Land Administration”, it took place on 30 July 2018. The Working Party has also participated in the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in Deqing, China, on 19-21 November 2018, where Fit-for-Future land administration was presented.

7. The Bureau of the Working Party and the secretariat use an online wiki<sup>4</sup> to facilitate the sharing of information with the public and between its members. The secretariat has set up a LinkedIn page<sup>5</sup> for the Working Party, members of its Bureau and interested colleagues to share articles and relevant information.

## II. Land administration reviews

8. The Working Party undertook one land administration review in 2018, in Belarus.

9. The review of land management and land administration in Belarus was developed by experts from the Netherlands and the Russian Federation.

10. The review will be published as chapters in the country profile on housing and land management of Belarus.

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

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6610809/>

### III. Studies on selected topics in land management

11. In 2018, the Working Party initiated a follow-up study to the 2011 study<sup>6</sup> on “Fraud in Land Administration Systems” through a questionnaire to analyse the current state of play in the Region. Preliminary results of the follow-up study are available in (ECE/HBP/WP.7/Inf.1). A paper with the final results will be produced later in 2019.

12. In 2018, the Working Party initiated a study on benchmarking in land administration on the costs for registration/transfer of real estate and registration of mortgages for the ECE region. This was done through a questionnaire and the preliminary results of the study are available in (ECE/HBP/WP.7/Inf.2). A paper with the final results will be produced later in 2019.

13. The Working Party initiated a series of studies on land consolidation practices in Europe covering three separate areas of work: the set-up of a standard legal framework for land consolidation, the study into tools and instruments in land consolidation and developments in land consolidation. The first area is coordinated by the FAO in cooperation with LandNet (a network of practitioners and researchers in land consolidation) and the Working Party. A concept note was prepared as well as an executive summary (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2019/6) and in early 2019 the final report will be ready. The second block on tools and instruments is coordinated by the Technical University of Munich and will be completed in 2020. The study draws upon the results and recommendations of a survey on land policy instruments and tools in ECE member States. The study on “Land Consolidation in the ECE Region”, (ECE/HBP/2018/Inf.13)<sup>7</sup>, that addresses the third area of work, was coordinated by Working Party in collaboration with the Technical University of Munich (TUM); it was completed in 2018.

14. The Working Party completed the study “Informal Development: Challenges and Solutions from South-East Europe” (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2015/4)<sup>8</sup> in 2015 which was published under the title “Formalizing the Informal: Challenges and Opportunities of Informal Settlements in South-East Europe” (ISBN 978-87-92853-31-8)<sup>9</sup>. In response to the request from member States, technical guidelines on informal settlements the “Guidelines for formalization of informal constructions in the UNECE region” (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2019/7) were developed in 2018 and will be finalised in early 2019. The Guidelines provide recommendations on how member States can address the challenges posed by the informal development.

15. The Working Party initiated the study on “Future Scenarios in Land Administration”. Preliminary results will be presented at the World Bank Land and Poverty conference in March 2019, including outcomes of a related questionnaire submitted to the member States.

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

16. Since the last session of the Working Party, held on 7-8 March 2017, the Bureau met seven times in 2017, six times in 2018. It is expected to meet twice before the 11<sup>th</sup> WPLA session in February 2019.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=24802>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47538>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2015/WP7/ece.hbp.wp7.2015.4.en.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41174>

17. 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.

18. The Bureau established seven task groups to work on contributing to the programme of work in selected areas. Bureau members participate in the work of these task groups. There have been some amendments to the groups since the last session<sup>10</sup>, to reflect the changing needs of the work, these include:

(a) “Group for benchmarking of land administration systems” continues for collection and production of the new surveys;

(b) “Group on informal settlements” will continue until the publication and dissemination is completed;

(c) “Group on future scenarios in land administration” will continue;

(d) “Group on fraud in land administration” will close once the study has been updated;

(e) “Group for outreach and promotion” will continue its work. 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;

(f) “Group on land consolidation” will close once the study is finalized;

(g) “Group for cooperation WPLA/REM” will be closed and the cooperation with the REM will fall under the tasks of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

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<sup>10</sup> ECE/HBP/WP.7/2017/6