



VITAL SPACES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
UNECE COMMITTEE ON
HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT
AND THE WORKING PARTY ON LAND ADMINISTRATION

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What's new: UNECE HLM works on energy efficiency in housing started • UNECE Housing and Land Management, the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) and the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) organize a seminar on the "Real Estate and Financial Crisis: Causes, Effects and Impact on Development" at the UN HQ in New York on 16 December 2008 • UNECE Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA), the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria organize an international workshop on "Practices and Programmes to Improve the Cadastre in ECE Countries" in Sofia, Bulgaria on 23-24 April 2009 • A new intern at the Secretariat.

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WPLA WORKSHOP DISCUSSES THE EFFECTS OF THE PRESENT FINANCIAL CRISIS ON LAND AND REAL ESTATE MARKETS

"The sub-prime crisis was the result of deficient regulatory institutions. If real estate market bubbles are to be prevented, it is important to design accurate land valuation methods and provide precise information to economic agents," Mr. Steven Williams (FRICS, MAI) stressed during a workshop in Cavtat Croatia, October 2-3 2008. Entitled "The Influence of Land Administration on People and Business," the workshop addressed various issues concerning the future of the real estate sector in the UNECE region, in the context of the current worldwide financial crisis.

In his keynote speech, Mr. Steven Williams addressed central questions on the future of land administration. Experts attending the workshop emphasized measures to be taken by public authorities in the UNECE region in order to level the playing field for economic actors and create more efficient real estate markets. According to Mr. Williams, adequate land valuation, affordable insurance and clear foreclosure procedures are all necessary steps to ensure rules are enforced by governments and rights pertaining to land ownership are respected.

The topic of the financial crisis and its impact in the UNECE region was at the center of the debate. Related legal aspects were discussed by speakers from Ireland, Spain, Austria and the United States. Technical issues pertaining to land administration were also addressed, including innovations in the modernization of the cadastre systems of countries, such as the digitalization of maps. Experts from Denmark, Greece, Slovenia, Georgia, England and Croatia also emphasized the trend towards centralization of cadastre and registration activities as a solution to reduce bureaucratic procedures and to improve cost effectiveness.

Members of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM), recently established to support the UNECE Working Party on Land

Administration on real estate market related issues, called for integrated approaches to real estate markets that incorporate not only the legal aspects of land registration, but also issues linked to financial affairs. These include regulations on insurance companies and safeguards for property owners, among other factors affecting the political stability of countries. The group also referred to the need to create adequate requirements for international standards in valuation and surveying systems, and to foster cooperation between public and private sectors in the outsourcing of mapping and registration services.

A snapshot of the organizers of the Cavtat Workshop.



In a context of unprecedented financial instability, participants agreed that long-lasting solutions, if they are to contribute to increased transparency and stability in land markets, will only come out of comprehensive approaches to land management.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY (HfH) PROGRAM IN GEORGIA, by Loucine Hayes

Because the number of internally-displaced persons (IDPs) escalated to half a million people during and after the recent conflict in the Republic of Georgia, housing issues and housing need have become critical issues there. This makes the program proposal developed by Habitat for Humanity (HfH) more timely than ever in terms of providing a viable solution for the housing problems facing Georgia.



LOUCINE HAYES IS
PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER OF HABITAT FOR
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Europe and Central Asia

The HfH program proposal utilizes the Georgia country profile recommendations put forward by UNECE that state that the “basic goal of housing policy is to provide the whole population with adequately equipped dwellings of suitable size in a well-functioning environment of decent quality at reasonable cost. One of the biggest challenges is thus to provide housing for the underprivileged ... who cannot access it on the market”.

Thus the program that HfH envisions is to establish a holistic Habitat for Humanity program in Georgia that will create a low-cost housing industry through elaboration and implementation of housing policies which will make housing affordable and accessible for clearly defined beneficiaries (low-income and vulnerable groups). This will include the implementation of specific housing projects, as well as policy work in the framework within which those projects will be implemented (advocacy activities).

The program will be supported by three pillars:

- The development of a low-cost housing industry;
- The implementation of an affordable housing finance system;
- The creation of a National Housing Policy.

HfH aims to bring together partners at all levels to realize this ambitious yet important mission. The main implementing partners would be the SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) and UNDP Georgia, which has already begun implementing a successful social rental pilot project in Tbilisi and has plans to expand the project throughout the country.

The project will obviously need the Georgian government’s involvement and commitment. The government should drive the process through the passage of relevant legislation and the development of a national housing strategy/policy. Georgia should also initiate reforms and special programs to aid the project. For the project to succeed there should be awareness and readiness at the government level.

Georgia, is one of the three ex-Soviet Republics in the Caucasus and has a territorial area of 69,700 km². Its population, excluding Abkhazia and South Ossetia (the Tskhinvali region), is 4.4 million.

In 2003, the proportion of population living below the poverty line was estimated at 54.5%, and the proportion living in extreme poverty was at 16.6% (European Commission 2005).

Pictures of some houses in west Georgia prior to rehabilitation by the Danish Refugee Council in 2007-2008 with SDC funding.



According to the 2007 UNDP Development Report, no progress can be reported as regards poverty reduction and social welfare. High poverty levels still represent a serious challenge, with one third of the population living below the poverty line. Poverty rates in urban areas are higher than in rural areas (UNECE 2007). Moreover, according to projections, the poverty level shows an upward trend. By 2015, 68.2 per cent of the population will be in poverty and 29 per cent will be in extreme poverty.

Habitat for Humanity International is a non-profit Christian housing organization providing housing solutions to one family every 24 minutes, around the globe.

Habitat for Humanity Europe and Central Asia works in 19 countries, building and repairing houses, offering micro-credit home-improvement loans, improving water and sanitation, working on disaster response strategies, and advocating for affordable housing, all with families in need. Last year, Habitat for Humanity Europe and Central Asia, served 1,302 families with a wide offering of affordable housing solutions. By 2011, the number of Habitat families served is expected to rise to more than 5,000 per year. Help Habitat for Humanity help others help themselves.

Houses rehabilitated.



THE OPTIONS FOR SOCIAL RENTAL HOUSING IN THE CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN REGION (Workshop held in Budapest, October 6-7, 2008), by Jozsef Hegedus and Nora Teller

After the political turn in the socialist countries in the East and Central European Region, the state had to “withdraw” from the housing sector, which resulted in the end of the East-European Housing Model. Cutting the subsidies for new construction (both public and private), privatization of the building industry and industry for construction materials, price liberalization in housing services, privatization of public housing for sitting tenants, and privatization of the banking sector were the most important steps undertaken in the course of the political and economic transformation – even if not simultaneously – in numerous countries of the region.



JOZSEF HEGEDUS IS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE METROPOLITAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

In the process of transition, negative consequences of economic restructuring (regional and social inequality, declining living standards, affordability problems, etc.) have yet again raised the need for social housing. After the recovery from the economic depression around 2000, governments in the region started social housing programs some with more, some with less success.

The organizers – Council of Europe and the Metropolitan Research Institute in Budapest, under the aegis of UNECE – invited a broad range of stakeholders coming from emerging new housing systems to report critically on recent developments. On the one hand, *researchers* from former socialist states and the European area summarized their findings on the reshaping of housing systems of the region; on the other hand *policy makers* and *practitioners* discussed the conditions, contexts and outcomes of social housing programs. 58 participants from 21 countries represented the three disciplines and the diversity of perspectives and challenges of social housing provision.

Accordingly, the selection of topics was broad: The first day of the workshop was dedicated to presentations on developments in Western Europe and the history of social housing in a comparative perspective, experiences from countries of the Central and East European region in the context of emerging national housing policies (Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic and Russia, with an outlook to Central Asia). The second day the results of specific programs were discussed for the most vulnerable groups in Serbia, Poland and Hungary, and the role of international organizations such as CECODHAS, FEANTSA, CEB, Habitat for Humanity and the Council of Europe (UNECE was represented among the organizations opening the workshop). The second day concluded by elaborating options and relevance of (social) housing policy indicators based on previous attempts stemming from initiatives of Habitat for Humanity, one of the co-sponsors of the workshop.

The workshop concluded that national governments should have a long-term vision of needs for social rental housing and its institutional structure. A clear political will across parties is an inevitable condition for a long-term policy. The cost of the social rental sector should be calculated both in terms of the subsidy and

tax system in the whole housing sector and in terms of expected social benefits. Special attention should be given to “very social housing” (supportive housing) where housing should be supplemented by social work. Moreover, it is important to provide and guarantee financial incentives for institutions entering the social rental sector in order to compensate them for some macro or micro economic conditions (e.g. tax evasion or distorted tax and subsidy system). Furthermore, policy developments have to be critically evaluated in light of the recent and past experiences, drawing lessons from failures and success stories in order to develop sustainable solutions and transferrable models that serve increasing chances to access housing, equity and efficiency at the same time.



NORA TELLER IS A RESEARCHER AT THE METROPOLITAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

The papers and presentations of the workshop are available on the organizer’s website at http://www.mri.hu/shws_program_papers.htm.

A REVIEW OF DATA AVAILABILITY FOR ANALYZING PAST AND FUTURE ENERGY USE IN EUROPEAN DWELLINGS, by Eoin Broin

The energy requirements of European dwellings continue to rise. Structural effects such as increased living space, smaller family sizes, the switch from room to central heating and the proliferation of entertainment electrical appliances have been the most significant contributing factors. Nonetheless, this sector is widely believed to hold the most cost effective and implementable opportunities for reducing energy requirements through energy efficiency. The EU Energy Efficiency Action Plan, as an example, aims to reduce energy use in dwellings by 27 % by 2020 relative to a business as usual trend. To estimate savings potentials for the plan both Primes and Wuppertal modelling software have been used. Related to this the Odyssee Project has popularised the use of indicators to investigate why countries with similar climates, economies and industrial structure have made varying levels of progress with energy efficiency.



EOIN BROIN IS A PhD STUDENT AT THE CHALMERS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY IN SWEDEN.

If the recently initiated UNECE CHLM Project on Energy Efficiency in Houses deems it appropriate to undertake similar studies for its member states, a requisite supply of relevant input data will be required. In an attempt to ascertain whether such data exists this article reviews that contained in Pan European sources. Actual data sought has been time series (1970 to 2006) for each parameter of the first two columns of Table 1 and single year data for columns three to five. The time series data is for inter country comparisons while the single year data would be for simplified software simulation of energy savings potentials in reference dwellings.

Table 1: Data categories needed to conduct a top down indicator analysis of past and a bottom up simulated analysis of future energy use for Residential Sector buildings

Dwelling Stock and Characteristics	Energy End Uses (J)	Apparatus Stock and Unit Consumption	Delivered Energy Carriers (J)	Envelope U Value
SFD / MFD	Space Heating	Heating	Oil	Roof
Floor Area (m ²)	Water Heating	TV	Gas	Floor
Construction Era	Appliances	Freezer	Heat	Façade
	Cooking	Refrigerators	Solid Fuel	Glazing
	Lighting	Washing Machine	Electricity	

Note: Data from the first two columns are necessary for top down analysis while all data is needed for bottom up analysis. SFD and MFD refer to single and multi family dwellings respectively. Heating apparatus refers to whether a dwelling employs room, central or district heating but also the heating device used for central heating. In addition to the categories listed, degree day data would be necessary for climate normalization of inter country comparisons.

The review found that it was possible to find a full set of data to conduct a top down indicator analysis from 1990 to 2003 for six countries on a per-dwelling type basis or for thirteen countries if no distinction was made between whether dwellings were single family or multi family. The thirteen countries were Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the UK. For other European countries the limiting factor was the lack of data available on energy end – uses. Thus for example, for six countries one could compare efficiencies of space heating per dwelling type, for thirteen countries the same thing could be done per dwelling while for the other countries it would only be possible to compare energy efficiency by delivered energy carrier i.e. energy carrier used per square meter of floor space.

For bottom up simulations a complete set of data for use as base year input was found for three countries, Austria, Denmark and Greece. To proceed with simulations for other countries it would be necessary to seek additional data from national sources or to make estimations. For estimations, delivered energy carrier balances could be used to infer the types of heating devices and systems installed in dwellings. Building thermal regulations could be used to infer the theoretical thermal characteristics of buildings built after 1970. A more generic estimation methodology would be to substitute data from one country for that of another for which no data existed. For example data from the Netherlands could be used for that of Belgium. Obviously in doing so, cognizance would have to be taken of economic and regulatory differences between countries.

Examining actual sources, construction characteristics data is available from the biennially published Housing Statistics of the European Union (ISBN: 91-7147-865-5). For non EU countries the now defunct UNECE Housing Bulletin provided similar data. Both sources present a discrete time series. Neither publication addresses energy use in dwellings or technical detail of dwelling design such as their thermal conductivity (U) values. IEA, Eurostat and UNECE energy balances give aggregated figures for annual delivered energy divided by energy carrier for the residential sector for all European Countries. These sources do not address end – uses of energy. The only dedicated source of energy end – use data is the Odyssee Database. It contains data for EU 27 countries plus Croatia and Norway although data is missing for some. This problem is however not unique to Odyssee. The time series of energy end – use data for the thirteen countries listed above comes from the Odyssee

Database. Others sources of interest include data collected as part of EU projects or privately funded projects. The difference between these sources and the aforementioned are that they are all one – off publications. The most significant of these was, Energy Consumption in Households (ISBN: 92-828-7589-X), published by Eurostat in the late 1990's. It was very comprehensive in scope and numbers of countries covered, 30. This publication has however never been repeated.

In the near future new data may become available from current EU funded projects such as Datamine and Remodece. Eurostat's obligations annexed to the EU Energy Services Directive [2006/32/EC] may also prompt coordinated collection of relevant data by member state statistical organisations. As the UNECE Housing Bulletin is now defunct however post 2006 harmonised inter country comparisons for non EU countries will not be possible unless these countries join the Odyssee Network or other periodical Pan European data collections are initiated.

To conclude, there is insufficient raw data available from Pan European sources to undertake inter country comparisons of energy efficiency progress or simulations of energy savings potentials for all countries. Data from national sources or a liberal use of estimation of missing data could however allow such work to be undertaken.

The benefits of beginning of such work are twofold. First theoretical energy savings potentials for dwellings can be established. Second indicators can allow more targeted policy measures to be formulated and help with monitoring of implementation to close the gap between decision making and practise.

This article summarizes a review of data availability for use in analysis of past and future energy use in European Dwellings. The work was carried out in 2007 as part of a Master Thesis Project undertaken at the Department of Energy and Environment, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden for the Pathways to a Sustainable European Energy System Project (<http://www.energy-pathways.org>). The Master Thesis also reviewed data availability for buildings of the tertiary sector. The thesis is available from the author (eoin.obroin@chalmers.se) or the secretariat (an.other@unece.org).

GREEN BUILDINGS: A WORKSHOP IN ROME AND INTERDIVISIONAL COOPERATION TO FOSTER AN IMPORTANT TOPIC

Worldwide, 40 to 50 per cent of all primary energy is used in buildings. Buildings also account for up to 40 per cent of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. According to current trends, the impact of the building sector is unlikely to decrease, and could grow to 70 per cent by 2050. In addition to direct emissions, another 8 per cent of CO₂ emissions are due to combustion of fossil fuels and biomass for heating and cooling. While unsustainable land-use patterns make urban areas even more carbon unfriendly, it is the building sector that holds the key to reducing emissions. The International Panel on Climate Change estimates that there is a potential to reduce approximately 29 per cent of the projected baseline emissions by 2020 in the residential and commercial sectors. This is the highest potential gain amongst all sectors.

“There is a huge potential to be mobilized in the building sector when it comes to fighting climate change”, confirmed Mr. Johann Georg Dengg, Chair of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Timber Committee, in his opening address. “We must be aware that most of the costs associated with emissions from the building sector can be saved by professional renovation

and new construction. Thus, green building is a solution both to environmental problems as well as economic challenges”.

A workshop, held at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome as part of European Forest Week on 24 October 2008, provided a comprehensive overview of the many opportunities offered by building green. “In addition to reduced greenhouse gas emissions”, noted Ms. Paola Deda, Secretary of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, “building green reduces the overall ecological footprint of construction over its entire life cycle and, contrary to what is commonly believed, it also reduces the cost of the building over its whole life cycle. Other positive externalities include new business opportunities, more industrial productivity, improved social welfare, increased building comfort and enhanced health for occupants”.

Workshop participants – who included architects, sustainable developers, and representatives of industry associations and governments – agreed that timber (on which the workshop focused its assessment) has low-embodied energy throughout its life cycle: no other common building material requires so little energy to produce as wood. Existing projects of multi-family, multi-storey buildings also showed that using timber makes for better (and less costly) conditions for construction workers and reduces waste and pollution related to construction processes.

Participants concurred that green building, given its potential role to help us meet environmental and economic challenges, should be placed higher on the global sustainable development and climate change agendas. A more scientific approach to defining and certifying green buildings is also needed in order to avoid “green washing” and make sure that future building choices are based on solid scientific evidence.


The workshop saw the cooperation of different UNECE Divisions and Units, all working together to promote this important goal, including the Timber Section, the Housing and Land Management Unit and the sustainable Energy Division.



UNECE team at the workshop L-R: Gianluca Sambucini, Kit Prins, Paola Deda, Ed Pepke, Roman Michalak, Virginia Cram-Martos, Franziska Hirsch, Sebastian Hetsch, Eve Charles and Florian Steierer (Photo: ENB)

WHAT'S NEW:

WORK ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY STARTED

 As part of its work on housing renewal and energy efficiency in housing, the Committee on Housing and Land Management at its sixthly-ninth meeting in September 2008 agreed that an international workshop would take place in Sofia, Bulgaria at the beginning of 2009, and would be followed by a second one at the end of 2009 in Vienna, Austria.

The Government of Bulgaria announced that the first workshop will be held on **21 and 22 April 2009**, in Sofia. This would also facilitate synergies with the WPLA workshop to be held on the following days also in Sofia, in case you want to stay for both (see page 6). The workshop will be held at the Festa Hotel, see <http://www.festasofia.com/>.

Below are the elements of the programme of the workshop to be further elaborated in the coming months. Those interested in contributing to both the programme of the workshop as well as its background paper by electronic means should contact the Secretariat that will be glad to add them to the mailing list. Please be reminded that a preparatory meeting in person is also schedule for **19 January 2009** in Vienna. If you wish to participate please contact again the Secretariat (paola.deda@unece.org).

Please also feel free to indicate the names of any expert or government/private sector/NGO delegate that may wish to join this mailing list and contribute to the preparatory work for the workshop in Sofia.

UNECE First Workshop on Energy Efficiency in Housing Sofia, Bulgaria, 21-22 April 2009

The first workshop on energy efficiency in housing will be mainly focused on identifying the main challenges for the region and areas where the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management could produce practical recommendations and guidance. The workshop will be organized in four main sessions, as follows:

Session 1: The impact of the problem: environmental, social and economic aspects and challenges of energy efficiency in housing

This session will explore the pitfalls of inadequate energy efficiency strategies, plans and practices and identify the benefits of housing energy efficiency for the three pillars of sustainable development. In particular, presentations should focus on:

- Climate change and mitigation/adaptation measures;
- Social exclusion – including fuel poverty – and better housing conditions –including impact on occupant’s health;
- Energy performance and energy imports;
- Economic aspects (energy prices, savings through investments, etc);

Session 2: Challenges and constraints in the housing sector, and the gap between decision-making and practice

This session will provide an overview of the constraints to effective energy efficiency policies and practices in the UNECE countries, including:

- Institutional factors (e.g. a weak public sector, the role of private sector, the role of agencies);
- Financial issues (e.g. types of subsidies and incentives, budgets);
- Technical challenges (e.g. knowledge and the availability of existing technical improvements, identification of best technology, technology transfer);
- Organizational aspects (e.g. distribution of roles and responsibilities);
- Legal issues (e.g. building codes, enabling legislation).

Session 3: “Problem solved”: best practices and analysis of a solution found for a specific problem, and impact of decisions taken

This session will review some best practices and solutions, and present how in some cases action in one or more areas has been tailored to solve a problem successfully. Successful practices could again cover the areas identified above:

- (a) Institutional (e.g. how changes in the institutional architecture have supported the successful identification of energy efficiency policies);
- (b) Financial (e.g. effective subsidies or incentives, or alternative financial strategies or donor policies);
- (c) Technical (e.g. specific affordable technical solutions, matching a technical problem with the solution);
- (d) Organizational (e.g. the reorganization of roles and responsibilities within a national or local structure to respond to energy efficiency problems);
- (e) Legal (e.g. by-laws or codes that have created a favourable and enabling environment and have led to effective initiatives).

Session 4: Conclusions and recommendations

This final session will make some recommendations to the Committee and provide some elements for the programme of the second workshop to be held in Vienna at the end of 2009.

THE REAL ESTATE AND FINANCIAL CRISIS: CAUSES, EFFECTS AND IMPACTS ON DEVELOPMENT

The Housing and Land the UNECE Secretariat Market Advisory Group of the International (FIABCI) have organized



Management Unit at with the Real Estate (REM) and the support Real Estate Federation a seminar in New York on 16 December 2008 on "The real estate and financial crisis: Causes, effects and impacts on development".

The meeting will give an opportunity to Governments, representatives of United Nations agencies and Regional Commissions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to discuss:

- ❖ The existing and possible roles for the United Nations to provide a forum for addressing additional financial and real estate issues and advising countries on the matter, including existing good practices;
- ❖ The need for targeted responses that governments could develop to limit the damage of the current financial crisis and re-establish a healthy real estate market, including the development of post-crisis policy guidelines for both the real estate and financial sectors that will promote stability and sustainability;
- ❖ The characteristics that a new real estate market and credit system should have, including collaborative standard setting for increased informational transparency, limitations on the use of complex financial tools, better capital risk allocation models, and policies and actions to sustain investors' confidence and increase citizens' trust.

The seminar will in addition discuss the need for more comprehensive policies and action in the housing and land management sector to be developed at the regional and global levels. Policies and action should be directed towards a healthier real estate market, but also look at the possible complementarities between increasing the financial stability of the real estate sector with attempts to also make this market more environmentally sustainable and more socially responsive to the need to provide adequate housing for all.

Amongst the speakers are: **Asha-Rose Migiro**, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, **Ken Brown**, Editor, Money and Investing, *The Wall Street Journal*, **Maged A. Abdelaziz**, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations, and Co-Facilitator of the General Assembly preparatory process for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, **Paolo Garonna**, Officer-in-Charge, UNECE, **Jomo Kwame Sundaram**, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, DESA, **Steve Williams**, visiting lecturer at Duke University and author of the book *Facing the Global Challenge*, **Daniel Gros**, Director of the Center for European Policy Studies, **Luis Fernando Correa-Bahamon**, World President, FIABCI, **Andreas Zehnder**, Managing Director, European Federation of Building Societies, and President of the Association of Private *Bausparkassen* **Peter Kreuzer**, Chair of the UNECE Working Party on Land Administration, **David Egiashvili**, Member of the UNECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group.

The Programme and the Concept Note are all available on the UNECE website at http://www.unece.org/press/pr2008/08env_p19e.htm. In the next issue of Vital Spaces we will report more about the debate. Stay tuned!

PRACTICES AND PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE THE CADASTRE IN ECE COUNTRIES

The Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria in co-operation with the UNECE Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) has organized a workshop in Sofia, Bulgaria on "Practices and programmes to improve the cadastre in ECE countries".

The workshop proposes to discuss the following:

- ❖ The contents of cadastre – possibilities for extension of the scope of cadastre with new objects or additional cadastral information;
- ❖ Creation and maintenance of cadastre – possibilities for financing from national or international programmes and other sources;
- ❖ Submission of cadastral information – impacts and restrictions in case of presence of personal data, classified information;
- ❖ Reflection of the EU directives in the national practices – for example Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market and other regulations;
- ❖ Professional qualifications for performing cadastral activities in other countries – licensed surveyors, Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications, possibilities about performing cadastral activities in other countries.

For more information contact: Ariel.Ivanier@unece.org.

AT THE SECRETARIAT: OUR NEW INTERN

Steffen Entenmann is working as an intern at UNECE. Steffen studied at Humboldt-University, Berlin/Swedish University of Agricultural Science, Uppsala and holds a BSc in Horticultural Sciences. He will complete his MSc program in "Integrated Natural Resource Management" in early 2009. Having already gained experiences in land management during his stay in Argentina, where he carried out studies on dryland agriculture and urban horticulture, he looks forward to broaden his experience at the EHLM unit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OUR PARTNERS:

• The **UK Housing Corporation** has a new publication *Achieving Building for Life*. "As a partner in the Building for Life initiative, the Housing Corporation has built on this progress by including the Building for Life standard in its Design and Quality Standards. With this document the Housing Corporation is providing very valuable guidance to help key decision makers use the Building for Life criteria to deliver great new places to live."

• The **FIG Commission 3 (Spatial Information Management) 2009 annual meeting and workshop** will be held in Mainz, Germany on 2 to 4 February 2009. The workshop is supported by the European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSeL) Special Interest Group (SIG) Urban Remote Sensing under the aegis of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management (CHLM) Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA).

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A NOTE ON THE COORDINATOR:



Inputs to this newsletter are coordinated by Ms. **Cecilia Batac**.

Cecilia has been with the UNECE for nearly seven years now. She is the Statistics Assistant for the Housing and Land Management team. She is involved in the preparation of the Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management Reviews doing research, analysis and writing for these publications among her other tasks.

For any queries regarding the newsletter, you can reach her at Cecilia.Batac@unece.org.



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