

AN AGREEMENT “COMMON VISION” FOR COOPERATION ON CADASTRE AND LAND REGISTRY ISSUES

VISION STATEMENT

Society recognises that Cadastral and Land Registration information and services in Europe are fundamental for a sustainable economic, social and environmental development in Europe. Information and services from the Cadastral and Land Registry Institutions / Authorities throughout Europe are constantly innovated and tailored to meet the needs for land tenure, land value, land use, and all other related land development functions on both National and European level.

WAYS TO ACHIEVE THE VISION

The four European organisations representing National Cadastre and Land Registration Institutions / Authorities - *EuroGeographics, PCC, ELRA and EULIS* and CLGE, representing the surveying profession in Europe - have agreed on this common vision. The organisations will establish a close cooperation to achieve their common goals and will work together to:

- 1) Raise awareness among decision makers that Cadastral and Land Registration information and services are fundamental for secure land tenure, reliable land value, efficient land use and sustainable land development functions.***
- 2) Raise awareness that Land Registers and, within their scope, Cadastres, have a significant role for protecting and prioritising legal rights and provide reliable and authoritative information, as well as, state of the art services, meeting the needs of private and public users.***
- 3) Cooperate to facilitate the communication with European Institutions to promote our common vision.***

THE ROLE OF THE CADASTRES AND LAND REGISTRIES IN EUROPE

The five organisations share the idea that Cadastral and Land Registry information and services should be an integral part of national e-Government infrastructures, while fully respecting the legal responsibilities of Cadastres and Land Registries and the need for legal security. We consider that this is of the uttermost importance for future developments in Europe; the focus of our strategy must be raising awareness of this fact in order to effectively influence the decision makers of European Policies.

Cadastres and Land Registration Systems are organised within the legal framework of countries throughout Europe and the nature of the information unavoidably varies from state to state. With respect to this, the

European Treaties confirm that they shall in no way prejudice the rules in Member States, governing the system of property rights. The Cadastral, as well as the concept of Land Registry concept has developed significantly over the past few decades; the role of Cadastres and Land Registries has evolved to support the needs of the customers in the usage of their data in the wider context by providing relevant data to the users. In doing so, Cadastres and Land Registries are reliable partners to guarantee accessible, valid, up-to-date information and related services. New information technology provides the basis for this evolution, making all land related information widely available. An open-minded, innovative and proactive approach is required from Cadastres and Land Registries towards services, organisation and technology; anticipating changes in securing these demands are necessary.

The process of Land Registration protects legal interests of all parties by publicly recording them, ordering their priority (often backed up by state guarantee), as an important basis of a secure property market. In a number of EU Member States Cadastral registrations and maps, also contain valuable information for supporting legal certainty and contributing to a well-functioning market.

The cadastral parcel, as a spatial object, has for a long time been one of the core elements in land administration and taxation. Within the INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC (<http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu>), the cadastral parcel has been elevated to a higher, multi-purpose level and has become recognised as a core element in National and European Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI and ESDI).

Cadastres and Land Registries through their distinctive work and core competencies are valuable partners for achieving the European Union environmental policies in a society where the importance of clearly defined rights, restrictions and responsibilities is increasing. Interoperability of Cadastral and Land Registry information and services with, for example, environmental, planning or population information and services, opens up new opportunities for integrated use within and across governments in Europe.

Cadastral and Land Registry institutions will support the creation of a European legal space by taking part in EU projects that make use of technological advancements and increases competition by cross-border conveyancing and mortgaging.

Given the technological advances (faster, better, and cheaper) and the adaptability of dynamic data and services of the Cadastres and Land Registries to the actions of e-Government, it is possible to disclose and enable bulk use of much of this information following the principles laid down by the Digital Agenda for Europe http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda, simplifying the access to cadastral and land registry data for professionals and citizens in general. These facts will fulfil the targets set in the Directive on the re-use of public sector information "PSI", according to its scope, to permit private users to add value to the data and boost the economy.

European developments and globalisation are becoming more and more important, directly affecting the way we operate, and cross border applications are demanded by citizens and administrations. As the digital single market expands and exchange of information becomes easier due to fast moving technologies, the need for cross-border co-operation is following on an equal basis. Sharing experiences and best practices, amongst Cadastres and Land Registries in Europe, is the key to inform and be informed. Cadastres and Land Registries are fundamental tools for the good functioning of basic EU freedoms, such as the freedom of movement of people and capital and the freedom of establishment, and protecting the rights to property.

PROMOTING STATE OF THE ART SERVICES MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE USERS

By nature, land registry, topographical and cadastral data can support different purposes. Connecting and combining the available national information sources will create added value beyond borders. Visualisation in layers can inform stakeholders depending on their demand and expectation. Acting as a liaison between different sources of content, data with sufficient quality and in a standardised format can support society's objectives even more.

We want to work together to promote the accuracy and legal quality of information, the sharing of experiences and good practises, which can enable the respective institutions to achieve interoperability between their data and services, remove barriers for sharing data, and provide Europe with a land information infrastructure which will enable it to become the most competitive and sustainable economy in the world. We will work together to

promote technical standardisation and develop a knowledge network that will permit us to share experiences and exchange good practices.

We are also committed to support cadastres and land registries in all European countries to achieve full coverage and high quality, reliable, secure, up-to-date, well-described, transparent and accessible data. We will support joint activities towards an increased awareness of this target.

We recognise that in a number of EU Member States, legal valid differences can exist between the extent of plots of property rights and cadastral parcels. Neglecting these differences in Cadastral and Land Registration information can interfere with legal security. That is why we intent to work together on a comparative study concerning these differences and describe best practises to prevent interfering legal security in these cases.

We have also the objective to act as a driving force in the European real estate field, coordinating our actions to respond to the needs of an emerging transparent and secure cross-border real property market in Europe; a market which requires legal security and interoperability at the technical, semantic and organisational level.

In the current changing times, with economic crisis, new technology and recommendations of the Digital Agenda, our organisations need to support the national institutions / authorities to anticipate users' demands and work together to exchange best practices.


For all these reasons, WE - the five organisations intend to represent common views in front of the European decision makers.

Whenever possible, according to our specific aims, we will join forces, in order to have our voices heard, and we will establish close cooperation and coordinate our strategies to assist National Cadastre and Land Registry Institutions / Authorities to provide Europe with effective and secure European land administration processes, data, information and services.

We want to enhance our core strengths as organisations by working closely, minimising duplication of work and overlapping competencies, increase communication amongst us, help and complement each other through our core expertise.

In pursuit of these aims, we invite other like-minded organisations to join us in sharing this vision.

Therefore, WE - EuroGeographics, PCC, ELRA, EULIS and CLGE, together sign this vision document.



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WHO WE ARE

EuroGeographics <http://www.eurogeographics.org> is an International non-profit Association of the European cadastre, land registry and national mapping authorities, whose mission is to further the development of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure through collaboration in the area of geographical information. It brings together 59 members from 47 countries across Europe.

PCC (Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union) <http://www.euocadastre.org> is the International Organisation that joins together the Cadastral Institutions of the countries of the European Union. The PCC mission is to create an adequate space in which to promote the full awareness of the activities developed by the European Union and the Member States related with Cadastre and, by means of this information, to develop strategies and propose common initiatives with the aim of achieving greater co-ordination among the different European cadastral systems and their users.

ELRA (European Land Registries Association) <http://www.elra.eu> is an International Association without lucrative purpose whose primary purpose is the development and understanding of the role of land registration in real property and capital markets. Equally, ELRA is fully committed to work on behalf of Land Registries in Europe in cooperating with the EU institutions.

EULIS (European Land Information Service) <http://eulis.eu> is a European Economic Interest Group (EEIG). All countries of Europe can become member of the EULIS EEIG. The Organisation maintains a portal that provides online services and direct access to official land registers in Europe. The portal also offers a glossary with a definition and translation of terms in different languages and reference information on land registry and cadastre organisations and the products and prices that are provided.

CLGE (The Council of European Geodetic Surveyors) <http://clge.eu> is the leading organisation representing the Surveying Profession in Europe. It promotes the Profession in the European Union and fosters its development in the Council of Europe countries. Surveying as understood by CLGE includes Cadastral Surveying which provides security to land and property title and thus underlies the economic base of western society. Geospatial Information is now ubiquitous in our lives and the Surveyor plays a fundamental role in this field. CLGE is represented in 36 Council of Europe Countries, amongst them the 28 EU member states.