FIG 2021 e-Working Week: It worked!

Surely, you cannot have missed it: 20-25 June 2021 - The Netherlands hosted the FIG e-Working Week! With 1301 participants from 110 different countries, tuning in online, on devices, (and sometimes 'on mute'), attending over 80 sessions and other activities, it was an action-packed 6 days. Of course, we missed meeting each other face-to-face, but, given the Covid-19 circumstances, the virtual meeting turned out to be a wonderful alternative for keeping our professional network rolling! Happily, this was fully confirmed by the participants in the FIG follow-up survey.

The full conference report, an overview of all keynotes, forums and the full technical programme can be found in the digital 'conference bag'. Also, check out the handouts, abstracts, full papers and recorded videos.

Conference bag

Proceedings

| Kees de Zeeuw, Rohan Bennett and Paula Dijkstra

SmallTalk

Implementing National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Saint Lucia

Having analysed the legal, institutional and technical state of play of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in Saint Lucia in 2019, Kadaster and KU Leuven, will start a follow-up project in September 2021. This new project, again financed by the World Bank, uses the previously developed change strategy to support NSDI implementation.

| Haico van der Vegt

Mega publication on Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration

Twenty-six open access articles on Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration (FFPLA) have been published in a special issue of the scientific journal "Land". The articles present innovative concepts of FFPLA and good practice examples of implementation in countries such as Brazil, Colombia, the Caribbean, India, Nepal, Mozambique, Uganda, South Africa and Benin. We require new solutions to build affordable, pro-poor, scalable, and sustainable systems. These must be able to identify and document the way all land is occupied and used. The articles are freely accessible to everyone. The guest editors are Stig Enemark, Robin McLaren and Chrit Lemmen.

| Chrit Lemmen

Open access articles

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SPATIAL II: Online collaboration with the Western Balkans

In the first half of 2021, the SPATIAL II project supported various national mapping and cadastral agencies in the Western Balkan region via online training and information webinars. The online approach was necessary because of the ongoing Covid-19 travel restrictions. We organised webinars with project partners in Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and North Macedonia.

Geoportal redevelopment

In Kosovo, the collaboration focused on the completion of technical specifications for a new geoportal. The current geoportal is not INSPIRE compliant and does not have all the functionalities that are required by the **Kosovo Cadastral Agency (KCA)** and their stakeholders. Usually, we would organise a face-to-face brainstorm event with stakeholders, to develop a vision for the geoportal and to determine the technical specifications. As an alternative, we went through specifications used in previous geoportal projects from Kadaster International. We also showed the Dutch geoportal PDOK. This approach worked really well.

Spatial Data Infrastructure and building cadastres

We organised two similar online workshops in **Bosnia-Herzegovina (GARS and FGU)** on INSPIRE compliant Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI's) and on building cadastres. Each workshop consisted of a sequence of webinars, each focusing on a specific topic. As an example, the workshop on building cadastres covered the addresses key register, underground cables and pipelines, recording and registering apartment rights in the land administration system, and a webinar on valuation and property tax. Both workshops enhanced the discussion about future updates and extensions of the geoportal, and valuation and property tax system in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Webinars for **Albania (ASIG)** were held in August. The focus of the webinars was on NSDI and the Dutch geoportal PDOK in specific. We discussed the current situation and the future goals of ASIG. We shared the current situation in the Netherlands and the lessons learned. Follow up webinars are planned.

Webinars for **North Macedonia (AREC)** on address registry and institutional development were held in July. Follow up webinars are planned.

About the project

The Spatial II project builds from Kadaster International's previous network building initiatives in the Western Balkan region. The 3-year project is focused on strengthening professional access to information about land.

| Marije Louwsma, Dorus Kruse and Vincent Verheij

Editorial

Back to the future

Waving 'hello!' instead of giving a handshake or a friendly hug; filling in forms to cross the border to prove you are Covid-free; feeling naked without a face mask; or watching the Olympic Games without cheering supporters in the stadiums. Everywhere in the world, we are trying to deal with new rules and new realities. Perhaps from a historical perspective, Covid-19 will be one of those ripples in the water - but, who really cares about historic perspectives? These changes are impacting so broadly and deeply our daily lives right now.

Luckily, I am an optimist (opportunist, some will say...). I felt it is helpful to share with you my faith in the future and what this pandemic situation has brought to Kadaster International. Yes, there were disappointments, difficulties and flaws - and as we have shown in recent editions of Abroad, we have had some steep learning curves on how to generate impact from a distance. But like with everyone, resilience appears to be part of our DNA the moment it is asked for.

For me personally, it meant that I accepted a temporary new position at Kadaster, managing the department Governance and Strategy of Kadaster and giving guidance to our immediate and longer term institutional development. Meanwhile, Paula Dijkstra did a wonderful job in managing Kadaster International, in combination with organising the first ever digital FIG e-Working Week. The entire team took up many new or additional tasks and challenges. Some left the team, some came close to retirement, and others developed new working ways that appeared to be more effective than we ever expected. Slowly, I realised that 'making the best out of this pandemic', turned into a totally unforeseen 'making it better than it was'. Most importantly, the inspiration came from within the team, a group of people sharing the same ability to be resilient.

Kadaster International has gained fresh energy, ideas and insights. What seemed to be logical, convenient, or normal, has been re-appraised or re-directed. And now, hopefully, we are ready to go back to the future.

| Kees de Zeeuw

Towards a generic tool for land consolidation

With no off-the-shelf software available, countries sometimes struggle with data management when implementing land consolidation projects. Modern land consolidation software can help ease project implementations and ensure legal certainty. A generic tool could prevent countries from 're-inventing the wheel' and would reduce software development costs. Drawing on this generic functionality, the tool could be configured to meet the needs of local contexts, considering the land tenure system, land legislation, and administrative processes.

Printscreen of visualisation

Concept explained

Kadaster, with other international stakeholders, is exploring the feasibility of the concept via a 'design sprint' process and prototype visualisation. The visualisation creates a prototype with a realistic user interface. It demonstrates the functionality and overall design for user interaction. A group of international experts discussed and validated the concept and its potential during the 2021 FIG e-Working Week.

| Marije Louwsma

FIG session

Dual developments in Colombia

Kadaster is working on two projects in Colombia. The *Land-in-Peace* project, started in 2018, demonstrated the feasibility and usability of the Fit-For-Purpose approach in Land Administration in smallholder and peasant communities. In a follow-up phase, we are now looking at the real challenge of the project: how to use the results in Colombia´s legal and administrative land procedures. While fine-tuning the practical implementation with official land administration institutions, we are also concentrating on developing a legal basis for our method. On this, we work with Colombia's nationwide vocational training institute SENA, and with land legislation specialists of Colombia´s prominent *Externado* University.

A second project, *Land-at-Scale*, is being carried out with two Dutch NGOs, ICCO and Tropenbos. This project started late 2020, and aims at combining improved land governance with sustainable economic empowerment in indigenous reserves and Afro-Colombian communal lands. We have started the field work with *Correguaje* indigenous ethnicities in the Amazon region, and with *Arhuaco* indigenous groups in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, in North Colombia.

| Piet Spijkers

Land-in-Peace

Land-at-Scale

Kadaster collaboration in Rwanda restarts

Kadaster has collaborated with the Rwanda Land Management and Use Authority (RLMUA) since 2008. In August 2021, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) programme Land-at-Scale approved a funding application to continue the cooperation for the next four years. During the renewed cooperation, the focus will be on implementing the RLMUA business plan. This plan will seek to ensure a sustainable financial and operating environment for land administration in Rwanda. First, we need to realign the plan to embed the new land use planning task of RLMUA. The government of Rwanda describes its land use planning ambitions in the National Land Use & Development Master Plan 2020-2050. Kadaster will support with implementing this new task. We will need the capacity and knowledge of academia, in both the reassessment of the business plan, and in the execution of the land use planning tasks. Kadaster will also closely work together with the International Development Law Organisation, who is involved in the national implementation of a more just decision-making process by local mediation committees (known as *Abunzi*).

| Christelle van den Berg

Twinning with Moldova

Together with the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and counterparts from Croatia (lead) and Poland, Kadaster is participating in the EU twinning project* 'Improving Spatial Data Services in the Republic of Moldova, following EU standards'. The aim is to enhance e-government in Moldova via improvements to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), following the European INSPIRE directive. Gaining insight into the costs, including acquisition, production and geo-data access, is a key focus. Additionally, the cost of coordination between institutions, and overheads for ICT, legal, finance, capacity building, training and administration, is considered. This overview of costs serves as a basis for an extensive questionnaire for geo-data suppliers and users. We will combine the results with the understandings of NSDI benefits.

Another activity, taking place between April to June 2021, focused on unpacking basic concepts of SDIs, EU and Moldovan legislation, relating to SDI, spatial datasets and exchange formats, desktop GIS and online mapping applications, and view services. This capacity building work included top-level management, down to more technical levels, dealing with NSDI within Moldovan institutions. Remote sessions were intensive, but resulted in interactive and fruitful discussions, and in the long run, will enhance the cross-national cooperation.

| Eva-Maria Unger, Chrit Lemmen and Dick Eertink

* Twinning projects seek to strengthen institutional capacity within an agency by linking it with other leading international counterparts.

Organisational development at Kadaster

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Kadaster transformed from an organisation with seven national offices into a hybrid organisation with an additional 2000 home offices. The modern IT environment of Kadaster and digital skill sets of our employees allowed for an almost fluid transition into this new way of working. This was all happening in a year where the Dutch real estate market really was not hampered by Covid-19 at all.

At the same time, Kadaster is continuously re-evaluating and developing its societal function and position. Public and validated spatial and property data, as a reliable basis for social transactions, is increasingly important for societal development. In this, Kadaster has a unique role and opportunity to guarantee legal certainty, as well as access to and use of the data for social inclusion and improvement. To achieve this, Kadaster has redefined its management and organisation structure during the last two years, in a way to allow and ensure an integrated data driven approach.

In this new setting, Kadaster will be better able to adapt to changing societal demands, but also continue its mission and vision:

- to offer certainty in land ownership, the use of everything on and under the ground;
- to provide the platform that allows anyone to work with geo-information always and everywhere; and
- to be a partner for the use of geo-information as an indispensable link on social issues, both in the Netherlands and abroad.

| Kees de Zeeuw