

10 Years of "Law on Geoinformation" in Switzerland – A Federative Organisation Requires Clear Rules and Responsibilities

Helena Åström Boss (Switzerland)

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SUMMARY

This paper is one article in a series of four that are being submitted to the FIG-WW 2019 in Hanoi. The background is the 10-year anniversary of the "Swiss Federal Law on Geoinformation", which came into force on 1 July 2008.

This paper presents the legal basis for a federative, decentralized organisation and for an efficient cooperation between the parties involved in geoinformation at all levels of Swiss government. With the introduction of the Federal Law on Geoinformation in 2008, numerous tasks were legally stipulated and responsibilities clearly defined. It also established the new legal foundation of cadastral surveying, an ongoing task for over a hundred years.

The parties involved in geoinformation in general are the confederation, the 26 cantons – on both level exist numerous offices working in this field – and more than 2200 municipalities and many private companies.

Cadastral surveying in particular is a shared task executed jointly by the confederation, cantons and municipalities. It is also an excellent example of a well functioning cooperation between the public administration and the private sector that has been ongoing for more than a hundred years. Both the tasks and the financing are shared between the federal government, the cantons and the municipalities.

The federal government is responsible for the strategic management, for the administration and supervision of cadastral surveying in Switzerland. The federal Directorate of Cadastral Surveying fulfils far-reaching tasks in close cooperation with the cantonal offices, like the development of the strategy or the revision of the legal

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basis.

The cantons are responsible for the operational management of the system. They plan, direct and monitor the surveying activities, and each canton defines its own implementation standards.

Most cantons entrust private surveying companies with the implementation of cadastral surveying. In about a dozen of the larger towns and cities, the implementation of cadastral surveying is mandated to a public sector agency within their respective municipality.

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