

## Newsletter Commission 8 – May 2021

After having cancelled the FIG Working Week last year, we are now heading towards our first online FIG Working Week ever. The pandemic taught us that many activities can be converted to the digital space, meanwhile limiting the need for travel and allowing more people to attend. Despite the advantages of online events, unfortunately we expect to miss out on the personal interaction with peers and the social events and tours that are normally organised. Well, we have to deal with the current situation as best we can, and we are happy to contribute to FIG's activities through online channels.

With this newsletter we would like to update you on the activities of commission 8 and give a sneak-preview of activities not to be missed during the FIG e-Working Week from 21-25<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.

### Webinars about land consolidation and land banking

In preparation of the FIG WW in Amsterdam, three joint FAO-FIG sessions were scheduled that link to the activities of working group 8.4. These could not be held. Instead, a separate webinar was organized in June about land consolidation, launching the FAO publication on a legal framework for land consolidation. It was very well attended (more than 300 participants) with participants from various continents. In December, a webinar about land banking was successfully organized. The webinar aimed to promote good land banking practices and their practical application in countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia with specific focus on the development of small family farms and providing access to land for young farmers.



### Urban-rural linkages

The urban-rural linkages (URRLs) report is a collaboration between the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) of UN-Habitat and FIG Commissions 7 & 8. Uchendu Eugene Chigbu (active in working group

'8.1 Rural - urban dependency' from commission 8) led the drafting of the URLLs report. The report is currently undergoing editing with the UN-Habitat for possible publication and dissemination to the global surveying and land practitioner's community. Urban and rural spaces are inextricably linked economically, socially, and environmentally. Hence, the development discourse must depart from urban and rural dichotomy, but rather adopt an integrated and inclusive approach. Central to this is the need to understand the urban-rural land linkages particularly in addressing land governance and land tenure challenges. At the e-Working Week in 2021 a joint GLTN / FIG session will be organised to launch the "Urban-Rural Land Linkages: Concept and Framework for Action" report.



### Water Governance for Resilience Planning

Under the guidance of principal author Richard Pagett, working group 8.5 has delivered the report 'Good Practice for Resilience Planning to Address Water Governance Challenges in Africa'. Facing the impact of climate change, the report addresses the importance of water governance to seek sustainable solutions in various contexts, and beyond administrative boundaries. It focuses on urbanized areas in Africa, and is in particular valuable for professionals, governments, and decision-makers in the surveying discipline. The report will be launched at the e-Working Week in 2021.

### Generic tool for land consolidation

Land consolidation is considered useful to optimise the allocation of land rights and its land use. To ensure legal certainty for involved stakeholders and ease implementation it is recommended to have dedicated software available that incorporates both spatial and administrative data. However, no off-the-shelf software is available, which might be a barrier for countries aiming to introduce land consolidation. A generic tool could prevent countries from re-inventing the wheel and it will reduce costs for developing or updating customized software.

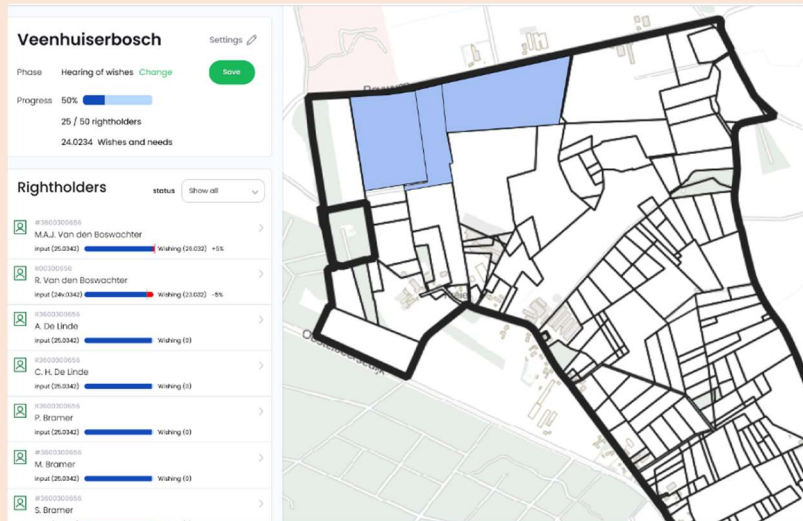
Since land consolidation practice varies across the world, the generic tool must be adjusted or configured to meet the needs of the local context such as legislation, tenure, institutions, land administration systems. Therefore, the concept draws on a modular approach that can be aligned with the steps and specific tasks within the land consolidation process. More information about the concept is available in the papers submitted for the FIG Working Week last year and this year.

To explore the feasibility of the concept, both FIG commission 8 (spatial planning and development) and Landnet have further investigated the possibilities in a 'design sprint' by developing a visualization of the prototype. The visualization creates a prototype without actually building it, while providing a realistic user experience for the interface, its functionality and overall design for user interaction. International experts in land consolidation from Macedonia, Ukraine, Turkey and Kosovo were invited to review the 'prototype' for its user friendliness, functionality and



overall feasibility of the concept. The result was a positive assessment of the concept and its value for land consolidation practice.

The findings and further outlook will be shared and discussed at the FIG Working week to be held from 21-25th of June. The generic tool will be valuable for all actors wishing to support land consolidation with a digital tool upon project implementation. We cordially invite land consolidation experts and software developers to share their ideas, engage, and actually contribute to the workshop. This would be very valuable input for a potential Proof of Concept of the generic tool.



*Screenshot from the visualized prototype*

### **Summer school ‘Survey for Planning: New Technologies and Land Protection’**

Commission 3 (Spatial Information Management) and 8 will organize a joint workshop at the edition 2021 of the [International Summer School](#) in Italy. The sessions will be held on July 20 and 21 in Prato and in Florence (Tuscany). The theme will be "territorial data and planning policies: best practices of planning resulting from the research of degraded areas and case study of reuse of degraded building sectors and soil saving". The workshop will take place face to face and online, depending from the situation due to COVID-19. From commission 8 we will support the participation of a Young Surveyor. If you are interested, please send an email to FIGCommission8 [at] fig.net.

### **Election of commission chairs**

The election of new commission chairs for the term 2023 - 2029 is scheduled for the General Assembly. We are pleased to inform you that Kwabena Asiana, now chair of the Young Surveyors Network, is put forward as a candidate chair for commission 8. Candidates for all commissions will present themselves to FIG members (Member Associations, Academic Members, Affiliate Members and Corporate Members) at the General Assembly on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> of June. The chairs are elected a year in advance to allow for a smooth handover with the current chair.

### **FIG Working Week 2021**

To conclude this newsletter, we will give you a brief overview of commission 8 activities in the technical programme of the e-Working Week:

- Five commission 8 sessions about respectively

- Urban Challenges, addressing contemporary issues such as affordable housing, recovering of informal settlements after COVID-19, public value capturing, and overall sustainable development of urban areas.
  - Water governance, facing the effects of climate change, addressing climate resilient approaches regarding water governance policies, management of water resources, and future strategies.
  - Spatial planning, addressing responsible land and water management, urban transformation in view of the SDG's, and land acquisition strategies for infrastructure.
  - Land consolidation, addressing holistic land consolidation approaches in view of climate change and sustainable development, and various country applications.
  - GIS for monitoring and evaluation of sustainable land use, jointly organised with commission 3.
- A workshop about the generic tool for land consolidation, explaining the concept and demonstrating the visualization of the prototype, followed by an interactive discussion between peers in breakout sessions.
  - Several joint sessions with FAO and GLTN among others about land banking in combination with land consolidation, Fit For Purpose Land and Water Management, and Rural-Urban Linkages.
  - The yearly commission 8 meeting will take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of June between 12 – 13 PM CEST (10 – 11 AM UTC). You are cordially invited to attend and participate. The meeting is open to all, and it is your chance to talk to fellow experts and discuss commission 8 activities.

You can find the full technical programme on the [FIG website](#).

I hope to welcome you all soon at the FIG e-Working Week. The Hopin platform allows to 'meet and greet' other participants in various ways. So, do take the opportunity and save some time in the programme to meet your fellow experts from other countries.

Best regards,

Marije Louwsma

Chair commission 8 (2019-2022)