Implementing the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA)

International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management “Effective Land Administration”

19th May 2022, Singapore

Presentation is based on documents and presentations from UN-GGIM and EuroSDR


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Effective land administration ensures preparedness and resilience, participatory and inclusive land use planning, monitoring of land-cover change, sustainable resource management, building back better, and the protection of our planet’s natural resources and environment for future generations.

Effective land administration supports poverty eradication, food security, and can support ensuring dignity and equality through documenting, recording and recognizing people to land relationships in all forms, notwithstanding the potential to undermine dignity when the information is misused.

Effective land administration enables access to tenure security and efficient land markets fostering prosperity, wellbeing of all communities, revenues for authorities, and fulfilled lives through sustainable land management, land use, land development and land markets.

Effective land administration prevents land-related conflicts, stabilizes situations and fosters peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

UN-GGIM United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Expert Group on Land Administration and Management

Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

ggim.un.org
Effective land administration caters to all people, and must:

- Develop confidence and trust, promote security, safety, peace and peace building;
- Accelerate the proportion of population with tenure security;
- Allow economic development by supporting land value capture revenue systems that are equitable and transparent;
- Strengthen multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral participation to achieve integrated geospatial information;
- Contribute to smart and resilient rural and urban societies, with equitable spatial/land use planning, and land development;
- Ensure participatory and inclusive land use, and land use planning;
- Promote the recognition of the inherent rights of indigenous and vulnerable peoples to their lands, territories and resources, and recognize collective traditions, customs and customary tenures, consistent with existing obligations under national and international law;
- Encourage efficient, sustainable and fair land markets, where appropriate, that take into account land tenure, value, use and land development aspects;
- Cater to all circumstances, situations and people – in times of peace and prosperity, in times of stress and hardship (including disaster and conflicts, forced migration and human displacement, poverty, food and water scarcity);
- Enable partnership, bringing and building together knowledge, skills and experiences on land tenure, land value, land use and land development; and
- Promote preparedness and resilience on climate change issues and support biodiversity, conservation and ecosystem sustainability.
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EuroSDR with the support of UN-GGIM Europe and the UN-GGIM EG-LAM, initiated a small project in Summer 2021 to raise awareness of the merits and benefits of effective land administration and share knowledge and experience leveraging the FELA as the overarching policy guidance.

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- Frédéric Cantat, IGN, France
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a. Raise awareness and promote the usefulness of the FELA;
b. Develop guidance to implement the FELA utilising the IGIF Implementation Guide;
c. Develop an assessment mechanism to support the implementation of the FELA;
d. Share and exchange knowledge, information, use cases, practices, experiences and examples; and
e. Engage and collaborate with regional committees, in particular, UN-GGIM: Africa
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Global
- Collate and disseminate examples, use cases, good practices
- Organise international seminars, forums and workshops etc.

Regional
- Engage regional committees of UN-GGIM
- Contribute to regional and sub-regional engagement and activities

National
- Get FELA onto agenda of donor projects/local agencies
- Dialogue through projects with other land sector agents
- Get ‘buy in’ from policy-makers and political leaders
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⚠️ Practice
- Online platform with FELA as overarching framework
- Direct links to existing and globally recognized tools
- Provide forum for practitioners

💭 Theory
- Involve academic and research institutions
- Engage with other relevant domains (environmental etc.)

📚 Handbooks
- Develop handbooks and checklists based on in-country experiences
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**Principles**
- Elaborate guiding principles relevant to national circumstances
  *No intention to measure and rank one over another*

**Approaches**
- 'No one size fits all'
- A suite of approaches that can be tailored to national circumstances for implementation
- Guidance to evaluate options according to country context

**Tools**
- Develop ‘light weight’ resource materials, references or tool – keeping in mind country context
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**Channels**
- Identify available and required channels
- Formal and Informal
- Strategic messages and value propositions

**Champions**
- Identify national and local champions
- Ensure those champions share and exchange experiences and lessons learnt

**Platform**
- Use mechanisms/platforms which are open, accessible, affordable, and inclusive
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- **Regional Committees**
  - WG of Regional Committees
  - Regional training and research institutes

- **Functional and thematical groups**
  - Standards development organizations

- **Others**
  - Civil society
  - International and Regional Development organizations (donors)
  - Philanthropic entities
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Sustainable development demands effective land administration

Inspired by the FIG Cadastre 2014 and subsequent Cadastral Template surveys

The objectives were to be achieved by a combined approach:

1) FELA was to be widely shared and promoted;

2) An online survey was designed and completed to gain sector-wide insights;

3) In-depth key-informant interviews are to be conducted with relevant experts;

4) A workshop is to be organised, of which the findings will serve as inputs;

5) A publication will be published as an Official EuroSDR Publication (which is scientifically indexed) and made widely available as an Open Access publication – and various other formats; and

6) Knowledge transfer via the organisation of an EduServ course
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‘Policy Transfer’ means the process by which actors borrow policies developed in one setting to develop programs and policies within another (Dolowitz & Marsh, 1996)

Two concepts: institutional and/or networked approach

Global
- United Nations
  - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

  UN-GGIM
  - Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)

  UN-GGIM
  - Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA)
    Developed by Expert Group on Land Administration and Management

Regional
- Region
  - Regional initiatives

Countries
- Member States
  - National initiatives, laws and policies

Vertical Policy Transfer
(a) UN/UN-GGIM/EG-LAM (FELA)/Regional/National - between governance layers
The selection of participants was restricted to European countries, with an existing relationship with EuroSDR and/or UN-GGIM Europe.

Participating countries:

- Austria,
- Belgium,
- Bosnia & Herzegovina,
- Bulgaria,
- Cyprus,
- Czech Republic,
- England and Wales,
- Estonia,
- Finland,
- Germany,
- Italy,
- Latvia,
- Luxembourg,
- the Netherlands,
- Portugal,
- Scotland,
- Slovenia,
- Switzerland,
- Scotland,
- Slovenia,
- Switzerland,

In total 18 countries participated (so far)

The participating countries represent all regions of Europe: Central and Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western Europe.
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- Online survey approach aimed to create an **overview of the different stages of awareness and uptake** of the FELA by the Members of EuroSDR and/or UN-GGIM Europe

- Done by **converting the FELA framework into a series of questions**

- Each FELA strategic pathway question set would allow for a **mix of quantitative and qualitative data** to be collected

- Questions were created **based on insights** provided through the development of the FELA, as well as the specific context and discussions during the various EG-LAM meetings

- Survey included **both closed and open-ended questions**
  
  Closed-ended question provided multiple choice answer option, therefore a set of answers was offered
  
  (Whilst this might be considered a constraint, it was felt the benefits of enabling comparison between countries outweighed the prescriptive nature of the responses provided)

  Open-ended questions provided for **more in-depth insights** at a country-specific level to be provided
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Does the land administration sector in your jurisdiction use performance indicators linked to the SDGs? Is data on these measures up-to-date and publicly available?

- Yes, performance indicators are linked to the SDGs, AND performance data IS publicly available
- Yes, performance indicators are linked to the SDGs, BUT performance data is NOT publicly available
- No, land administration performance is not linked to the SDGs, BUT, performance results ARE publicly available
- No, land administration performance is not linked to the SDGs, AND, performance results are NOT publicly available
- I am unsure
- More detailed description...

This question relates to the FELA Pathway 3 Finance - value proposition: land administration actors should take a lead in developing and enforcing accountability and transparency in terms of procedures, metrics and indicators. Doing so justifies and strengthens mandate, roles and responsibilities, amongst the community and society more broadly.

From the data, the SDGs are still not prevalent in the majority of performance metrics for land administration sectors (only 18.8%), although, this does mean that a small amount has already adopted the SDGs in the 5 years since they were established.
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Appears to be a level of homogeneity in the surveyed countries with respect to governance structures, leadership, laws, and finance. Perhaps expected due to historical origins of systems and the recent influence of European Commission.

There are outliers though. These could indicate different interpretations of the question, or that a given jurisdiction is taking a substantially different approach to land administration – therefore in-depth interviews.

In general, it could be assumed that most countries are (or until now) have been moving towards a more collaboration and diversification in land administration decision making and mandate.

Worth noting that there is more diversity in financing aspects. Interestingly, this was also apparent in earlier work on Cadastral Template i.e., there are many ways to fund a governance mandated function.
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Need to analyze thoroughly the qualitative data, and assess its alignment with the quantitative results, the need to refine the survey further, apply inferential statistics.

It has been shown that it is possible to convert FELA into a tool for assessment and awareness raising.

This work is part of a broader activity/collaboration between UN-GGIM Europe and EuroSDR. It is positive to see this kind of policy transfer work taking place.
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- FELA is seen as enabler for partnerships
- FELA is ‘maturity-agnostic’, and ‘no one size fits all’ approach
- FELA fosters continual improvement
- FELA does not measure one country against another
- FELA helps to assess the ‘as is’ and the ‘wants to be’ situation, through trend analysis
- FELA provides common language, to sit around the table
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Thank You!