



Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Vermessungsverwaltungen
der Länder der Bundesrepublik Deutschland



Conference and Plenary Meeting of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC)

“Smart Cadastre – shaping the future”

Joint PCC and EuroGeographics CLRKEN Webinar

Germany, 3 and 4 November 2020

Welcome speech Tobias Kunst, Chair of AdV and PCC

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Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues from the European countries,

On behalf of the AdV, the Working Committee of the Surveying Authorities of the Laender of the Federal Republic of Germany, I am pleased to welcome you to the PCC Congress. A congress which is – like the whole of 2020 – under a particularly cloudy sky.

At the beginning of September, we were still hoping to be able to hold the congress as a face-to-face event, hoping to be able to show you our beautiful city of Munich with its royal residence, in particular its prestigious Max-Joseph-Saal and its Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities. However: the measures recently taken in order to stop the spread of the corona virus struck ruthlessly and gave us no other possibility than switching to a virtual event – like our colleagues from Croatia had already done.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity already now to thank my team for their double efforts in organising a face-to-face event, and later on setting up the virtual event.

You may be surprised to see on your screen not a representative of the federal ministries of the Federal Republic of Germany, but the chair of AdV. This is because the cadastral system in Germany is organized exclusively on Laender level, not on the level of the federal government of Germany. The AdV acts as a co-operation hub between the cadastral administrations of the 16 Laender in Germany. As chairman of the AdV and as representative of the Bavarian cadastre authority, it is therefore my privilege to welcome you most cordially.

Personally I see the Corona period not only as a crisis, but as a compulsion to act, more precisely, as an opportunity to look for innovative and creative solutions, especially in the field of digitisation and in the field of work organisation. Although the pandemic forces us to accept restrictions on the one hand, on the other hand it enriches our experience, powers the drive for development not only on a technical level, but also on a personal and individual level: it



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offers opportunities to adapt ourselves to become stronger and thus to survive in nature. And finally: Corona is a part of nature.

The motto of the German EU Presidency is "Together for Europe's recovery".

The German translation is "Gemeinsam. Europa wieder stark machen." To make Europe strong again. Together.

But the word "cover" means in the true sense of the word: "To protect or defend from harm." Together, we can put up protective measures all over Europe, but also globally, in order to avert harm from our common home. To stand together and protect our people, in order to defend against the virus that is sweeping across our planet.

Every crisis longs for the future, usually with a hopeful look. With our conference motto "Smart cadastre – shaping the future" we would like to make our contribution to this future. We want to highlight the special challenges that cadastre will meet in future, but we also want to highlight the role of helping to shape the future. Last year, AdV has dealt intensively with strategic future issues. Topics relating to the cadastre have been identified. Not only the three-dimensional cadastre, and even the four-dimensional cadastre for evidence purposes, for example, but also artificial intelligence, building information modelling, smart cities and so on. I refer you to the presentation by Markus Seifert, who will be taking up the trends of the future.

It is above all the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations which are important also for our work and which we should talk about if we want to help shaping the future. The Sustainable Development Goals are the basis for peace and prosperity for people and our planet, to make people's lives better, determined to protect the planet from degradation and to make it strong for future generations. And all this not only in developing countries, but equally in countries like here in Europe. The close connection of the Sustainable Development Goals with documentation of property, with the documentation of land, with land registry – terms which are found under the umbrella of the real estate cadastre – will therefore be reflected in several presentations at this congress. We will see what basic function cadastre and land registry fulfil in order to follow the path to a sustainable future, so that future generations will also find a world worth living in.

The contribution of Greg Scott from the Global Geospatial Information Management Section of the United Nations will also deal with the Sustainable Development Goals. I am very glad that we have succeeded in getting Greg Scott on board to give the keynote speech. This is a very special feature of this congress. Greg Scott will speak to us this afternoon, for him in New York very early in the morning.

I am also delighted that the newly appointed Secretary General and Executive Director of EuroGeographics, Lea Bodossian, will deliver to us a message from EuroGeographics. In your message of 27 October, Lea, you wrote that you love maps. That is an excellent requirement for EuroGeographics and for PCC. You are welcome in the PCC-family and I am looking forward very much to listen to your words.

I would like to thank you all for attending the PCC Congress in such large numbers despite Corona, even from distant non-EU Member States such as Armenia. I wish you informative presentations, good discussions and many new insights in the potential future of our work.

Now I hand over to my colleague Marcus who will guide us through the rest of this opening session.