

Conclusions of the joint meeting of the EuroGeographics Expert Group on Cadastre and Land registry and the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC), "Synchronisation of Cadastres and Land Registries in the European Union", December 29-30, 2006, Espoo

1 Introduction

The joint meeting was characterized by excellent and informative presentations on interesting topics, and lively discussions on the issues in question. These conclusions are drawn from these experiences and were presented in draft form at the end of the meeting. The conclusions, however, represent only the moderator's understanding about the key ideas and were not subject to any formal endorsement procedure.

2 Conclusions

In the presentations a variety of ways to organize the cadastral and land registry activities were presented. The burning issue in Europe seems to be whether a single or dual agency system is preferable. Some of the examples of close synchronization, like the Netherlands, date back to decades. Other examples were from countries like Norway, Sweden and Romania that are just undergoing a merger process. Finally, in cases like Austria and Finland no concrete process of institutional change is under way.

As it is a question of centuries old activities both on the Cadastre and the Land Registry side tradition plays a very strong role. Hence, it is difficult to break free from old ways of doing and thinking. On the other hand it may also be politically sensitive to try to touch established mandates.

However, practical 'hard' issues begin to have a strong leverage/impact on institutional development. There are different types of government productivity programs, strong customer needs and requirements as well as new technology enabled ideas such as e-government, e-conveyance and digital processes in general that are a driving force toward redesign of processes and - potentially - new institutional solutions.

All these forces are based on doing things better, quicker and cheaper. The new structures are supposed to bring benefits to the customers, the organizations in question and to the society in general. Mostly, this is done by elimination of duplicated effort in data acquisition, improved consistency/integrity of data and thus improved access to and availability of data. The key tool to achieve this is management of the whole value chain and streamlining of the processes across the current institutional boundaries. Against that background many facts seem to be in favor of single agency model where less support functions and administration are needed. Furthermore system and process development and redesign is easier to schedule and manage within one organization.

What is important at the end of the day, however, is what works best for the customer or the taxpayer and what works best for the society, because it is they who use the services and thus finance the activities.