

## **User driven regional networking in land related knowledge transfer- Evolution of CelkCenter as facilitator of the ESDI implementation**

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**Preferred Topic Area:**

- a) Institutional Framework and Funding (National and regional policies, programmes and initiatives as well as data sharing)
- b) Services (user needs assessments)
- c) Data harmonisation (metadata profiles, multilingual thesauri)

The availability, access and useability of land related information and associated know-hows are critical especially in the new EU Member Countries, where due to the mass privatisation and economic transformation the quality of associated public registries and cadastral services become vital importance. The value of approaches and solutions, which contribute to the transparency and effectiveness of property/land registry and its cadastral foundation were widely realised and acknowledged. On international level this process was driven and/or facilitated by the FIG, the UNECE Working Party of Land Administration and significantly accelerated - as a result of conferences focusing on the subject discussing the situation and impacts in the Phare and CIS countries - by the Vienna Initiative.

Taking into account the mutually realised disadvantages, bottlenecks and problems to be solved, the common roots and the traditionally high quality of services in the the CEE countries, the lessons learned in the the field of lands and mapping are not only useful for planning, implementation and monitoring of the relevant policies on national and European level but also inevitable for the realisation of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure, where land/property related PSI information (providing authentic answer on location and legal ownership/use) are agreed as part of the priority data initiated e.g. by INSPIRE or listed by GMES.

The paper gives an overview on the evolution from the Vienna Initiative to the institutional building and knowledge transfer project entitled “Central European Land Knowledge Center (CelkCenter)” in the field of property rights and land market development. It was launched by the Hungarian government in the EU-harmonisation framework related to the Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire. The project, co-financed by World Bank grant and supported by FAO is operational since February 2003. Supported by high profile international acceptance of leading international donor organisations and professional institutions CelkCenter has partners from over 20 countries of the European Economic Area including the new EU members.

The paper will introduce the mission goals, objectives, action and business plans of the project. Reasoning will be clarified, and the advantages will be described, why the project will be converted to a legal entity during 2004 in close cooperation with the donor organisations and the targeted beneficiary countries.

The paper highlights the way of operation introducing its basic elements including

- research and collection,
- organising gathered information, building of knowledge database
- sharing the knowledge, providing user friendly access and
- facilitate the use/reuse.

The applied advanced, legally sound knowledge transfer techniques will be described with special emphasis on Internet portal based e-service, multilingual thesauri, metadata profiles, selected forms in education and training. Finally, the proven practice in awareness raising, networking approach incl. successful PPP solutions and memorandum of understanding-based cooperation with the Hungarian GI Association, member of EUROGI are introduced.

CelkCenter as EU harmonisation project was launched by demand driven and its evolution towards the establishment of an internationally acknowledged regional institution entity clearly shows the multipurpose importance of land/property related information as pillar of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure also for the emerging e-Europe. This idea is reflected also by the consensus based recent document of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre (EuroCadastre) entitled “Principles of the Cadastre in the European Union” released under the Italian EU Presidency.