

Joint FIG Commission 3  
UN/ECE Working Party on Land Administration  
UN/ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management

## Workshop on “Spatial Information Management toward Legalizing Informal Urban Development” and “Informal Settlements—Real Estate Market Needs for Good Land Administration and Planning”

**Chryssy Potsiou**

**ABSTRACT:** This was the first FIG Com3 annual workshop and meeting in a series of three planned for the new term 2007-2010. The next joint FIG Com3 and UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management Workshop (as a follow up) is planned to be held between 18-21 February 2008 in Valencia, Spain, under the topic: “**Spatial Information Management Toward Environmental Management of Mega Cities**”. More detailed information will be published soon.

### Workshop Report

The joint workshop of FIG Commission 3 and UN/ECE Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) and Committee on Housing and Land Management (CHLM) took place in Sounio, Greece, on March 28-31, 2007. The workshop focused on informal or unplanned development, a topic of major importance for several countries worldwide. The initiative for this topic originated in a vision identified in the current FIG Com3 work plan, announced at the FIG (International Federation of Surveyors) ACCO (Advisory Committee of Commission Officers) meeting during the 2006 FIG Regional Conference in Accra, Ghana. An objective of FIG Com3 work plan is cooperation with international sister organizations; therefore a proposal was made to UN/ECE WPLA Bureau to include this workshop as an extra function in its already planned workshop calendar for 2007. The WPLA Bureau, in turn, invited the participation of the UN/ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.

The local organizers were the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG) and the Hellenic Association of Rural and Surveying Engineers (HARSE). The major

sponsor was the Technical Chamber of Greece; other sponsors were the Attica Bank, the Marathon Data Systems, the Region of Attika, the Municipality of Lavrio, the Municipality of Anavissos, and the Municipality of Palaia Phokea.

Experts and representatives of sister associations—Dr Gabor Remetey-Fülöpp, Head of the UN SDI Hungarian Coordination Office and Director of EUROGI Working and Advisory Group on International Affairs and Secretary of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association; Mr. Gavin Adlington and Ms Victoria Stanley from the World Bank; the Harvard research expert Ms Sylvia Martinez, an independent adviser to the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor; Mr. Fernando De la Puente Alfaro, President of the European Land Registry Association; and Mr. Enrico Campagnoli from FIABCI—kindly responded to the invitation made by the local organizers and offered to participate and support the workshop and present papers.

In total, 130 distinguished delegates from 42 countries registered for the workshop. The countries represented were: Albania (6), Armenia (1), Australia (1), Austria (3), Azerbaijan (4), Belarus (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Bulgaria (1), Canada (1), Croatia (3), Cyprus (4), Czech Republic (2), Denmark (3), France (1), Georgia (4), Germany (5), Greece (32), Iceland (2), Ireland (1), Hungary (1), Iceland (2), Ireland (1), Israel (1), Italy (4), Kosovo (3), Kyrgyz Republic (2), Lebanon (2), Latvia (2),

---

**Dr Chryssy Potsiou**, FIG Commission 3 chair, UN/ECE WPLA Bureau member. E-mail: <chryssyp@survey.ntua.gr>.

Lithuania (2), the Netherlands (1), New Zealand (1), Nigeria (1), Norway (4), Poland (3), Romania (4), Russia (2), Serbia Montenegro (2), Slovak Republic (1), Spain (3), Sweden (2), Switzerland (3), Turkey (3), U.K. (3), USA (4).

In addition, twelve Greek officials participated, including several members of the Hellenic Parliament, the representative of the Minister for the Environment Physical Planning and Public Works, the presidents of TCG, HARSE, and of the Association of Greek Architects, local Mayors, presidents of other professional associations, the President of the School of Rural and Surveyor Engineers of the National Technical University, and the General Secretary of the region of Attika.

In the two Opening Sessions, welcoming addresses were offered by Yannis Alavanos, President of TCG; Chronis Akritidis, President of HARSE; Prof. Stig Enemark, FIG President; Kaj Barlund, UN/ECE EHLM Division Director; Dr Chryssy Potsiou, FIG Com3 Chair; Makis Apostolatos, FIG Com3 Vice chair of Administration; Doris Andoni, UN/ECE CHLM Chair; and Peter Creuzer, UN/ECE WPLA Chair.

The keynote speakers were Prof. Stig Enemark, FIG President; Paul Kelly Director Spatial Strategies Pty Ltd; and Gabor Remetey, HUNAGI Secretary General.

Robert W Foster, FIG Honorary President; Markku Villikka, FIG Office Director; Gerhard Muggenhuber, FIG Com3 past chair; Helge Onsrud, FIG Com3 and WPLA past chair; Bengt Kjellson, WPLA past chair; and Elena Szolgayová, past CHLM chair also participated in the workshop.

The workshop consisted of eight technical sessions (TS), and one plenary session (PS).

PS: Policy makers for planning and land administration

TS 1: Technical aspects for informal urban development monitoring and planning control

TS 2: Necessary tools for good land administration and planning

TS 3: Informal urban development

TS 4: Land policies for lower economies

TS 5: Land tools for planning and property registration

TS 6: Illegal urban development in the ECE

TS 7: e Governance—participatory democracy

TS 8: Urban planning and property registration

Fifty papers were presented in the eight technical sessions, and nine presentations were made during the plenary. The technical program also included a round table discussion. A first draft of

the workshop's resolutions is given below. All papers, resolutions, and discussions will be published in the workshop's final proceedings, which will be published and distributed by the Technical Chamber of Greece, and at the FIG Com3 web site.

To satisfy specific requests, and to enable experts from the private and public sectors and the academic members to jointly address issues of major importance, FIG Com3 initiated an optional double blind peer review process for presenters of papers at this workshop. A number of FIG academic delegates provided peer reviews of papers, if and when requested by authors. The reviewers did not review their own papers or papers coming from their own countries; they were selected according to their expertise in the topic; and the requirements for acceptance for peer review were that the papers are the result of original research and that they have been published previously. The same criteria will be applied to future FIG Com3 workshop presentations. Twelve papers received successful peer review for the workshop described in this report. Other papers presented at the workshop may also include original research, information, and ideas, but their authors did not choose to submit their papers for peer review. Dr. Chryssy Potsiou, chair of FIG Com3, and Prof. Yerach Doytsher, head of the peer review group, will serve as editors of additional specific publications of the peer reviewed papers.

## Draft Resolutions of the Sounio Workshop

1. Formal real estate markets require:
  - Security of tenure, legal definitions, and clear regulations for the registration of land ownership and rights and to enforce effective land use regulations and restrictions;
  - Transparency in procedures, with secure, speedy, low cost, and easy access to all land market participants;
  - Access to fundamental financial services such as mortgage and credit and stable, transparent, and fair land taxation systems;
  - Availability of digital, interoperable, and updated data sets with common spatial reference concerning ownership, value, and use of land, so that lenders are not affected by unregistered encumbrances (e.g., unregistered restrictions on building permits); and