

# Digital Land Cadastre Information System in Azerbaijan

Farid Jafarov and Elshad Khanalibayli (Azerbaijan)

**Key words:** Access to land; Affordable housing; Cadastre; Capacity building; Cartography; Coastal Zone Management; Digital cadastre; e-Governance; Engineering survey; Geoinformation/GI; GSDI; Land management; Positioning; Professional practice; Property taxes; Real estate development; Reference systems; Security of tenure; Spatial planning; Urban renewal; Valuation

## SUMMARY

Azerbaijan used to be a part of the Soviet Union 71 years (1920-1991-ci illər). Once re-gained a state independence in 1991, the Republic of Azerbaijan started the economic and social reforms. The Land Reform became one of the first reforms launched in Azerbaijan. The state monopoly over the land had ended. The three types of ownership had been defined: state, municipal and private, and the arable state land plots distributed among farmers free of charge.

The socio-political life, the loss of a great amount of workplaces in the country in early 1990's required the creation of new workplaces in a short time. This is why the distribution of land plots among citizens would have finished over a short period of time. Because of the fact that the implementation of the Land Reform was provided hurriedly and based on inaccurate Soviet maps, the cadastre maps after the Reform and land registration documents did not reflect the reality.

Starting from 2010, we managed to improve the land cadastre and registration. In this regard, we started studying the best international practice, involving new relevant equipment and applying modern technologies, and – in the end – achieved the creation of the Digital Land Cadastre Information System by collecting, processing and governing the cadastre information on the same platform. The system covers all the land plots of the country but the Azerbaijani territory occupied by Armenia. This system is successfully used right now.