

Report to the 44th General Assembly
 FIG e-Working Week 2021, Utrecht, the Netherlands

FIG Commission 8 – Spatial planning and development

Report of Activities 2019 and 2020

1. General

In a world of **limited resources**, of which land is the most prominent in the domain of spatial planning, the mission of commission 8 is to **provide access** to planning processes **for all** and balance the various interests in pursue of a **sustainable spatial development** at all governance levels both for the **short- and long-term**.

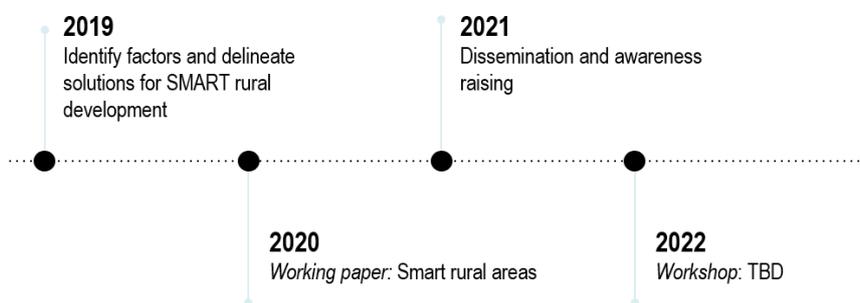


Based on this overall mission statement, the work of commission 8 takes shape in five working groups. The work of the working groups is carried out in addition to the yearly working weeks or four-yearly congress. At the working weeks the sessions in the technical programme play an important role to exchange and discuss latest developments, trends and solutions in the broader field of spatial planning in relation to land administration between professionals, academics and the business.

2. Working Groups

2.1 WG 8.1 Rural – urban dependency

Focus: Rural-urban relations and their dependencies to foster smart and sustainable spatial developments in the urban-rural continuum.



From this working group the following activities were undertaken:

- Drafting of Urban-rural land linkage framework” (URLLs) Report: Uchendu Eugene Chigbu led the drafting of the URLLs report, which is a collaborative work between the Global Land Tool Network

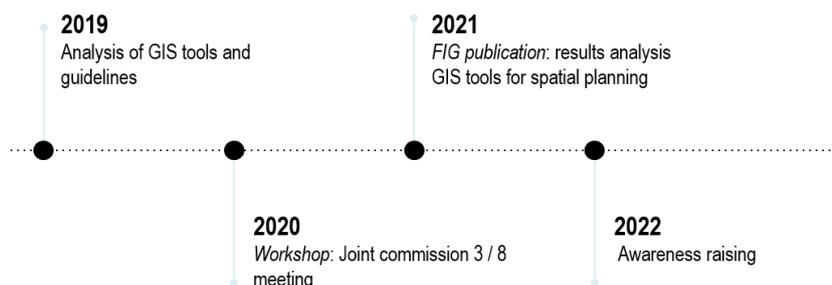
(GLTN) of UN-Habitat and FIG Commissions 7 & 8. The report is currently undergoing editing with the UN-Habitat for possible publication and dissemination to the global surveying and land practitioners community. Urban and rural spaces are inextricably linked economically, socially, and environmentally. Hence, the development discourse must depart from urban and rural dichotomy, but rather adopt an integrated and inclusive approach. Central to this is the need to understand the urban-rural land linkages (URLLs) particularly in addressing land governance and land tenure challenges. At the e-Working Week in 2021 a joint GLTN / FIG session will be organised to launch the “Urban-Rural Land Linkages: Concept and Framework for Action” report.



- Three Expert Group meetings on URLLs: The preparation of the URLLs reports also involved three key expert group works organized by the Commission 7 and in which Uchendu Eugene Chigbu presented the draft reports for discussion and stakeholders' inputs.

2.2 WG 8.2 GIS tools for spatial planning (joint Working Group with commission 3)

Focus: Available GIS tools for spatial planning, in particular participative processes, to encourage transparent, participatory, and inclusive decision-making.



The first preliminary results have been published (see chapter 5) and will be followed up by a more in-depth investigation.

Due to the pandemic no further updates from this commission for 2020 for the planned activities. However, new activities popped up. Related to the COVID-19 outbreak, two publications (one scientific article in the open-source journal International Journal of Geo-Information and one book chapter) have been jointly written. Both publications relate to the role of geo-information to disseminate COVID-19 related information in European countries in order to govern the outbreak. Apart from the joint commission 3 and 8 chapter, other FIG commissions also contributed to the book 'COVID-19 Pandemic, Geospatial Information, and Community Resilience - Global Applications and Lessons' (due publication date 8th of June 2021).

At the e-Working Week in 2021 a joint session is organized focusing on the role of spatial data and GIS applications related to spatial planning in view of sustainable development.

In 2021, July – provided the circumstances – an international summer school for Young Surveyors supported by commission 3 and 8 will be organized in Italy. Two sessions will be organized by both commissions. The sessions will be held on July 20 and 21. The theme will be "territorial data and planning policies: best practices of planning resulting from the research of degraded areas and case study of reuse of degraded building sectors and soil saving". The workshop will have a hybrid character (face to face and online), depending from the situation due to COVID-19.

2.3 WG 8.3 Urban Challenges (joint Working Group with commission 7 and 9)

Focus: Urban resilience (social, economic, climate) to improve sustainability in view of rapid urbanization.



A special session at FIG WW 2020 about ‘Creating Sustainable Community with Density – Socio-technical presentations and discussion’ was scheduled to further elaborate and discuss the topic. In the technical programme of the e-Working Week a session about Urban Challenges will be organized, addressing contemporary issues such as affordable housing, recovering of informal settlements after COVID-19, public value capturing, and overall sustainable development or management of urban areas.

2.4 WG 8.4 Land policy instruments for spatial development

Focus: Available policy instruments that support the implementation of spatial policies or spatial redistribution of land (resources, land use or rights) to foster sustainable spatial development.



The successful joint LANDNET/commission 8 workshop in 2019 was held in Santiago de Compostela (see chapter 4). Activities of the working group take shape around two themes: 1) discussing the possibility for a generic tool for land consolidation and 2) a joint FIG / FAO publication about land consolidation practice.

In preparation of the FIG WW in Amsterdam, three joint FAO-FIG sessions were scheduled that link to the activities of working group 8.4. These could not be held. Instead, a separate webinar was organized in June about land consolidation, launching the FAO publication on a legal framework for land consolidation. It was very well attended (more than 300 participants) with participants from various continents. In December, a webinar about land banking was successfully organized. The webinar aimed to promote good land banking practices and their practical application in countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia with specific focus on the development of small family farms and providing access to land for young farmers.

In 2020, the work for the FIG publication about land consolidation has started and is expected to be finalized in 2021. Unfortunately, the planned session at the FIG Working Week in 2020 could not take place and therefore could not be used to gather valuable input and feedback from a broader network of professionals.

For the e-Working Week in 2021, two FAO-FIG sessions, one about land banking and one about Fit-For-Purpose (FFP) for Land And Water Management will be organized.

2.5 WG 8.5 African Water Governance

Focus: Resilience in urbanized areas in Africa from a water governance perspective and the role of surveyors.



The essential elements are to present some current thinking on the following policy issues:

- Scope and analyze current and future challenges in terms of the resilience of water governance (in Africa);
- Investigate the principles of conventional water governance and understand how those principles could be re-configured or aligned with climate change imperatives (in Africa);
- Explore current practices around Africa for managing water resources and combine with climate change predictions and population growth scenarios;
- Investigate and document critical success factors when managing water resources;
- Contribute to the dissemination of good practice in managing water resources for resilience; and
- Propose alternative future scenario strategies for managing water resources and provide guidance to governments, municipalities, communities and professionals on reflecting these potential futures into current practice for sustainable, spatially-informed water governance.

A special session at e-Working Week in 2021 on water governance will be organized and the FIG report is about to be launched.

3. Cooperation

Fruitful cooperation with fellow commissions took shape. The first draft of its study 'GIS tools for participatory planning, an exploratory study on internationally available tools' was published in 2019. In a joint working group 'GIS tools for spatial planning' commission 8 and 3 the preliminary results were presented as well at commissions' 3 Annual Meeting and Workshop 'Advances in Geodata Analytics for

Smart Cities and Regions’ in Romania and at the joint FIG commission 8 and LANDNET meeting in Galicia, Spain.

Cooperation with LANDNET and FAO takes shape in working group 8.4 among others.

GLTN has reached out to FIG to work on the development of a conceptual framework on urban-rural land linkages. Urban and rural spaces offer different but complementary assets and strengths, and better integration of development interventions is needed to ensure better socio-economic performance. However, land being central in the development discourse and in the ‘spatial’ aspects of development is not well articulated in the debates nor it features as a key “core” component of urban-rural linkages discourse. There is a need to reverse this situation and the development of a conceptual framework on urban-rural land linkages becomes a necessity. This task will be taken by GLTN professional cluster, in collaboration with partners (e.g. FIG) and key experts and land stakeholders. The work involved a scoping of existing literature, understanding its relevance to the over-all sustainable development agenda, identifying key challenges as well as potential opportunities, discussions and consultations with experts, and finally, offering a robust conceptual framework. Together with commission 7 and 9 we will form a team to work on this for the upcoming year.

4. Events

Commission 7, 8 and 9 organized a joint masterclass at the Land and Poverty Conference at the World Bank in Washington, 25-29 March 2019. The masterclass focused on the SDG’s and the role of the land professional.

Sustainable Development Goals: Land Governance for Equivalent Living and Working Conditions in Urban and Rural Areas; Qingzhou, China, 16-17 May 2019.

How can Land Management in Rural Areas can Contribute to Archive SDG’s; Qingzhou, China, 20-21 May 2019.

International Symposium of Space & Future Conference; Shanghai, China, 14-15 June 2019. The spatial planning authorities in China and international guests gathered in Shanghai to discuss the new planning paradigm. At the event, the new spatial planning act and planning paradigm was highlighted by various national and international speakers.



Joint workshop with commission 3, Romanian surveying week, and Life Sciences for Sustainable Development conference; Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 23-27 September 2019. In a specific session the preliminary results were presented of the joint working group report ‘GIS tools for participatory planning, an exploratory study on internationally available tools’.

Workshop ‘territorial development – challenges and opportunities’; Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 5-9 November 2019. The event was co-hosted by Agader, FAO and FIG commission 8 with support from GIZ. The workshop was at the same time the 12th International LANDNET workshop. Several strategies and solutions to counteract land abandonment in Galicia, but also elsewhere (Armenia, Turkey, France, Serbia, North Macedonia), were shared and explained. The workshop was part of the activities of working group 8.4 and contributed to the dissemination of good practices for land policy instruments such as land banking and land consolidation to address land abandonment. At this event as well, the preliminary results were presented of the working group 8.2 report ‘GIS tools for participatory planning, an exploratory study on internationally available tools’.



In 2020 and up till now, all travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 outbreak made it necessary to cancel all face-to-face events. As mentioned, two separate webinars were organized about respectively a legal framework for land consolidation (June 2020) and land banking (December 2020).



5. Communication and publications

With a regular newsletter the FIG community was informed about activities of commission 8. Newsletters are both sent around by email and published on the FIG website on the commissions' webpage. We will keep up this initiative as it is a good way to keep in touch with friends and members of the commission and beyond.

At the very beginning of 2019 FAO published their technical guide on spatial planning and tenure. Commission 8 was, together with other stakeholders, involved in the working group and contributed to the discussion and delivered a casus, which was used in the publication.

The first draft of its study 'GIS tools for participatory planning, an exploratory study on internationally available tools' was published in 2019 as a result of the work carried out by working group 8.2. This will be followed up in 2020 by the respective working group. Focus will lie on a more in-depth analysis of various promising tools that can be used in a participatory context.

Joint paper at the FIG Working Week 2020 in Amsterdam about the development of generic tooling for land consolidation. Both to share preliminary results and to enhance discussion among stakeholders, we have submitted a paper about the state of the art before the initiative will be finalized. Gathered input can be used to further explore possibilities for a generic, open source tool that can support land consolidation in various situational contexts. For the e-Working Week in 2021 a follow-up paper has been submitted. The concept will be further developed in a workshop at the e-Working Week.

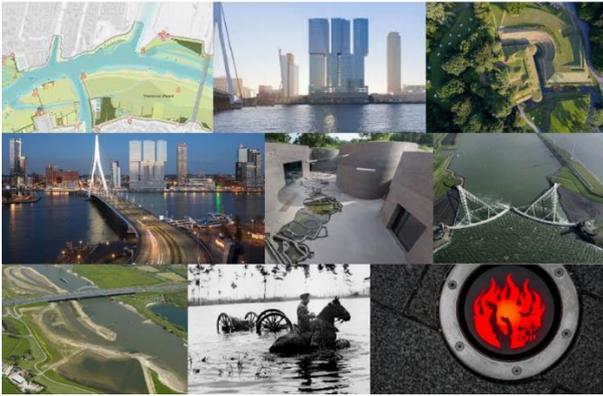
Working group 8.5 has delivered a FIG report about water governance focusing on urbanized areas in Africa, being valuable for professionals, governments, and decision-makers in the surveying discipline. Facing the impact of climate change, the report addresses the importance of water governance to seek sustainable solutions in various contexts, and beyond administrative boundaries. The report will be launched at the e-Working Week in 2021.

Preparations for a FIG publication about Land Consolidation were started up in 2020 and will be finalized in 2021. The FIG Working Week will be used amongst others to discuss, collect input and get feedback on the initial thoughts and outline. The content aims to support practitioners in the field of land consolidation, both in countries familiar with land consolidation and countries exploring or starting up land consolidation projects to get familiar with the instrument.

6. Other highlights

Preparations for FIG Working Week 2020 in Amsterdam are well underway. Commission 8 received many abstracts from diverse regions. Regarding the topics, we clearly see that over the years more and more abstracts are submitted touching upon the combination of GIS or geo-information and spatial planning. In particular the use of techniques for specific land use planning or spatial analyses take a flight.

A comprehensive tour on Dutch land- and water management will be organized right after the FIG Working Week 2020 to show how water has shaped spatial planning practice and developments in the Netherlands. On this day, Rotterdam municipality, Port of Rotterdam, Radboud University, TU Delft and the Dutch Kadaster join forces to guide you along a number of must-see projects in the field. A detailed programme can be found at the website of the Working Week and on commissions' 8 website under FIG. The tour was very well received and, in a few days, fully booked. Unfortunately, the tour was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and it could also not be replaced by an online event.



Gemeente Rotterdam



Port of Rotterdam

FIG's Asia Pacific Capacity Development Network and commission 8 look into the possibility to co-organize an event in the Asia Pacific region in 2020 at the intersection of spatial planning, SDG's, climate change and disasters. For the same reason, this proposed event was cancelled.