



What's going on.... in commission 8



FIG Working Week 2020, 10 – 14 May 2019

Upon the call for papers, many abstracts and peer-reviewed papers have been submitted for the FIG Working Week in Amsterdam next year. Also, commission 8 received a good number of abstracts. As was intended, we will have a special session on African water governance in urbanised areas organised by working group 8.5 led by Richard Pagett. In this special session, some current thinking on the following policy issues will be presented:

- Scope and analyse current and future challenges in terms of the resilience of water governance;
- Investigate the principles of conventional water governance and understand how those principles could be re-configured or aligned with climate change imperatives;
- 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.

In addition to this, we will also have two other special sessions: one about communities in dens high-rise neighbourhoods (working group 8.4), and one together with the FAO. The next months will be used to draft an attractive technical programme, together with all FIG commission chairs.



Side event FIG Working Week 2020 Amsterdam

Right after the FIG Working Week, a comprehensive tour on Dutch land- and water management will be organised to show you 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 cadastre and mapping agency join forces to guide you along a number of must-see projects in the field. Don't miss this opportunity while you are in the Netherlands and save the date 14 May 2019 in your agenda. You can find more information on the [FIG2020 website](#). Registration has opened already, so make sure that you will secure a seat (first come, first served).



Joint Commission Activities

Urban-rural linkages

GLTN has reached out to FIG for 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 will involve 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.

Advances in Geodata Analytics for Smart Cities and Regions in Cluj-Napoca, Romania (Sept 23rd – 27th)

Commission 3 (spatial information management) organised the event together with local partners (see http://fig.net/news/news_2019/09_com3_event.asp for the report of the event). The results of the analysis of GIS tools for participatory planning were presented as well. Several participants are interested to team up and follow up on further research on this topic. Should you be interested to join, please let us know (see email below).

LANDNET/ Commission 8 Workshop

From 5 – 8 November 2019 about 130 participants gathered in Santiago de Compostela for the yearly LANDNET workshop. The workshop about ‘territorial development – challenges and opportunities’ was co-hosted this year by Agader, GIZ and FIG commission 8. Like elsewhere, Galicia faces considerable land abandonment in the rural areas. Several strategies and solutions to counteract land abandonment in Galicia, but also elsewhere (Armenia, Turkey, France, Serbia, North Macedonia), were shared and explained.



On Friday, many participants joined the optional field tour to visit one of the areas where Agader successfully ran a pilot project to clear and lease out abandoned land. Key to this approach was the involvement of all stakeholders; the landowners leaving their land unused were contacted to get their consent, the municipality acting as coordinator and representing the public interest, a contractor to execute the work (clearing of roads, creating new access points to the parcels, clearing of shrubs and trees on the land), and issuing the land for lease including safeguards for the land owners.

Furthermore, the legal framework for land consolidation was presented by FAO and choices made were explained. Also some upcoming activities were presented, for example a COST proposal about spatial planning, land governance and tenure that was submitted, the results of the analysis of GIS tools for participation, the idea for a FIG publication about land consolidation and the upcoming FIG Working Week in Amsterdam, including the commission 8 side event. The minutes and presentations will be published on the FAO website shortly.

Finally, we are happy to remind you of the possibility to contact commission 8 directly,

please use the following email address: figcommission8@fig.net

Kind regards,

Marije Louwsma, chair