



# BUILD BACK BETTER THE SELF-MADE CITIES

18-22 JUNE 2025  
ATHENS & SANTORINI, GREECE

Actions for Formalizing Informal Constructions & Improving the  
Geospatial Ecosystems, Land Tools & Land Policies



Call for  
Papers

A joint Conference with  
UNECE/WPLA & REM, FIG Com 3 & FIG Com 9,  
EGoS, World Bank

FIG JOINT  
CONFERENCE

## Self-Made Cities

### Strategies for Legalization, Disaster Recovery, and Geospatial Land Management in UNECE Member States

This joint conference continues the ongoing United Nations Economic Commission for Europe & International Federation of Surveyors research that started in 2007 on informal construction and the formalization of the self-made cities in the UNECE region

These "self-made cities" are rapidly developing urban areas with formal and informal constructions that often lack titling and/or compliance with regulations. Such areas face challenges like limited services, increased disaster risks, unregistered constructions and residents, incomplete cadastral records and missing geospatial information, informal property markets, and an unregulated economy

Through the collaboration among UNECE Working Party on Land Administration, Real Estate Market Advisory Group, European Group of Surveyors, FIG Commission 3 on Spatial Information Management & FIG Commission 9 on Valuation and the Management of Real Estate, and World Bank experts, an international discussion and development forum we will promote professional practice and standards in the field of land administration and management, geospatial ecosystems and valuation/appraisal of real estate and will promote professional expertise

## Main groups of topics of interest include

Please submit your abstracts by the 31st of March 2025

### Strategies for Formalization, Disaster Recovery, and Geospatial Land Management in UNECE Member States

Formalization of informal constructions projects in the various UNECE member states (statistics, strategies & policies, legal frameworks, demolitions, resettlements, monitoring of progress, challenges and opportunities)

Implementation of Local Disaster Risk Reduction & Recovery Plans (earthquakes, flooding, fires), infrastructure provision, examples of good practice

Improving the geospatial ecosystems & land tools (land administration, land use, planning/permitting, expropriation & taxation, land consolidation and land readjustment, affordable housing), regulations, procedures, accountability & legislation

## Geospatial Technologies & Urban Resilience

Utilizing low-cost solutions and geospatial tools (e.g., VGI, AI, drones, BIM, IoT) to formalize and improve cadaster and property records and urban management in formal or informal settlements

Enhancing spatial data integration for urban resilience, disaster risk reduction, and secure geospatial systems to balance open data sharing with cybersecurity

Community-driven approaches using crowdsourced geospatial data and participatory design to involve local communities in formalization efforts & other land management projects

Case studies on spatial information management, addressing local challenges in informal settlements and evolving urban areas

## Transparency & Data Management in Real Estate

Formalization of sales and rental markets. Improving real estate market transparency through standardized data collection, valuation, taxation, and professional capacity building

Evaluating centralized vs. decentralized databases for geodata, ownership, and transaction prices, balancing accessibility and security

Assessing Artificial Intelligence applications in real estate for valuation, market monitoring, and integrating crowdsourcing for reliable property data

Analyzing property values & climate change impacts, exploring their role in urban planning, financing, and affordable housing solutions



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## Deadlines

**Submission of abstracts by 31st March 2025**

**Notification of acceptance by 5th April 2025**

**Submission of full paper by 5th June 2025**

If you have a paper that addresses the theme of the conference in any way, please submit it via the following link:

<https://easychair.org/my/conference?conf=b3smc>

## Instructions for submission

Abstracts should be about 400- 500 words & informative (e.g., including objectives, methodology & main results)

Note: We inform authors that following the conference selected papers will be published in a special issue of the Survey Review Journal. This path is absolutely optional. Those authors who wish their papers to go through the peer review process and be published in this special issue, are advised to use the specific template present on the website"



## Venue of the Workshop

National Technical University of Athens,  
The School of Rural, Surveying and Geoinformatics Engineers, NTUA campus, Zografos, Athens

## Registration fees

<b>UNECE WPLA delegates</b>	will receive free registration
<b>FIG delegates - early bird registration</b>	€ 250,00 (including ice-breaking reception, coffee breaks, lunches and dinner)
<b>Young Surveyors (up to 35 years old)</b>	€ 90,00 (including coffee breaks, lunches)
<b>Undergraduate students</b>	€ 20,00 (including coffee breaks, lunches)



## Accommodation

Please note that hotel reservations must be made early, as June is high tourist period for Greece. **For your convenience, we have blocked a limited number of rooms, latest until the 10th of April, at special rates, at the:**

Central Athens Hotel, 21, Apollonos str., GR 10557, Plaka, Athens,  
[www.centralhotel.gr](http://www.centralhotel.gr)

Please check availability, rates, cancelation policy & proceed with your reservation asap through this specific link:

<https://shorturl.at/HO XK9>

The special prices in this link are net per room, per night and including buffet breakfast and taxes. Kindly, note that rates do not include a Climate Resilience tax of 5.00€ per room, per overnight, applicable to all reservations

## Transportation to the conference venue & back

Please note that daily transportation to the National Technical University Campus and other events will be provided. In case you will do your reservation in other hotels, please note that the meeting point for transportation is the Central Athens Hotel lobby.





## Technical Workshop in Santorini

On the 21 & 22 of June the workshop will be held in Santorini

During these two days delegates will focus on the specific land management challenges of Santorini including market pressure & housing affordability, overtourism & services, agricultural challenge, climate change & sustainability, disaster risk & safety

More information about travelling to Santorini, accommodation options and costs, tours and technical sessions will be provided soon

# Programme at a glance

**18 June 2025** **9:30 - 17:30**

- Opening session and welcome addresses
- Coffee break
- Technical session
- Lunch break
- Technical Session
- Technical Tour

**19 June 2025** **9:30 - 17:30**

- Technical session
- Coffee break
- Technical session
- Lunch break
- Technical session

**20 June 2025** **9:30 - 16:00**

- Technical session
- Coffee break
- Technical session
- Lunch break
- Technical session
- Closing

**21st and 22nd June 2025**

Technical tour in Santorini

A more detailed agenda is under development and will be made available in due course.

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**For more information regarding the Conference please send an email to: [m.scorza@cng.it](mailto:m.scorza@cng.it) or [chryssy.potsiou@gmail.com](mailto:chryssy.potsiou@gmail.com)**

