

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND LAND ADMINISTRATION



Sustainable practices from the UNECE region and beyond



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FUNDING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF LAND ADMINISTRATION



The digital transformation of land administration systems (LAS) is about responsibly moving the entire sector from a paper based, manual service model, toward one that is fully digitized and automated. This shift is not only a technological one; it is also a social and economic one. It brings increased clarity and efficiency in land markets, improves land revenues for government, and stimulates economic growth through new data products and services. It also increases accountability, transparency, and neutrality in LAS.

Investments in LAS digital transformation is essential to meet existing policy priorities (ECS, 2020). Spatial and other information on tenure rights are needed to identify policy gaps, pilot actions, and enable ongoing monitoring and evaluation. Of the 14 fundamental spatial data themes identified by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UN-CSD), tenure is one of the most important (UN-CSD, 2019). It regularly falls under the mandate of land administration. Spatial and other information on tenure rights are essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), United Nations, 2015 that increasing drive national policy priorities.

Despite the economic, social, and environmental benefits that LAS deliver, securing sustainable funding for digital transformation is challenging (Kerninger and Fodor, 2004). This is because the importance of LAS is often not well understood or simply not understood by key decision makers. To be sustainably maintained, LAS demand systematic, unified, and transferable digital transformation solutions, that align with each country's policies.

This document is a compilation of Digital Transformation of Land Administration: Sustainable practices from the UN-ECE region and beyond, developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). It provides practical examples on how to obtain funding for LAS digital transformation at the national level. The guidance is for higher level LAS decision-makers, leaders and policy makers. It aims to help them communicate with economists, donors, or Finance Ministers in a language they understand.



E-book



Investment brief



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF SURVEYORS

FIG
FIG PUBLICATION
NO 80

FAO-FIG-UNECE GUIDE

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND LAND ADMINISTRATION

Sustainable Practices from the UNECE Region and Beyond

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FIG
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS (FIG)

UNECE





FUNDING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF LAND ADMINISTRATION



The digital transformation of land administration systems (LAS) is about responsibly moving the entire sector from a paper based, manual service mode, towards one that is fully delivered by digital technologies (Vial, 2019), ensuring no one is left behind. It brings increased activity and efficiency in land markets, improves land revenues for government, and stimulates economic growth through new data products and services. It also increases accountability, transparency, and equality for all land sector stakeholders.

Investment in LAS digital transformation is essential to meet country policy priorities (RICS, 2021). Spatial and other information on tenure rights are needed to identify policy gaps, plan actions, and enable ongoing monitoring and evaluation. Of the 14 fundamental spatial data themes identified by the United Nations Expert Group on Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) as critical for every nation (Hadley, 2018), 11 regularly fall under the mandate of land administration. Spatial and other information on tenure rights are essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). (United Nations, 2016) that increasingly drive national policy priorities.

Despite the economic, social, and environmental benefits that LAS deliver, securing sustainable funding for digital transformation is challenging (Denninger and Feder, 2009). The infrastructure can be largely invisible, taken for granted, or simply not understood by key decision-makers. To be sustainably maintained, LAS demand systematic, unified, and durable digital transformation plans that align with each country's priorities.

This Brief presents a snapshot of Digital transformation and land administration sustainable practices from the UNECE region and beyond, developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). It provides practical guidance and steps on how to develop action plans to support the digital transformation of LAS. The guidance is for higher level LAS decision-makers, leaders and practitioners. It aims to help them communicate with economists, donors, or Finance Ministries in a language they understand.

