10 Years "Law on Geoinformation" (GeoIG) in Switzerland – A Federative Organisation Requires Clear Rules and Responsibilities

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The conceptual framework of the new law

New Law on Geoinformation
General Provisions / Principals / PLR-Cadastre

- Law on environmental protection
- Law on forest
- Law on ......
- National Surveying (reference frame)
- Cadastral Surveying
List of Base Datasets
(appendix to the ordinance of geoinformation)

This list connects the technical laws with the law on geoinformation.

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<tr>
<th>Bezeichnung</th>
<th>Rechtsgrundlage</th>
<th>Zuständige Stelle (SR 510.62 Art. 8 Abs. 1) [Fachstelle des Bundes]</th>
<th>Georeferenzdaten</th>
<th>ÖREB Kataster</th>
<th>Zugangsberichtigungsstufe</th>
<th>Download-Dienst</th>
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The main contents of the new law (47 Articles in total)

General Provisions (3 Art.)
• Aim / Scope / Terms and definitions

Principals (17 Art.)
• Qualitative and Technical Requirements (4)
• Collection, Updating and Management (2)
• Data Access and Data Use (6)
• Cadastre of Public-law Restrictions (3)
• Obligation to Support and Tolerate (2)

National Surveying (5 Art.)
Cadastral Surveying (5 Art.)

Organisation / Finance / Final Provisions (17 Art.)
Organisation of cadastral surveying

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<td>Federal Directorate of Cadastral Surveying (~15 employees)</td>
<td>Supervision, strategic management</td>
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<td>Canton</td>
<td>Cantonal Surveying Offices (~300 employees)</td>
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<td>Municipality</td>
<td>~270 Private Land Surveying Offices (~2700 employees)</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
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<td>~11 Municipal Surveying Offices</td>
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Federal Directorate of Cadastral Surveying

~15 employees

Cantonal Surveying Offices

~300 employees

~270 Private Land Surveying Offices

11 Municipal Surveying Offices

~2700 employees
Role of the federal government

- The federal government is responsible for the strategic management, for the administration and supervision of cadastral surveying in Switzerland.

- The federal Directorate of Cadastral Surveying fulfils far-reaching tasks in close cooperation with the cantonal offices, like the development of the strategy or the revision of the legal basis.
Role of the cantons

• The cantons are responsible for the operational management of the system. They plan, direct and monitor the surveying activities, and each canton defines its own implementation standards.

• The cantons ensure uniform and homogeneous cadastral surveying over the entire territory of the canton. They coordinate the individual municipal data sets and provide the data centrally to the users.
Role of the municipalities

- Most municipalities entrust private surveying companies with the implementation of cadastral surveying.
- In about a dozen of the larger towns and cities, the implementation of cadastral surveying is mandated to a public sector agency within their respective municipality.
The doing - Tasks of «Licensed surveyor»

- Trustee of cadastre:
  - Data storage, maintenance, data hub,
  - Software and system maintenance, security, interfaces.
- Changes of land parcels shapes on behalf of the proprietary:
  - Design, benchmarks, surveys, update database,
  - Reconcile against Land Register (Grundbuch).
- Maintenance of benchmark points (level 3), reconstruction after destruction (like during road construction),
- Continuous update of base data set after construction, changes of land use, periodical updates upon agreement with Canton
- Periodical delivery of data to the spatial data infrastructure.
Responsibilities of licensed surveyor as part of the public administration

- Verify cadastral data as part of construction plan – proof correctness of data (open government data!),
- Construction: verify profile board – in accordance with approved construction plans,
- Validate legality of future land parcels: existing buildings versus land use plan,
- Consultancy services in land related questions,
- Maintain data archive.
Impression from daily work as Licensed Surveyor at Airport of Zurich
Conclusions

• In topics where the federal government is not itself responsible, it determines the technical framework. Implementation is delegated to the cantons or communes.

• In accordance with the federal system, the new legislation was first enacted at federal level and then in the cantons.

• Federal structure with 26 Cantons (8 million habitants) tends towards a certain inertia in renewal;

• Outsourcing of large parts of Cadastre and communal municipal infrastructure to private sector ensures efficient and effective implementation of legal requirements;