



## Launch of the *Guidelines for the formalization of informal constructions*

Wednesday, 13 May 2020  
14.00-15.30  
FIG working Week, Amsterdam

### BACKGROUND

The recent publication *Guidelines for the formalization of informal constructions* is a brief, practical and easy-to-read guide, explaining how to structure a program for the formalization of informal constructions. The focus is on the formalization process itself, but there are also descriptions of the preparatory work needed to analyze the problem magnitude, as well as how to find political acceptance, to identify the root problems that may cause future informality and the post-formalization aspects.

Worldwide, there is an estimated one billion urban dwellers living in informal settlements – compared to three quarters of a billion in 1996. These settlements have been built outside the formal system of laws and regulations that ensure tenure, legal ownership, and safe, resilient structures. Informal development is not a new issue for the UNECE region. However, over the last 30 years, informal development has become an increasingly urgent matter. In 2007, it was estimated that more than 50 million people lived in informal settlements in 20 member-states of the UNECE region.

Europe has experienced a rise of urban dwellers who cannot afford to pay rent, with housing costs rising particularly rapidly in the more prosperous large cities. This is especially the case for the Southern and Eastern parts of the region, while Western European countries are said to have more than six per cent of their urban dwellers living in insecure housing conditions.

The importance of tackling this issue is undeniable and addressed in several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG target 1.4 stresses that governments should ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property and inheritance. SDG 11 stresses that cities and human settlements should be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

In 2009, the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management published their first study on informal settlements entitled 'Self-Made Cities: In Search of Sustainable Solutions for Informal Settlements', and in 2015 jointly with FIG, 'Formalizing the Informal: Challenges and Opportunities of Informal Settlements in South-East Europe'. The 'Guidelines for the Formalization of Informal Constructions' continues the discussion begun by these studies.

Based on the lessons learned from the previous studies, this publication provides general guidance for formalization projects in countries facing the challenge of informal development and is an excellent



example of cooperation between UNECE and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). Such cooperation and exchange of knowledge is an effective way of contributing to the formulation, implementation and monitoring of land policy and the promotion of sustainable land management to more readily achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

## **PROGRAMME**

**Chair:** Mr. Rik Wouters, Netherlands Enterprise Agency & former WPLA, Vice- Chair

### **Welcome/Introduction**

- Ms. Gulnara Roll, UNECE representative
- Prof Rudolf Staiger, FIG President

### **Presentation of the guidelines**

Prof Chryssy Potsiou, Honorary FIG President & WPLA, Vice-Chair

### **Presentation of case studies TBC**

- Mr. Darko Vucetic, Director General of the Republic Geodetic Authority, Head of Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information Management, Republic Geodetic Authority, Republic of Serbia
- Albania
- North Macedonia

### **Q&A/Discussion**

### **Closing**