

**Report to the 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Working Week 2012 in Rome, Italy**

**Task Force on Property and Housing**

**Report of Activities 2011-2012**

**1. Background**

In many countries Surveyors are expected to identify land tools and good governance practices that will facilitate:

- secure access to land and property rights,
  - secure mortgage rights,
  - sustainable housing, housing rights and land market,
  - redevelopment and urban regeneration,
  - energy efficiency and green housing,
- within an unpredictable economic and social environment.

This is characterized by a:

- significant decrease in access to financing,
- immigration and unemployment,
- inner city decay,
- rural urban migration, shrinking of towns and villages,
- corruption and confusion in land and housing regulatory framework,
- increasing housing demand and informal settlements.

The Task Force will investigate challenges and major threats resulting from the current global financial crisis, and identify new role for the surveyor. It will develop awareness, vision and key strategies as well as to investigate tools and techniques around:

- institutional development,
- improvement of coordination of various stakeholders,
- adoption of effective policies,
- land tool development,
- technical tools to support the above

**2. Members**

Chair: Prof. Chryssy Potsiou, FIG Vice President  
Members: Raymond Chan, Hong Kong SAR, China  
Steven Nystrom, USA  
Bozena Lipej, Slovenia  
Winrich Voss, Germany  
Junping Liao (Patrick), China P.R.  
Collins Kowuor, Kenya

The list may be completed with 1-2 members representing different regions and expertise on this topic that relates among others to Commissions 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10

### **3. Output**

FIG publication to be launched at the FIG Congress 2014.

### **4. Progress Report**

- Task Force members have agreed to schedule a brief Workshop (two focused Technical Sessions and meetings) during the FIG Working Week 2012. Invited speakers will provide information on relevant topics. The Rome Workshop will provide the forum for discussion and planning of the coming 2012 focused, joint FIG/UN ECE Conference in Europe, and will finalize the future TF Action Plan, which will include similar Workshops in other regions (e.g., Africa, Latin America, Asia).
- Countries in the greater ECE region are long working on Property and Housing aspects. Many have established denationalization, privatization, property restitution and property registration projects but at the same time most of them face the problem of informal development due to a number of reasons that have been identified through a previous joint FIG/UN ECE Conference in 2007 in Greece; the output of that Conference has encouraged many of these countries to run legalization projects. Currently, there was a strong request expressed by the ECE member states that a follow up Conference should be organized to monitor the progress and to identify the remaining or new weaknesses, especially in the field of affordable planning and affordable housing. During the UN ECE WPLA General Assembly in Geneva in June 2011 FIG TF chair (and members) and UN ECE WPLA bureau have agreed to organize a focused joint Conference on the topic: “Informal Development, Property and Housing: Legalization and Progress”, on the 10 – 14 December 2012. The Workshop will be hosted by the Technical Chamber of Greece, Syntagma Square, Athens, Greece. FIG member Associations and distinguished delegates, members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its member states, the World Bank and other key stakeholders are invited to participate in this Conference hosted by FIG and the UN ECE WPLA. As Greece is currently going through serious structural reforms due to the economic crisis, it is expected that this Conference will be of multiple value and interest. In addition, FIG Commission 3 chair and delegates, during their annual 2011 Workshop in October, in Paris, have decided to join the event and organize the 2012 FIG Commission 3 two days Workshop, that will focus on the relevant SIM technical aspects, prior to the two days FIG TF / UN ECE WPLA Conference. According to the ECE state members’ request, a joint FIG/ UN ECE publication on the topic is planned to follow the Conference.

#### **Prof. Chryssy Potsiou**

Chair, Task Force on Property and Housing

February 2012