

Report to the 43rd General Assembly
 FIG Working Week 2020, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

FIG Commission 8 – Spatial planning and development

Report of Activities 2019

1. General

In a world of **limited resources**, of which land is the most prominent in the domain of spatial planning, the mission of commission 8 is to **provide access** to planning processes **for all** and balance the various interests in pursue of a **sustainable spatial development** at all governance levels both for the **short- and long-term**.

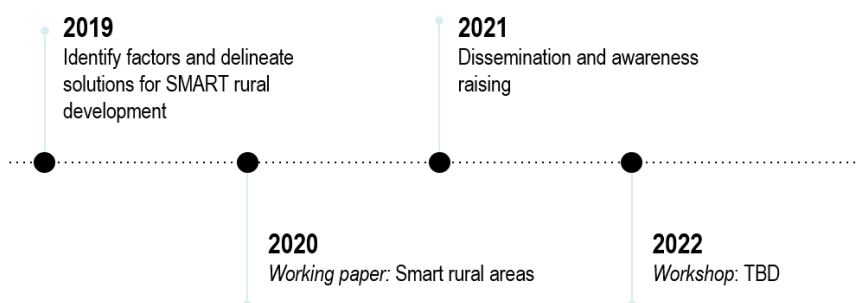


Based on this overall mission statement, the work of commission 8 takes shape in five working groups. The work of the working groups is carried out in addition to the yearly working weeks or four-yearly congress. At the working weeks the sessions in the technical programme play an important role to exchange and discuss latest developments, trends and solutions in the broader field of spatial planning in relation to land administration between professionals, academics and the business.

2. Working Groups

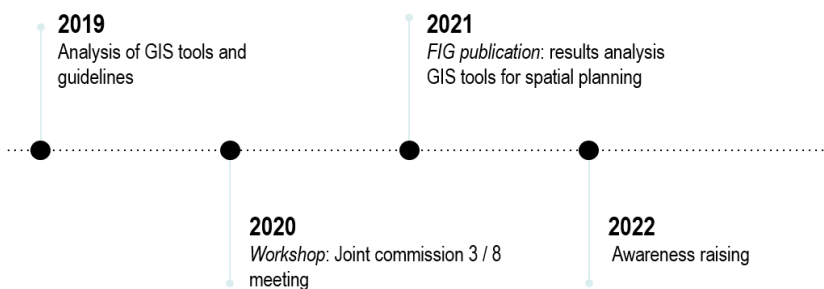
2.1 WG 8.1 Rural – urban dependency

Focus: Rural-urban relations and their dependencies to foster smart and sustainable spatial developments in the urban-rural continuum.



2.2 WG 8.2 GIS tools for spatial planning (joint Working Group with commission 3)

Focus: Available GIS tools for spatial planning, in particular participative processes, to encourage transparent, participatory, and inclusive decision-making.



The first preliminary results have been published (see chapter 5) and will be followed up by a more in-depth investigation.

2.3 WG 8.3 Urban Challenges (joint Working Group with commission 7 and 9)

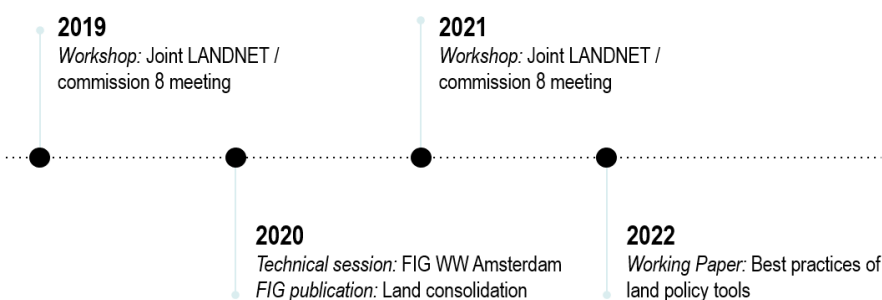
Focus: Urban resilience (social, economic, climate) to improve sustainability in view of rapid urbanization.



A special session at FIG WW 2020 will be held about ‘Creating Sustainable Community with Density – Socio-technical presentations and discussion’ to further elaborate and discuss the topic.

2.4 WG 8.4 Land policy instruments for spatial development

Focus: Available policy instruments that support the implementation of spatial policies or spatial redistribution of land (resources, land use or rights) to foster sustainable spatial development.



The successful joint LANDNET/commission 8 workshop in 2019 was held in Santiago de Compostela (see chapter 4). Activities of the working group take shape around two themes: 1) discussing the possibility for a generic tool for land consolidation and 2) a joint FIG / FAO publication about land consolidation practice.

In preparation of the FIG WW in Amsterdam, three joint FAO-FIG sessions will be organized that link to the activities of working group 8.4.

2.5 WG 8.5 African Water Governance

Focus: Resilience in urbanized areas in Africa from a water governance perspective and the role of surveyors.



The essential elements are to present some current thinking on the following policy issues:

- Scope and analyze current and future challenges in terms of the resilience of water governance (in Africa);
- Investigate the principles of conventional water governance and understand how those principles could be re-configured or aligned with climate change imperatives (in Africa);
- Explore current practices around Africa for managing water resources and combine with climate change predictions and population growth scenarios;
- Investigate and document critical success factors when managing water resources;
- Contribute to the dissemination of good practice in managing water resources for resilience; and
- Propose alternative future scenario strategies for managing water resources and provide guidance to governments, municipalities, communities and professionals on reflecting these potential futures into current practice for sustainable, spatially-informed water governance.

A special session at FIG WW 2020 on ‘Water governance in Africa and beyond’ will be held at FIG WW 2020.

3. Cooperation

Fruitful cooperation with fellow commissions took shape. The first draft of its study ‘GIS tools for participatory planning, an exploratory study on internationally available tools’ was published in 2019. In a joint working group ‘GIS tools for spatial planning’ commission 8 and 3 the preliminary results were presented as well at commissions’ 3 Annual Meeting and Workshop ‘Advances in Geodata Analytics for Smart Cities and Regions’ in Romania and at the joint FIG commission 8 and LANDNET meeting in Galicia, Spain.

Cooperation with LANDNET and FAO takes shape in working group 8.4 among others.

GLTN has reached out to FIG to work on the development of a conceptual framework on urban-rural land linkages. Urban and rural spaces offer different but complementary assets and strengths, and better

integration of development interventions is needed to ensure better socio-economic performance. However, land being central in the development discourse and in the ‘spatial’ aspects of development is not well articulated in the debates nor it features as a key “core” component of urban-rural linkages discourse. There is a need to reverse this situation and the development of a conceptual framework on urban-rural land linkages becomes a necessity. This task will be taken by GLTN professional cluster, in collaboration with partners (e.g. FIG) and key experts and land stakeholders. The work will involve a scoping of existing literature, understanding its relevance to the over-all sustainable development agenda, identifying key challenges as well as potential opportunities, discussions and consultations with experts, and finally, offering a robust conceptual framework. Together with commission 7 and 9 we will form a team to work on this for the upcoming year.

4. Events

Commission 7, 8 and 9 organized a joint masterclass at the Land and Poverty Conference at the World Bank in Washington, 25-29 March 2019. The masterclass focused on the SDG’s and the role of the land professional.

Sustainable Development Goals: Land Governance for Equivalent Living and Working Conditions in Urban and Rural Areas; Qingzhou, China, 16-17 May 2019

How can Land Management in Rural Areas can Contribute to Archive SDG’s; Qingzhou, China, 20-21 May 2019

International Symposium of Space & Future Conference; Shanghai, China, 14-15 June 2019. The spatial planning authorities in China and international guests gathered in Shanghai to discuss the new planning paradigm. At the event, the new spatial planning act and planning paradigm was highlighted by various national and international speakers.



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Joint workshop with commission 3, Romanian surveying week, and Life Sciences for Sustainable Development conference; Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 23-27 September 2019. In a specific session the preliminary results were presented of the joint working group report 'GIS tools for participatory planning, an exploratory study on internationally available tools'.

Workshop 'territorial development – challenges and opportunities'; Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 5-9 November 2019. The event was co-hosted by Agader, FAO and FIG commission 8 with support from GIZ. The workshop was at the same time the 12th International LANDNET workshop. Several strategies and solutions to counteract land abandonment in Galicia, but also elsewhere (Armenia, Turkey, France, Serbia, North Macedonia), were shared and explained. The workshop was part of the activities of working group 8.4 and contributed to the dissemination of good practices for land policy instruments such as land banking and land consolidation to address land abandonment. At this event as well, the preliminary results were presented of the working group 8.2 report 'GIS tools for participatory planning, an exploratory study on internationally available tools'.



5. Communication and publications

With a regular newsletter the FIG community was informed about activities of commission 8. Newsletters are both sent around by email and published on the FIG website on the commissions' webpage. We will keep up this initiative as it is a good way to keep in touch with friends and members of the commission and beyond.

At the very beginning of 2019 FAO published their technical guide on spatial planning and tenure. Commission 8 was, together with other stakeholders, involved in the working group and contributed to the discussion and delivered a casus, which was used in the publication.

The first draft of its study 'GIS tools for participatory planning, an exploratory study on internationally available tools' was published in 2019 as a result of the work carried out by working group 8.2. This will be

followed up in 2020 by the respective working group. Focus will lie on a more in-depth analysis of various promising tools that can be used in a participatory context.

Joint paper at the FIG Working Week 2020 in Amsterdam about the development of generic tooling for land consolidation. Both to share preliminary results and to enhance discussion among stakeholders, we have submitted a paper about the state of the art before the initiative will be finalized. Gathered input can be used to further explore possibilities for a generic, open source tool that can support land consolidation in various situational contexts.

Preparations for a FIG publication about Land Consolidation were started up and will take shape in 2020. The FIG Working Week will be used amongst others to discuss, collect input and get feedback on the initial thoughts and outline. The content aims to support practitioners in the field of land consolidation, both in countries familiar with land consolidation and countries exploring or starting up land consolidation projects to get familiar with the instrument.

6. Other highlights

Preparations for FIG Working Week 2020 in Amsterdam are well underway. Commission 8 received many abstracts from diverse regions. Regarding the topics, we clearly see that over the years more and more abstracts are submitted touching upon the combination of GIS or geo-information and spatial planning. In particular the use of techniques for specific land use planning or spatial analyses take a flight.

A comprehensive tour on Dutch land- and water management will be organized right after the FIG Working Week 2020 to show how water has shaped spatial planning practice and developments in the Netherlands. On this day, Rotterdam municipality, Port of Rotterdam, Radboud University, TU Delft and the Dutch Kadaster join forces to guide you along a number of must-see projects in the field. A detailed programme can be found at the website of the Working Week and on commissions' 8 website under FIG.



FIG's Asia Pacific Capacity Development Network and commission 8 look into the possibility to co-organize an event in the Asia Pacific region in 2020 at the intersection of spatial planning, SDG's, climate change and disasters.