

TRNC Cadastral Renewal and Automation Project

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SUMMARY

The ownership structure in TRNC dates back to the Ottoman Empire which dominated the island between the years 1570-1878. Cyprus came under British rule in 1878. The land classification of the entire island and the first ownership determination maps for tax purposes were worked out in the said period by using such methods as simple triangulation, chain, plane table. The ownership registration system began to be created in the said period as well. Only blueprint copies of the said maps are available, most of which being unusable. There are no measurements, bench marks and coordinate values. Therefore, available map sections are considered as graphic sheets. Since these sheets are the only source at hand, however, cadastral, municipal, urban planning, expropriation and similar studies are being carried out on the basis of these sheets. Therefore, boundary violations have taken place. Land Registration is currently being executed under inappropriate conditions. Although a register of property owner is kept, it is not possible to have access to owner information in a sound manner. With a view to remedying said deficiencies, Protocols were signed from 1998 onwards between the relevant Ministries of TRNC and Turkey, spelling out the principles of working «geared towards renewal». Under a contract awarded by the General Directorate of Land Registry & Cadastre of Turkey at the beginning of 2013, works have commenced, covering up to 25 % of the project, envisaging renewal of 125 thousand parcels in the form of three packages. Duration of the project is 1 year, and estimated cost of the project is approximately USD 5 million. The first stage of the works covering 61 villages has been completed and related announcement has been posted. Related works will be completed in 5 months, and the cadastral maps newly prepared in metric system, digital and certified outputs thereof and the books of real estate registers will be prepared and delivered. Furthermore, CORS-TR system surface network covering TRNC has been created, ensuring conversion from the British Imperial System into universal metric system. The paper covers the said works and the results obtained.