

Thirteenth Plenary Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe

Session 4: Advancing the Global Agenda: UN-GGIM: Europe contributing to the Committee of Experts

Update on Expert Group on Land Administration and Management

By Paula Dijkstra

Co-chair Expert Group on Land Administration and Management



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management

EXPERT GROUP ON
LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

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EG-LAM: What Is It and What Does It Stand For?

UN-GGIM Expert Group on Land Administration

Established in 2015 by the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)



Two Co-Chairs (today is Netherlands and Chile)

UNGGIM Secretariat: Supported today by Aigerim Mussayeva

Objectives

- ▶ Raise political awareness about land administration
- ▶ Promote use of geospatial tools for land administration

How? main scope

Foster global coordination
among land & geospatial
communities

Guidance for effective land
administration

Contribute to SDG land indicators & monitoring



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Membership: who is participating?

Non-Member State

- International Hydrographic Organization
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- UNECE-WPLA
- UN-Habitat-GLTN
- World Bank
- Standards Development Organization (Open Geospatial Consortium)

Non-Member States

- Standards Development Organization (International Organization for Standardization-TC 211)
 - UN-GGIM: Geospatial Societies (International Federation of Surveyors)
- UN-GGIM: Academic Network (University of Melbourne)
- UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network (Esri)
 - UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network (Hexagon Geosystem)

Member States

- Barbados
- Belgium
- Burkina Faso
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Egypt
- Finland
- Germany
- India
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Korea (Republic of)
- Lesotho

Member States

- Mexico
- Morocco
- Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
- Norway
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- State of Palestine
- Suriname
- Sweden
- Tajikistan
- Tonga
- United Kingdom

“In cooperation with the co-Chairs, the Secretariat will coordinate, monitor and report on the activities”

EG-LAM aims to not duplicate effort, but to reach different levels or representation and collaboration specially to support Member States with the coordination with non-member states.

Advocates for United Nations global alignments, which are a reflect of Member States needs and world challenges.

One of goals is to have more member states and organizations, in order to reach the work plan and to have a more representative EG for the benefit of global land administration



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EG-LAM: FELA framework (2020)

FELA Goals	FELA Requirements	FELA Pathways
Transparency and accountability increased	Accountable and transparent governance	Governance, Institutions and Accountability* 
Gender-responsive and inclusive of vulnerable groups	Inclusive and recognizes all forms of tenure	Policy and Legal 
Affordable investments and economic return assured	Affordable with sustainable business models	Financial 
Reliable data and service quality attained	Data maintained, secure and not duplicated	Data 
Responsible and innovation oriented	Upgradable systems and approaches	Innovation 
Interoperability and integration supported	Considers internationally agreed standards	Standards 
Cooperation, partnerships, and participation leveraged	Strengthens partnerships and supports collaboration	Partnerships 
Capacity, capability, knowledge transfer and exchange attained	Facilitates capacity development and knowledge transfer and exchange	Capacity and Education 
National engagement and communication enhanced	Advocates for effective land administration	Advocacy and Awareness* 

Figure 5: Overview of the Goals, Requirements, and Pathways of FELA

*FELA references the nine strategic pathways of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), FELA implements the IGIF for the land sector through its nine pathways as listed above^{66,67}.

FELA, Framework for effective land administration, strategic "umbrella"

Framework for Effective Land Administration
 Framework for developing, reforming, renewing, strengthening, modernizing, and monitoring land administration

Content:
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FELA was designed as a high-level guidance framework — a strategic anchor for governments and institutions to align their land administration efforts toward a shared direction.

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGGM) as the apex intergovernmental body seeks to play the lead role in setting the agenda for global geospatial information management and to promote its use to address key global challenges. UNGGM is the forum to share and coordinate among Member States, and between Member States, international organizations and stakeholders.



Secretariat for the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
 Global Geospatial Information Management Section
 Statistics Division
 Department of Economic and Social Affairs
 United Nations

Framework for Effective Land Administration

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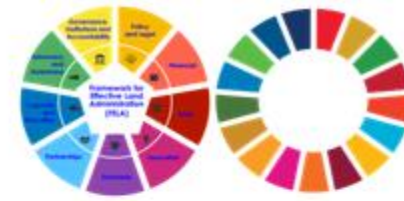
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EG-LAM 2025 – 2026: highlights

20th Virtual

21st Virtual

22nd Virtual

23rd Virtual
Meeting

30 June 2026

6th in Person Meeting

From Frameworks to Practice:
Bridging the Gap in Land
Administration and Management

Cape Town, South Africa
29 – 30 May 2026

Work Plan
2026 - 2029

Proposal for
Hybrid Hub



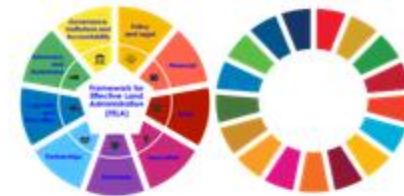
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Sixth Expert Meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management "From Frameworks to Practice: Bridging the Gap in Land Administration and Management"



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Annual sessions

- Sixteenth session
- Fifteenth session
- Fourteenth session
- Thirteenth session
- All past sessions

Overview

- Mandates
- Aims and Objectives
- Bureau
- Regional Committees
- Functional Groups
- Thematic Networks

Quick links



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6th MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT (EG-LAM)

From Frameworks to Practice:
Bridging the Gap in Land Administration and Management

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA | 29 - 30 MAY 2026



Country reports showed progress, but implementation remains uneven.



From country experience to shared action.

WHAT COUNTRIES NEED FROM EG-LAM

- Technical guidance (tools, standards)
- Legal and policy advisory support
- Financing and investment models
- Capacity development (training, education)
- Data infrastructure and technology support
- Implementation roadmaps and practical tools
- Knowledge-sharing platforms
- FELA Hub or support mechanism
- Innovation support (Fit-for-purpose, AI, digital, geospatial)
- International collaboration and partnerships

FELA HUB / SUPPORT MECHANISM



FELA NINE PATHWAYS

1. GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONAL AND ACCOUNTABILITY
2. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK
3. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
4. DATA AND INFORMATION
5. INNOVATION
6. STANDARDS
7. PARTNERSHIPS
8. CAPACITY AND EDUCATION
9. AGENCY AND BUSINESS

WHERE COUNTRIES ARE TODAY



WHERE COUNTRIES WANT TO BE IN 5 YEARS

- Fully interoperable and integrated land information systems
- Advanced digital transformation and innovation
- Accessible, inclusive and equitable services
- Stronger governance and national coordination
- Enhanced data quality, coverage and real-time updating
- Resilient and climate-sensitive land administration systems



1 MAIN GAPS (Across Countries)

- Institutional fragmentation and weak governance
- Insufficient legal and regulatory frameworks
- Limited awareness and operationalisation of FELA
- Data interoperability and standardisation issues
- Financing constraints and sustainability challenges
- Capacity gaps (skills, education, training)
- Technology adoption gaps
- Inclusion and accessibility challenges

OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCELERATE FELA IMPLEMENTATION

- Digital transformation and innovation (AI, cloud, mobile, GIS)
- Strengthening geospatial infrastructure and NSDI
- Legal and policy reforms
- Regional and international collaboration & knowledge exchange
- Public-private partnerships and financing models
- Capacity development and awareness raising
- Community engagement and inclusiveness
- Fit-for-purpose approaches, UN-16IF alignment, VGGT & SDGs

COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS



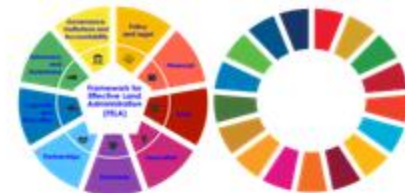
EG-LAM WORKPLAN 2026-2029 (Five Focus Areas)

1. LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY
2. FELA DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT
3. ENGAGEMENT, COLLABORATION, COMMUNICATION AND DOCUMENTATION
4. GOVERNANCE, MEMBERSHIP AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING
5. STANDARDIZATION, DATA, TECHNOLOGY, STANDARDS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

WAY FORWARD

- Refine the Hub proposal (function first)
- Finalize the EG-LAM Workplan 2026-2029 with prioritized activities
- Develop practical tools: diagnostics, roadmaps, technical briefs, case studies
- Strengthen partnerships and resource mobilization
- Report to the 16th session of UN-GGIM

FRAMEWORKS BECOME REAL WHEN COUNTRIES CAN IMPLEMENT THEM.



PROPOSAL of Work Plan 2026–2029

Five Strategic Focus Areas

1. Leadership & Advocacy in Land Administration

Raise awareness of the link between land governance, SDGs, climate action and resilience among decision-makers at global and regional levels.

Support countries to navigate and use UN resources coherently, without duplicating their mandates.

2. FELA Development & Implementation support

Update the FELA document to reflect emerging priorities (climate, digitalization, indigenous rights, data standards).

3. Engagement, Collaboration, Communication and Documentation

Support initiatives to improve land administration implementation.

Ensure wide availability of international land administration guidance (a.o. FELA, LADM, SDG land statistics).

Ensure EG-LAM governance documents reflect the current mandate and operational context.

4. Governance, Membership and Institutional Strengthening

Ensure a diverse, representative Expert Group with balanced participation across regions, sectors and underrepresented groups.

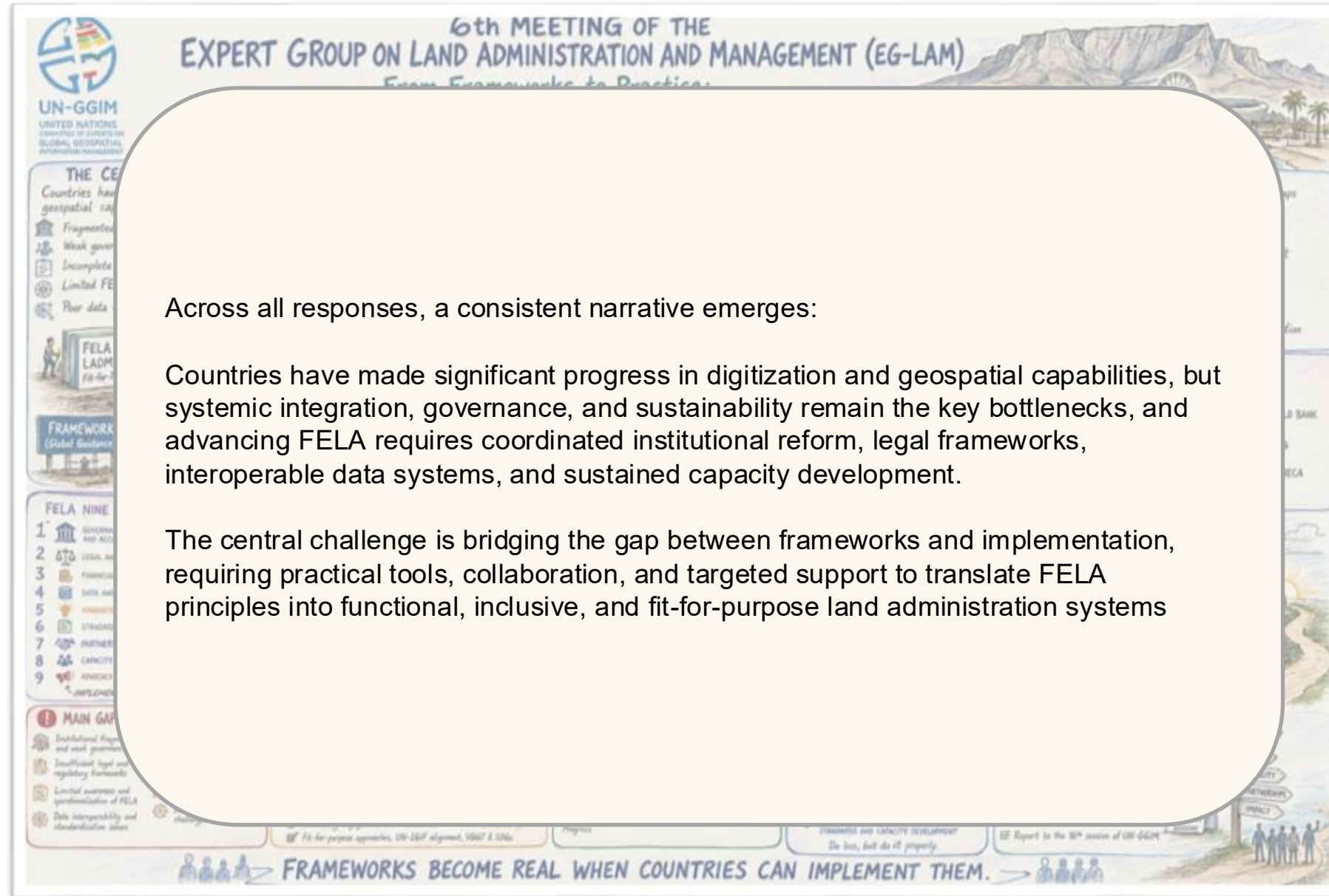
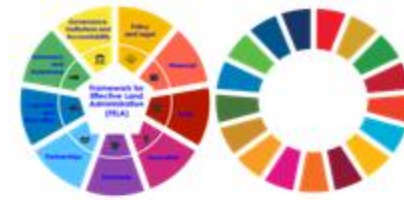
5. Innovation, Data, Technology, Standards and Capacity Building

Promote integration of geodetic data, marine domains and open cadastral mapping for resilience and sustainable development.

To expand access to land data by promoting transparent, openly available cadastral information that countries can use to strengthen their land administration systems.

Contribute to a repository of case studies and operational evidence





EG-LAM, a pending challenge to implement effective land administration elements

I. Five years to go: the reality of SDG progress

1

EG-LAM's mandate is high-level and policy-oriented by design — focused on recommendations, not implementation. This is intentional, but it is a natural gap.

2

Evidence confirms this gap is real. Through the 15th session of UNGGIM, intersectoral meetings, regional committees and UN SDG reports.

3

There are no mechanisms within EG-LAM's current scope to provide direct technical support or implementation assistance to countries.

In this context, last year, the “Hybrid Hub” was proposed — and widely supported by Member States.

This reflects a clear and urgent demand for resources that translate recommendations into action and help countries achieve progress in effective land administration, and as a response, FELA goals.

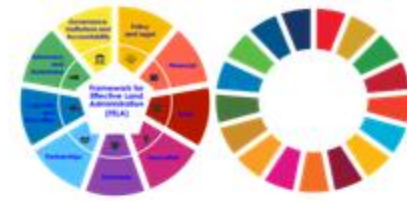
The idea of the HUB remains a proposal with an evident need but with no official resources yet.

If agreed, one following stage could be that EG-LAM works on the justification case and identify investment sources to move it forward.



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Proposal for an Operationalization Hub for Effective Land Administration



The proposed Operationalization Hub for Effective Land Administration would serve as a network-based and **implementation-oriented support mechanism**. It would not create new policy frameworks, establish a separate institution or duplicate the work of existing organizations.

The value of the Hub would lie in helping countries **access, understand and apply existing global and regional instruments**, including FELA and related guidance, in a coordinated, country-driven and context-specific manner.

The Hub would **connect** countries with relevant **expertise, tools, training opportunities, case studies, partners and resources**, and provide a **feedback mechanism** to support the **continued updating and operationalization of FELA** based on country experiences and lessons learned.



The Hub could focus on the following roles 1/2

1

Support country-level implementation

The Hub would help countries apply global and regional guidance on effective land administration in practical and context-specific ways. This could include supporting national assessments, identifying gaps, preparing action plans, and connecting countries with technical expertise and relevant partners.

2

Develop practical tools and templates

The Hub could prepare implementation-ready resources, such as checklists, assessment tools, workflows, case study templates, institutional mapping tools, training materials and guidance notes. These would help countries operationalize FELA, LADM, FFPLA and other relevant approaches.

3

Provide capacity development and training

The Hub would organize workshops, webinars, technical support sessions and peer-learning sessions on priority topics, such as fit-for-purpose land administration, land data interoperability, standards, legal and institutional arrangements, geodetic foundations, valuation, tenure security and digital transformation.

4

Facilitate knowledge exchange and good practices

The Hub would collect and share country examples, lessons learned, implementation challenges and successful models. It could serve as a knowledge platform where Member States and partners can access practical experiences from different regions.



The Hub could focus on the following roles 2/2

5

Connect policy, technical and institutional communities

The Hub creates a platform that brings together land administration authorities, geospatial agencies, statistical offices, legal and other land experts, academia, private sector and development partners. This would support more integrated approaches to land administration and geospatial information management.

6

Support innovation and digital transformation

The Hub could promote the use of emerging technologies, digital cadastral systems, geospatial data integration, cloud platforms, AI, remote sensing, drones and other tools where appropriate, while ensuring that innovation remains linked to governance, inclusion, standards and national priorities.

7

Strengthen partnerships and coordination

The Hub would help coordinate collaboration with relevant partners, including UN-GGIM regional committees, UN-GGCE, UN-GGKIC, FAO, UN-Habitat/GLTN, the World Bank, FIG, ISO, OGC and other organizations working on land administration.

8

Support the work of EG-LAM

The Hub would serve as a practical mechanism to support the operationalization of the work of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management. It would help translate the Expert Group's guidance, workplans and decisions into concrete activities, tools, capacity development materials and implementation support for Member States.

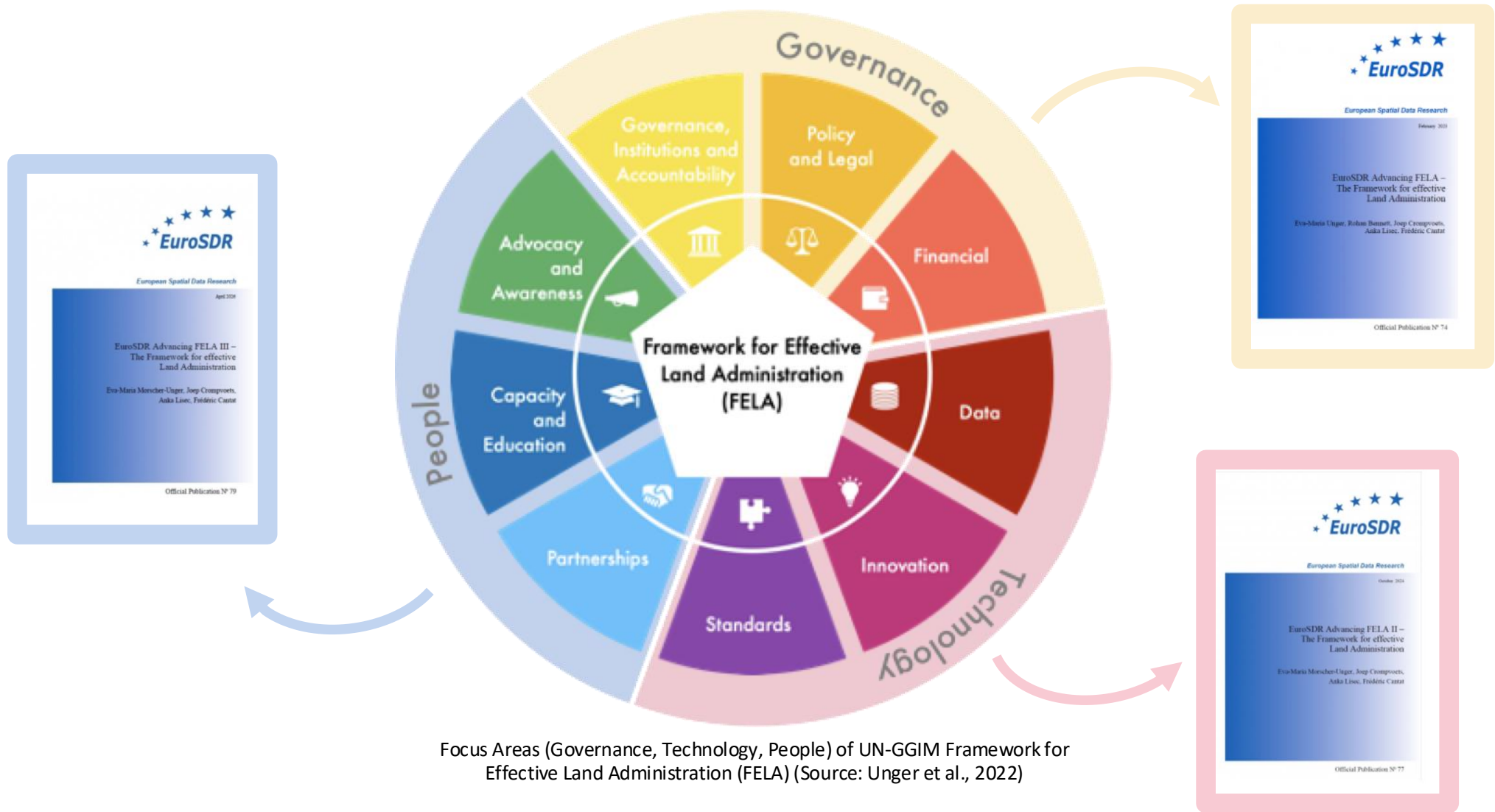


EuroSDR, with the support of UN-GGIM Europe, UN-GGIM EG-LAM, and EuroGeographics, initiated a small project to raise awareness of the merits and benefits of effective land administration.

Start date: 01/05/2022

End date: 30/04/2026

<https://www.eurosdrr.net/research/project/effective-land-administration-framework>



Focus Areas (Governance, Technology, People) of UN-GGIM Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) (Source: Unger et al., 2022)

- Aim: to create an **overview of the different stages of awareness and uptake** of the FELA by the Members of EuroSDR and/or UN-GGIM Europe
- Done by **converting the FELA framework into a series of questions**
- Each FELA strategic pathway question set **mix of quantitative and qualitative data**
- Questions were created **based on insights** provided through the development of the FELA, as well as the specific context and discussions during the various EG-LAM meetings
- Survey included **both closed and open-ended questions**
 - Closed-ended question provided multiple choice answer options
 - Open-ended questions provided for **more in-depth insights** at a country-specific level



EuroSDR Project – Workshop Summary

European Spatial Data Research



European Spatial Data Research

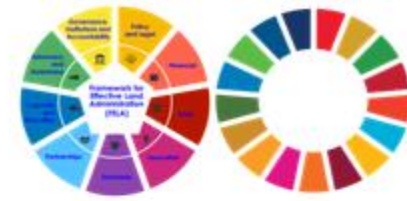
November 2025

Challenges in Relation to the UN Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA)

EuroSDR International Workshop hosted by IGN France
with the support of UN-GGIM: Europe and EuroGeographics
June 16th-17th 2025, Saint-Mandé, France

Frédéric Cantat, Eva-Maria Morscher-Unger,
Anka Lisec, Martijn Rijdsdijk, Kees De Zeeuw,
Nick Land, Vents Priedoliņš, Elisabeth Leblanc,
Joep Crompvoets, Paula Dijkstra

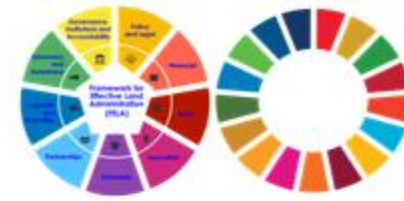
Official Workshop Report



EG-LAM at the 16th Session

- 9th July, webinar on “Harnessing data for Land management and Housing”
- 4th of August “Policy and technical development at Land & Sea”
- Agenda Item #12. Integrated geospatial information for effective land administration and management.
 - Provide guidance on the implementation of the work plan 2026-2029
 - Provide views and guidance on the update of FELA
 - Express views and provide guidance on the proposal for the hybrid hub on land administration
 - Invited to consider joining and actively contributing to the Expert Group, particularly in support of the implementation of the proposed workplan and the continued development of FELA.





Sustainable development demands effective land administration



Thank you

Source: Unger, E.-M., & Bennett, R. (2020). *Fit-For-Purpose land administration for all: A guide for surveyors on adoption and adaptation of Fit-For-Purpose land administration*. Kadaster International. <https://www.kadaster.com/documents/3578172/3668784/Fit-For-Purpose+Land+Administration+for+All.pdf>



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