

Report to the 27th General Assembly
FIG Working Week in Athens May 2004

**FIG Commission 3 – Spatial Information Management
Report of Activities 2003 – 2004**

1. General

Commission 3 aims at:

- Management of spatial information including related processes, procedures and resources supported by legal aspects and standardization;
- Management and transfer of knowledge and skills needed for SIM;
- Impacts on organizational structure, business models, professional practice and administration;
- Management of spatial information supporting environment protection, sustainable development and poverty reduction.
- Awareness to successful SIM by showing good practice like reliable spatial information for better decision making.
- Use of SIM-tools for citizens to support the goals of participatory democracy.
- Share good practice on managerial processes and infrastructure needed for handling data, using information and distributing knowledge.
- Encouraging decision-makers for a more extensive use of spatial information especially within good e-government and e-commerce.

2. Commission 3 in line with the work plan 2002–2006

FIG Commission 3 followed the accepted work plan which emphasis on inter-commission activities and interdisciplinary cooperation. Commission 3 fully committed to two pillars: The inter-commission activities and the interdisciplinary cooperation can be seen on following results:

- Joint Workshop of UN/ECE-WPLA, FIG Commission3 and FIG Commission 7 on "Spatial Information Management for Sustainable Real Estate Market – Best Practice Guidelines in Nationwide Land Administration“. This conference was held in Greece in June 2003. Chryssy Potsiou, Chair of FIG WG 3.3 organised this joint FIG – UN/ECE-WPLA activity.
- Commission 3 supports the FIG-concept of a strengthened regional expansion and balance. This can be seen by combining the Commission 3 Annual Meeting 2003 to the FIG-Regional Conference in Morocco.
- Commission 3 contributes to Spatial Information Infrastructure which is considered as a wider approach as spatial data infrastructure. The contacts to GSDI will result in a joint FIG-GSDI-Working Week 2005 in Cairo.
- Joint Commission activities on “Cost Effective Surveying Technology and Techniques” resulted in a Joint Working Group of Commissions 3, 5 and 7 on this topic.
- Multi-institutional cooperation on “Urban-Rural Interrelation” with the objective of a common publication. The kick-off-meeting for the preparation of such a publication (“Marrakech Declaration”) was held in Marrakech in December 2003 and headed by the Chair of Commission 3 (Gerhard Muggenhuber). Rob Mahoney, UK delegate of Commission 3, prepared the conceptual structure of this publication which is in progress.

3. Conference participations of Commission 3 members on behalf of FIG Council

- Reinfried Mansberger, Vice-Chair of Administration of FIG Commission 3, presented FIG as an observer at the 3rd Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN/ECA) at UN Conference Centre, Addis Ababa May 12-16, 2003 (www.fig.net/figtree/news/news_2003/CODI_III_2003.htm).
- Keith Murray, Chair of Commission 3 Working Group 3.2, attended the 21st International Cartographic Conference of the International Cartographic Association (ICA), 10-16 August 2003 in Durban, South Africa.
- Erwin Heine, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Surveying, Remote Sensing and Land Information at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Vienna (BOKU Wien) represented FIG at the Second International Conference on GIS in Bogotá, Colombia September, 24-26, 2003 (www.fig.net/figtree/news/news_2003/colombia_2003.htm.)

4. Activities of Working Groups

Commission 3 Working Groups (WG) are focusing on essential contributions of spatial information for sustainable development. The activities for achieving this goal are on a national as well as on an international level, namely

- Contributions to the topic “*e-Government and SIM*”,
- The clarification of needed “*SIM infrastructure*” for GSDI,
- The sharing of experiences of best practice concerning „*State of the art of SIM*“.

The Joint WG on “*Knowledge in SIM*” provides the overarching principle for sharing and transferring knowledge achieved.

WG 3.1: e-Government and e-Citizen

Chair: Mrs. Kari Strande (Norway)

In many countries there is a rapidly development going on now in the e-government field. During Athens WW a session on **Policy: e-Commerce + e-Governance = Future** and a special WG3.1 meeting will focus on that topic.

WG3.1 members encouraged people to make presentations at various conferences with good examples of e-government programmes where GI is an essential component. WG3.1 has been looking into various GI distributing programmes that are using the new wms as tools. The European council conclusions on e-government and the e-content program provide good practiced on e-Government and e-Citizen.

WG 3.2: SIM infrastructure

Chair: Mr. Keith Murray (UK)

A milestone in the work of WG3.2 ‘**SIM infrastructure**’ is the conference on *Impacts of Improving the Positional Accuracy of GI Databases*, in Dublin, on 5th to 7th May, 2004, which was organized by EuroSDR jointly with WG3.2 (see also www.dit.ie/eurocdr).

WG 3.3: State of the art of SIM

Chair: Mrs. Chryssy Potsiou (Greece)

1. The WG 3.3 web inventory is installed and updated. At the FIG WW 2003 the chair of WG 3.3 informed about this work in the paper "Collection, standardization, visualization and knowledge sharing of information about NSDI activity in various countries".
2. Inter-commission activity and cooperation with sister organization was developed by:
 - a. A joint workshop, held in Athens in May 2003, which focused on Commission 3 and Commission 7 issues. The workshop was sponsored by the Technical Chamber of Greece and the Hellenic Association of Rural and Surveying Engineers. Twenty nine countries participated with 177 participants. 41 papers were presented. A full report of the workshop is available in a Power Point presentation. The resolutions constitute a basis for the updating of the UN "Guidelines on Land Administration". Spatial Information Management issues will be included into the new version.
 - b. Contribution to the UN/ECE WPLA publication "Guidelines for Real Estate Units and Identifiers". This text is supposed to give detailed information about the existing variety in recording the spatial information in the cadastral systems and give advice and guidelines that could help towards the harmonization of spatial information systems in the various countries in the future.
3. The next steps of WG 3.3 are:
 - a. to activate persons within the COM3-community to contribute to the web inventory
 - b. to improve the webinventory by cooperating with other commissions.
 - c. to work for the joint "Low cost" activity with other delegates and prepare the paper for FIGWW 2004 "Challenges of Providing Spatial Data to Developing Countries"
 - d. to work also for the Inter-Commission activity for "informal settlements".
 - e. WG3 will improve cooperation with ISPRS – also by presenting a paper at ISPRS Congress 2004 in Istanbul: "Informal settlements in Greece: The Mystery of Missing Information and the Difficulty of their Integration into a Legal Framework".
 - f. Contribution to the 'Marrakech declaration' and to the joint work for "risk assessment issues".
 - g. The ongoing close cooperation with the UN-ECE-WPLA is promising, as Mrs. Potsiou, chair of WG 3.3, was elected as member of the WPLA bureau.

Joint WG 2.4 (Com2&3) - Knowledge Transfer in SIM

Co-chair from Commission 3: Mr. Mohammed Timoulali (Morocco)

Commission 3 co-sponsored and contributed to GIS Summer School (GISS) that was organised by University of West Hungary, College of Geoinformatics (Bela Markus) in August 2003 in Szekesfehervar, Hungary, with lectures and practical training contributed by Commission 3 (Gerhard Muggenhuber, Reinfried Mansberger) and Commission 7 (Paul van der Molen).

GISS gathered about 50 students and 10 tutors in Székesfehérvár, in one of Hungary's historical towns. The international group of students decided to spend 5 days dealing with GIS applications in Land Management, land administration, cadastre, land use planning, land consolidation, land development, data integration, change detection and analysis, environmental management and nature protection. Special emphasis was given to the impacts of the EU accession.



The wide spectrum of topics, which of course can not be covered in 5 days, so the GISS carefully divided the students into four working groups. These were:

- WG1: Land Administration and Cadastre
- WG2: Land Management and Rural Development
- WG3: GeoInformation in Nature Protection
- WG4: Lands and Mapping - Impact of the EU accession

Based on cooperation with other WG and other Commissions this WG will :

- Develop methods and share experience on **education, training in SIM**
- Develop a position paper on a regional approach for a NSDI.

Inter-Commission Activity of Commissions 7 & 3 “3D-Cadaster”

Co-chair from Commission 3: Prof. Yerach Doytsher (Israel)

From Commission 3 point of view 3D-Cadaster is a milestone towards a multidimensional (spatial and multi-temporal) information management. The WG intends to publish during the 2006 Congress in Munich a FIG publication on guidelines to establish a 3D Cadastre, addressing legal, technical and institutional issues. Several papers at the WW in Athens are focusing on the multidimensional approach summarized up to now under “3D Cadastre”.

5. Communication

Commission 3 Vice-Chair for Administration and Information, Reinfried Mansberger, updates regularly the Commission 3 website. This website recently was adjusted to the design of the official FIG Homepage and transferred to the FIG-server with the active support from FIG Office. At the beginning of February Commission 3 published the *Electronic Newsletter 2004-1 on CD*. This CD – the third in this working period - contains relevant information (publications, papers, pictures, persons, links etc.) on Commission activities. The CD was compiled, published and delivered to approximately 350 persons, including the national delegates, correspondents and friends of Commission 3 all over the world with the support of BEV-Austria, the Austrian Society of Surveying and Geoinformation, the University of Applied Life Sciences and Natural Recourses Vienna, and the FIG office. The feedback from recipients proves that access to information is still a critical issue in a lot of countries, where access to Internet is expensive or slow. Therefore Commission 3 will continue this publication.

Commission 3 tries to keep the network of delegates, correspondents and friends of the Commission.

Gerhard Muggenhuber

Chair, FIG Commission 3