

# Field Course in Røst, Lofoten, Northern Norway

Arve LEIKNES, Norway

**Key words:** Cadastre, surveying, boundary marks, land consolidation, landowner, research, education, field course

## SUMMARY

*Students and Academic Staff from Western Norway University of Applied Sciences have the last 4 years participated in a project with municipalities in the Northern Part of Norway to find a way of improving the quality of the Norwegian Cadastral Map. This presentation will be about the challenges and impacts of having a field course for 30-40 students far away from Campus. The extended abstract will give an overview of how to handle high costs for the University and the other stakeholders. The presentation will give an overview of the impact on the students, the landowners, and the municipality.*

Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL) has had the pleasure to arrange field courses in cadastral surveying in Røst in Lofoten for 4 years. The project started as an initiative from Røst, Værøy, Bodø Municipalities in collaboration with the Norwegian Mapping Authority and HVL. We had funding from the County Level the first 2 years. For the last 2 years Røst Municipality and HVL has used own funding to make the field course possible.

The aim of the project and the field course has been improving the Cadastral Map in combination with giving our students learning outcomes described in our course guidelines in the University. Students and staff from HVL are working together with the local Cadastral Authority in Røst Municipality, the Mapping Authority and Landowners at Røst to describe the correct cadastral situation.

The University must organize and pay travel costs and expenditure on food at Røst. The total amount for 45 persons is around EUR 30000. Røst municipality organizes and pays the costs for accommodation. Both the organizing and the cost are a challenge for the University. Our university has budget challenges. However, so far, we have considered that it is better to have a compressed field course in one week than an alternative course with lower costs, but maybe without contact with Landowners and Cadastral Authorities. And we are still able to handle the costs.

Our students must travel from Bergen to Røst by plane and ferry. The total travel time is approximately one day each way (2 hours flight Bergen-Bodø and 5 hours ferry crossing Vestfjorden).

They must be away from home, family, and friends in Bergen for one week. This may be challenging for students with children and other family issues.

Røst is a small island with almost 500 inhabitants. When our students and staff arrive Røst the number of people in the small island increases with 10 %: People of Røst are used to variations because in the best months of fisheries, the number of people in Røst increases for maybe 2-4 months with 20 visitors per permanent resident. Companies of Røst are important suppliers of Stockfish especially to Italy.

The quality of the Cadastral Map has been improved after 4 years at Røst. We have surveyed over 100 parcels and the Map is complete and with high accuracy in parts of the Municipality.

This year we have been working on Lyngvær Island. On Lyngvær the Cadastral Map showed no boundaries when we started working. The number of properties in Lyngvær is around 20 and the number of owners is around 35.

Many Boundaries and Boundary Marks are described in old documents. Based on experience from the previous years, we were sure that it would be possible to clarify at least some of the Boundaries. After working in the field with Landowners and students, we had a cadastral Map for all the properties. We have not found all Boundary marks, but we have a Map that is more correct than prior to the field course. And we have found and surveyed many Boundary marks.

The Landowners are satisfied, and they give trust to the process and the Land surveyors involved. The Municipality is satisfied and a more complete map may give possibilities for further development of Lyngvær Island. The Land Use Plans in Røst show a possible new harbour on Lyngvær.

The students had a good time in Røst. They were very motivated. Despite stormy weather 2-3 days of the week, they were out working all day. They enjoyed the work together with the Landowners and the Land surveyors.

For our Academic Staff is this an opportunity to work together with the Cadastral Authorities in both Municipality and State Levels. It is interesting to improve the Cadastral Map as a part of our education and research. This year a professor in Philosophy and Ethics from our University followed the work. He summarized at the end of the Field Course and had an interesting discussion with Staff and students.

The conclusion after another field course in Røst is that this gives good learning outcomes for students. Probably the contact with real life contributes to make the students good Land surveyors. We hope it will be possible to continue with field courses like this in the coming years.