

Use of Cadastral Data in Recovery from Disaster – Quality Issues

Leiv Bjarte Mjøs (Norway)

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SUMMARY

While neighboring countries and other countries in Northern Europe with German style cadastral system established nationwide cadastral maps in the 1800s and even earlier, the first attempt to conduct a cadastral survey starting in 1804-05, was stopped in Norway in 1815. In rural areas in Norway boundary descriptions was based on written descriptions up to 1980, by lay-men. After the second world war there was increased focus on issues of land planning and control, and the lack of proper maps for this became apparent. This triggered the economic survey that should be carried out throughout the 1960s and 70s and well into the 80s. The economic survey should cover most of the area of the Norwegian mainland below the timberland, i.e. half of the Norwegian mainland territory. The economic mapping was based on photogrammetric methods and with no systematic adjudication process nor approval of registered property boundaries from the land owners. It is estimated that less than 50% of the boundaries were demarcated and registered in the economic mapping. Nationwide cadastral surveying was introduced in 1980, as a response to the needs for updating the new cadastral maps. The responsibility to conduct cadastral surveys was assigned the municipalities, but with no governmental initiative to establish a corps of authorised cadastral surveyors. The responsibility to ensure the surveyors competence became the responsibility of the individual municipality. The result is that today there are major quality problems in the cadastre especially concerning boundaries in many areas. The paper discusses what quality issues there are in the Norwegian cadastral system, and what limitations this leads to in respect of the cadastre being a tool for recovery from disaster.