

## Results of Central European Land Knowledge Center, CELK, activities

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## Introduction

- Formally established in January 2003 in Budapest, Hungary
- Its establishment occurred in conformity with a letter of agreement between the World Bank and the Government of the Republic of Hungary
- Property rights and Land Market Development Project for EU candidate and Balkan countries
- Under the two years project, World Bank granted Hungary a USD 390 000 institutional development fund
- The Hungarian Government through Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is co-financing the project through budget

## Background

- Three international conferences in Vienna 1998-2000 sponsored by Government of Austria, UN/ECE the European Commission and World Bank on the issue of real property rights and land market development
  - Decision to establish a Regional Center to serve as a knowledge management institution concerning
  - Secure land tenure regimes
  - Real property rights
  - Land market development

In the region

## The Region



## Problems in the Region

- Several project to develop, modernising land administration infrastructure, not always successful
- No information flow between countries concerning land administration matters
- No database about information regarding land and real estate property issues
- Professionals from Central Eastern European countries have no involvement in international projects in the region

## Mission Statement

**Mission Statement**

- The Center mission is to serve Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries as a regional knowledge management, dissemination and advisory center.
- The Center assists these countries to secure functioning land tenure regimes, support sound land market development and improve sustainable land management.

## The role of the Celk Center- General Objectives

- To operate as a knowledge management center on land tenure regimes, land market and land management issues.
- To provide technical assistance and advice for beneficiary countries concerning relevant policies, strategies, programs and projects. To become an acknowledged and sustainable Regional Center of Excellence supported by the beneficiary countries.



## Activities of CELK Center



- Establishment of the Center 1st. February 2003
  1. Managerial and organizational developments
  2. professional activities

## Management and organizational developments

- **Organizational actives**
  - Establishment of a formal organizational structure
  - Financial model and its practical implementation
- **Operational tasks**
  - Creation of the operational structure for the office
  - Establishment of a practical daily work schedule
  - Development of the infrastructure
  - Staff development
- **Financial tasks**
  - Due to the complicated organizational structure, setting up the practical financial working model was a complicated task

## PROFESSIONAL activities

- The main tasks of the Center is to achieve its goals during the two years period through professional activities
- Strategic plan September 2003
- Start to establish the database structure, information data collection, establishing strong network of professionals at the end of 2003

## Database-Knowledge management

- Information Center on Land Market and Real Property Rights issues
- The reason for creation of the knowledge base is to collect independent public digital data that provide partial solutions to various problems, establish connection between them, synthesize and organize them and publish these data

## Several steps were carried out

- Determine the information collection fields
- Design the database structure
- Systematic data collection process and upload the data
- Design the web-based database search interface
- Connections were established for future sources of specific data from the beneficiary countries

### As a result of activities, interested parties provided data to ensure an overall picture of the region

Information already collected and the Center

- has the accurate organizational structure on land related issues
- has the most updated contact and expert database on land related matters. Based on that the Center can carry out the most effective information dissemination, market researches or can prepare relevant invitation list for events
- can provide information on projects and news from the region
- has the Land Market overview of the region

### To fulfil all the goals the Center needs to further build capacity

- Use of the expert database is an important step for self sustainability
- The local experts are needed from most eastern, from the current beneficiary region
- An important role for the Center can be to identify relevant experts for the right regions, identify relevant projects at the right time

## NETWORKING

- Build up a network of experts and land related organizations
- Direct contact
- Dissemination of the most relevant information from the beneficiary countries, the biggest demand is for (out of the centers' services) networking
- The most important activity is to build connections within the region and to perform country visits

### The steps that were carried out within the task

- preparation and performance of contact-building visits to the governmental land administration agencies of the beneficiary countries
- continuous and direct contact with all institutes' representatives
- Organizing networking workshops on land related issues
- Mapping the organizational structure of the land market model in each country

Participating on various professional forums is an excellent method for networking

Organization of professional meetings will be one of the Centers' main fields of services in the future

Center would focus on the actual needs of beneficiary countries

## Training, education

- market research : demand for land related education for professionals
- organizing workshops
- facilitating trainings, summer schools
- disseminating information about available educational programs

## Direct knowledge transfer

- The Center has organized 7 events to gain and disseminate information to strengthen the personal and institutional connections
- **Most important events**
  - project launching workshop Budapest February 2003  
17 countries, 75 participants
  - Visibility workshop Budapest October 2003  
17 countries, 75 participants
  - FAO Land Tenure Conference, Budapest November 2003  
12 countries, 39 participants
  - Digital Geographical Data Conference, Budapest April 2004  
19 countries, 121 participants

## Web based knowledge pool developing and related activities

- Data acquisition (questionnaires, internet data mining, etc.)
- Data organization into databases (filtering, linking, etc.)
- Providing intelligent data entry and superfast searching possibilities
- Land related e-contact providing via web (documents, contracts, projects, events)

## Technology behind the services

- The strength of these database is the IKON software, developed by GTZ
- The intelligent data entry and superfast searching is based on the principle of Fingerprinting
- The basis of this fingerprint procedure is a thesaurus or more exactly an ontology
- A thesaurus is a specialized vocabulary of a particular topic such as land registration
- **Cross language networking**
  - The thesaurus can be developed in different languages
  - It offers the possibility that users can do their searches in their own languages

## Land market knowledge portal and database

- Contact and expert database : 1 986 records
- Organisation database: 1105 records
- Document database : 1459 records
- Portal database : 74 records
- Project database : 41 records
- Event database : 173 records

## Project participation and co-ordination

- **Rationale**
  - Tender possibilities might be a way for CELK's sustainability
  - Projects carried out by acknowledged experts provide the deepest and most proper knowledge
    - The best way of knowledge dissemination is education of which different form can be performed also within projects

## Project participation activities

- Monitoring the actual needs and problems to be fulfilled and solved within a framework of a project
- Establishing a relevant team of experts for given need
- Taking part in the fund raising for the projects
- Providing the information flow by CELK's knowledge management services
  - \* Organizing project events
  - \* Informing people on the developments via CELK Portal
  - \* Disseminating the results

## Project proposals

- Promoting land market mobility in CEE countries
- Educational cooperation
- Setting up information system for Land Management
- Land Tenure Database Development

## Acknowledgement

- CELK Center must be acknowledged by the land administration organisations from the beneficiary countries
- The Center serves equally all of the beneficiary countries
- The CELK Center and the project is financed for two years only, to extend the project new partners, donors are needed
- The Center is looking for new supports, sponsors -private companies, donor organisations, others-finding long term interests in the land and property related activities in the region

THANK YOU

[www.celk.org](http://www.celk.org)