Commission 7

News Brief

Quarter 4 2025

Welcome

Welcome to the Q4 2025 edition of the FIG Commission 7 News Brief!

This quarter marks an **exciting close to the year**, with major achievements and forward-looking plans for 2026. From our successful Annual Meeting in Florianópolis, Brazil, to progress across all Working Groups, and preparations for the FIG Congress in Cape Townand our Annual Meeting in Istanbul, Commission 7 continues to lead global conversations on land administration and cadastre.

In this edition, you'll find:

• Highlights from the Florianópolis meeting

• Updates from each Working Group

• Key dates for Cape Town and Istanbul

• Opportunities to stay connected and engaged

Thank you for your continued support and contributions. Together, we are shaping a more inclusive, resilient, and innovative future for land administration worldwide.

What is in **this edition**?

- Highlights from the **Annual Meeting** in Florianópolis, Brazil
- **Chair's Message** – Reflections and Looking Ahead
- Updates from all **Working Groups**
- **Cape Town 2026** – FIG Congress: Registration and Sessions
- Annual Meeting **2026 in Istanbul** – First Announcement
- **Season's Greetings** from Commission 7
- How to **Stay Connected**

Chair's Message

Dear Commission 7 colleagues and friends,

As 2025 draws to a close, I want to thank each of you for your energy, ideas, and commitment throughout this year. Together, we've achieved significant milestones—from the vibrant sessions at the Brisbane Working Week to our first-ever Annual Meeting in Brazil, which brought 265 participants from 21 countries into a dynamic dialogue on Integrated Land Administration for Climate Resilience.

The Florianópolis meeting showcased the strength of our community: technical depth, global collaboration, and a shared vision for innovation. The hybrid format allowed us to connect across continents, and the discussions on FELA, FFPLA, LADM/3D, and Women's Access to Land reaffirmed our leadership in shaping the future of land administration.

Looking ahead to 2026, we have two major opportunities to continue this momentum, and round-out the 2023-26 period:

FIG Congress in Cape Town (May 2026) – with Commission 7 hosting multiple core and joint sessions, plus a pre-event with Commission 9 on value, tenure, and technology.

Annual Meeting in Istanbul (October 2026) – a joint event with Commission 9 and UNECE WPLA, promising rich technical exchange and cultural experiences.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's keep pushing boundaries, sharing knowledge, and building systems that deliver security, sustainability, and equity for all.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a successful year ahead!

Rohan Bennett
Chair, FIG Commission 7

FIG C7 AM 2025 - Wrap Up

Our f**irst-ever Commission 7 Annual Meeting in Brazil** was held from 3–5 November 2025 in the vibrant city of Florianópolis. Hosted by the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), the event brought together 265 participants from 21 countries, creating a truly global platform for knowledge exchange.

The meeting was part of a joint international conference that included the **13th LADM & 3D Land Administration Workshop, sessions from Commission 8, and contributions from UN-Habitat's STDM initiative**. The overarching theme—"Integrated Land Administration for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development"—set the tone for three days of technical depth and collaborative dialogue.

Highlights included:

- Opening Ceremony with institutional leaders and international experts
- Five keynote lectures addressing innovation, governance, and resilience
- 36 oral presentations and 40 posters, covering topics from FELA and FFPLA to AI in land administration
- A closing roundtable on integrating science, technology, and policy for sustainable land governance
- Networking sessions and an Esri-sponsored social event, fostering partnerships across academia, government, and industry

The conference also featured the publication of proceedings, now available online, and recognized outstanding contributions through Best Paper and Poster Awards.

For more details and access to the proceedings:

- https://figbrasil.paginas.ufsc.br/en/
- https://ojs.sites.ufsc.br/index.php/fig/issue/archive

Florianópolis set a new benchmark for Commission 7 events—combining technical excellence, global participation, and a strong spirit of collaboration.

FIG Commission 7 2023-26 Workplan Dashboard

		2023	2024	2025	2026	Current Status
	WG 7.1 FELA					
Activities	Case and Tool Capture	25%	70%	5%		100%
	Advocacy and Awareness	10%	30%	30%		70%
Outputs	FELA Publication	5%	10%	50%		65%
	WG 7.1 FFPLA					
Activities	FFPLA Implementaiton Survey	10%	30%	20%		60%
	FFPLA Case Stories	25%	60%	15%		100%
	Land Tenure Day'	0%	0%	0%		0%
Outputs	FFPLA Publication	0%	15%	50%		65%
	WG 7.3 3D&LADM					
Activities	LADM Revision Support	25%	55%	15%		95%
Outputs	Broadening 3D Land Administration	10%	55%	25%		90%
	LADM Revision Document	0%	55%	30%		85%
	2nd SI on LADM Revision	0%	55%	40%		95%
	WG 7.4 AI&RS					
Activities	Technique and Tool Identification	25%	55%	20%		100%
	Country Level Case Capture	25%	25%	20%		70%
Outputs	RS&LA Publication (SI)	0%	0%	0%		0%
	WG 7.5 Women					
Activities	FIG Pub 24 Review	15%	30%	45%		90%
	Stand for Her Land Support	20%	20%	30%		70%
	Case Story Capture	10%	25%	35%		70%
Outputs	Publication 24 Update	5%	15%	40%		60%
	Field Catalogue / Land Clinic	0%	10%	50%		60%
	WG 7.6 LA+LUP					
Activities	Capturing country cases	20%	40%	20%		80%
	Capturing tools and techniques	20%	40%	20%		80%
Outputs	Publication DT&LM	0%	10%	30%		40%
	SI on DT&LM	0%	5%	0%		5%
	WG 7.7 LA Education					
Activities	TERLA development	20%	50%	25%		95%
	Curriculm Review	20%	50%	25%		95%
Outputs	TERLA Publication	0%	100%	0%		100%
	Journal Article	0%	20%	80%		100%
	WG 7.8 Comparative Cadastres					
Activities	Needs Assessment	5%	20%	0%		25%
	Strategy Development	5%	20%	65%		90%
	Pilot Implementation	5%	0%	0%		5%
Outputs	State-of-Play Reports x4	25%	10%	65%		100%
	Pilot / Demonstration / Implementation	0%	0%	0%		0%

C7 Workplan 2023-26
State of Play

WG7.1
Framework for Effective Land Administration

Led by **Amalia Velasco** (amvemava@gmail.com), WG7.1 has had a productive year advancing the global conversation on effective land administration.

At the **FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting** in Florianópolis, FELA was not only part of the thematic structure but featured prominently in discussions. Presentations explored both normative and institutional perspectives, including topics such as "The Guidelines for the Brazilian Multipurpose Cadastre and its Relations with International Frameworks: LADM, STDM, Fit-for-Purpose and FELA" and "Institutional Coordination and the Limited Reach of FELA to Latin American Cadastre." These sessions highlighted the importance of aligning national practices with international frameworks to achieve inclusive and resilient land governance.

Looking ahead to 2026, the group aims to re-publicize the FELA document, showcase its practical applications, and define how FIG members can actively contribute to its dissemination and implementation. Translation efforts continue, ensuring FELA is accessible in multiple languages and reaches a broader audience.

WG7.1 also maintains strong engagement with **UN-GGIM.** This year, the group participated in the Twentieth Virtual Meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management, contributing to the drafting of the New Workplan 2026–2028 and reporting on the Fifteenth Session of the Committee of Experts. Next year, WG7.1 will play a key role in shaping the Hybrid Hub on Effective Land Administration, reinforcing its commitment to global collaboration and knowledge sharing.

WG7.2 Fit for Purpose Land Administration

Led by Dr. **Israel Taiwo** (taiwo_io@fedpolyado.edu.ng), WG7.2 continues to champion practical, scalable approaches to land administration.

This quarter, the group hosted another **successful workshop** on 27 November, attracting strong participation and lively discussion. For those who missed it, the session recording is available online:

https://youtu.be/h1SDBTM7IjE?si=eARYuyxDWemX03nb

Looking ahead, **FFPLA 4.0 is scheduled for 26 March 2026**, with the theme:
"Upscaling Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration (FFPLA) Approaches: From Pilot to National Implementation."

This event will focus on moving beyond **pilots to full-scale adoption**, sharing lessons learned and strategies for national-level implementation.

In addition, the much-anticipated publication, "**FFPLA Status, Successes and Scaling**," is expected to be released by then—certainly before the FIG Congress in Cape Town. This resource will consolidate global experiences and provide guidance for scaling FFPLA approaches to deliver inclusive, cost-effective land administration systems.

WG7.2 remains committed to practical innovation and knowledge sharing, ensuring that fit-for-purpose principles continue to shape the future of land governance worldwide.

WG7.3 3D and LADM

WG7.3 had an exceptionally active year, driving forward standards, research, and collaboration in land administration modeling and 3D approaches.

One of the major highlights was the **13th Workshop on LADM and 3D Land Administration**, held as part of the FIG Brazil Land Administration Conference and in partnership with UN-Habitat's STDM initiative. The workshop brought together experts from around the world, and its technical programme and proceedings were published under ISBN 978-87-93914-29-2 and ISSN 2311-8423, providing a valuable resource for practitioners and researchers.

The group also celebrated a significant academic achievement: **Eftychia Kalogianni successfully defended her PhD thesis** with a cum laude distinction at TU Delft on 3 October 2025. Her work, "3D Land Administration in line with the Spatial Development Lifecycle", marks an important contribution to the field.

On the standards front, I**SO 19152-5, covering conceptual models for spatial plan information, was published in August 2025**, completing another part of the LADM Edition II series. In addition, the OGC Standards Working Group for LADM was launched on 24 November, with new co-chairs from Leica/Hexagon, Esri, Twente University, and Kadaster. This group aims to develop LADM Edition II Part 6: Implementation Aspects, focusing on country profile methodology, encodings, code list management, and workflows as a joint OGC and ISO/TC211 standard.

WG7.3 also contributed to the **Survey Review Special Issue on LADM and 3D Land Administration (Volume 57, Issue 405)**, featuring eight papers and an editorial introduction by leading experts.

The group is led by Peter van Oosterom (p.j.m.vanoosterom@tudelft.nl). For those interested in joining, note that WG7.3 does not use WhatsApp—please contact Peter directly to be added to the mailing list.
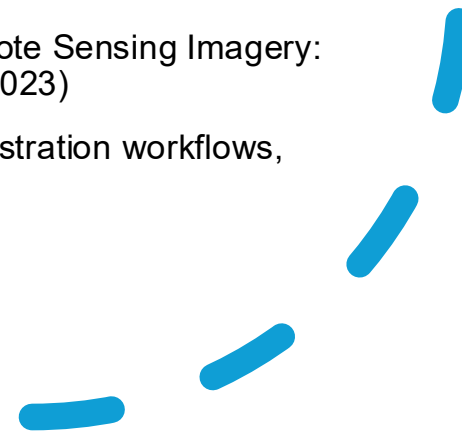
WG7.4 AI and Remote Sensing 4 LA

Led by **Mila Koeva** (m.n.koeva@utwente.nl), WG7.4 continues to explore cutting-edge applications of artificial intelligence and remote sensing in land administration, with strong scientific ties to ISPRS. The team includes Jeroen Grift (NL Kadaster), Linda Foster (ESRI/USA), and Bujar Fetai (University of Ljubljana).

Recent work focuses on developing a transfer learning-based deep learning model for cadastral boundary delineation in **Nepal**, part of an MSc thesis project. Several new papers are expected in Survey Review and ISPRS journals, adding to an already impressive publication record.

Looking ahead, AI4LA will be represented at the ISPRS Congress in Toronto in 2026, showcasing innovations in automated boundary detection and deep learning approaches.

Key publications include:

- From Pixels to Vectorised Cadastral Boundaries: Deep Learning-Based Automated Delineation of Property Boundaries in the Netherlands (submitted, 2025)

- CadastreVision: A Benchmark Dataset for Cadastral Boundary Delineation from Multi-Resolution Earth Observation Images(ISPRS Journal, 2024)

- Cadastral Boundary Delineation Using Deep Learning and Remote Sensing Imagery: State of the Art and Future Developments(FIG Working Week, 2023)

- WG7.4 remains at the forefront of integrating AI into land administration workflows, driving innovation for more efficient and scalable solutions.

WG7.5 Women's Access to Land (and Administration)

This quarter, the team led by **Marisa Balas and Kate Fairlie** continued to make strong progress in promoting gender equity in land administration.

The group engaged in discussions with the Institute of **Surveyors of Kenya (ISK) to support the implementation of the Clinic Day** Initiative in four counties. This initiative aims to provide women with practical support and guidance on land rights and registration processes.

WG7.5 also played an active role in the **Second Women Land Professionals Associations Conference, held in Addis Ababa from 10–12 November**. Key topics included the ongoing review of the FIG Land Professionals' Code of Conduct and strategies to expand the Clinic Day Initiative, drawing on successful experiences from Côte d'Ivoire.

In addition, the team participated in the **Conference on Land Policy in Africa (10–14 November)**, contributing to discussions on good land governance, justice, and reparations for Africans and descendants of the African diaspora.

Next steps for the group include:

- Completing the peer review of the Code of Conduct

- Harmonizing contributions for FIG Publication 24 into its final version

- Exploring new opportunities to expand the Clinic Day Initiative with other national associations and the Stand for Her Land (S4HL) campaign

To get involved, scan the QR code to join the WhatsApp group or contact Marisa Balas directly at marisa.balas@gmail.com.

WG7.6 Digital Transformation and Integration of Land Management

Led by **Claudia Lindner (claudia.lindner@kadaster.nl) and Walter de Vries,** WG7.6 is driving forward the conversation on how digitalisation can transform land management systems globally.

This quarter, the group represented Commission 7 at the FIG Brazil Land Administration Conference, presenting a paper and case studies on the role of digitalisation in Brazil and Mexico. The paper, available online (https://ojs.sites.ufsc.br/index.php/fig/article/view/8852), explores practical examples of how technology is reshaping land governance and improving integration across sectors.

Networking efforts are ongoing, with discussions to include additional country cases in the upcoming WG publication compilation, ensuring a diverse and global perspective. The group has also submitted an abstract for the FIG Working Week 2026 in South Africa, continuing its engagement in international forums.

A major milestone this quarter was the completion of the concept note for a planned FIG publication, titled "T**he Relevance of Digital Transformation for Integrated Land Management**." This document will be shared with the FIG office early next year, marking an important step toward consolidating knowledge and best practices in this rapidly evolving field.

WG7.6 remains committed to showcasing how digital tools and strategies can enable more efficient, transparent, and inclusive land administration systems worldwide.

WG7.7 Land Administration Education

Led by Assoc. Prof. Simon Hull (<u>simon.hull@uct.ac.za</u>), WG7.7 has had a dynamic quarter focused on strengthening education and capacity-building in land administration.

Survey Insights Rolling In: The group's guidelines uptake survey has now received 59 responses, with around 45 rated highly useful. Representation from Africa is strong, but more responses are needed from the Americas and Oceania—so please keep sharing the link and QR code: https://uwe.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_71UICA9kaVFfmfk. A paper on preliminary findings is already in progress, and its abstract has been accepted for presentation at the FIG Congress in Cape Town—a great achievement!

Global Spotlight in Brazil: WG7.7 featured prominently at the FIG Joint Land Administration Conference in Florianópolis, where Simon Hull presented a paper on leveraging Large Language Models (LLMs) to interpret curriculum guidelines (co-authored by Royal Mabakeng). The paper received positive feedback, and Simon also joined the closing panel on geo-resilience and sustainable land administration, reinforcing the group's global relevance.

Congress Preparations in Full Swing: Beyond the survey paper, WG7.7 has submitted several abstracts for the Cape Town Congress. Excitingly, the proposal for two dedicated sessions to host a workshop on "Reimagining Land Administration Education: Towards Conceptualising a Core Body of Knowledge" has been approved!

Looking Ahead: Members have brainstormed fresh ideas for workshops and webinars in 2026, inspired by WG7.2's successful model. Planned topics include: LADM & STDM for Dummies; Using Curriculum Development Guidelines; Workplace Skills for LA Practitioners; Soft Skills; Teaching Ethical LA

Save the Date: The next International Land Management Conference is scheduled for 3–4 March 2026—mark your calendars!

WG7.8 Comparative Cadastres

WG7.8 has been actively advancing semantic interoperability and knowledge organization in land administration.

A major achievement this quarter was the **publication of a research paper in Survey Review (25 September)**. The paper explores how **Knowledge Organization Systems (KOS)** enable Semantic Web and Linked Data implementations, focusing on the integration of the **Linked Land Governance Thesaurus (LandVoc)** and the **Cadastre and Land Administration Thesaurus (CaLAThe)**. These resources render concepts from **ISO 19152:2024 (LADM)**, supporting shared and standardized understandings in the land domain. The study presents concept mapping and illustrates how thesauri and knowledge bases can be integrated for education and community engagement. It also reflects on merging CaLAThe into the LandVoc and AGROVOC context, proposing a more flexible semantic facility to support ad hoc teaching tasks.

The group also contributed to a **survey led by Carmen Ribeira (University of Valencia)**, documenting land administration organizations and initiatives in Ibero-American countries. Additionally, WG7.8 showcased the **State of Land Information Index dashboard** at the **DPG Annual Meeting in Brazil**, highlighting its role as one of the few land-related digital public goods.

Looking ahead to **2026**, the group plans to implement the proposal outlined in the research paper: integrating **CaLAThe and LandVoc into a single vocabulary**. Preliminary work on this integration has already begun. The upcoming **FIG Congress in Cape Town** will serve as a platform to reinvigorate the working group and refine its action plan.

Finally, the Survey Review article is now available in Spanish, thanks to efforts by Leonardo Blas Ivars, who facilitated a blog post on *Catastro y Territorio* titled *"La gobernanza de los recursos semánticos del sector global del territorio: situación actual y perspectivas"* (10 November 2025).

WG7.8 continues to lead efforts in semantic governance, ensuring that land administration knowledge is structured, accessible, and interoperable across global platforms.

Charl-Thom Bayer charl-thom.bayer@landportal.info

XXVIII (28TH)
FIG CONGRESS
CAPE TOWN | SOUTH AFRICA
24-29 MAY 2026

Time to **register** and **book!**

The **countdown** is on for the FIG Congress in Cape Town, taking place 24–29 May 2026. This global event will bring together thousands of professionals to explore the future of surveying, land administration, and geospatial innovation.

For **Commission 7**, Cape Town represents a major opportunity to showcase our work and engage with the international community. We have seven core sessions confirmed, plus several joint sessions with other commissions, ensuring broad coverage of key topics.

Highlights include:

- **Core C7 Sessions:** Focused on cadastre, land management, digital transformation, and fit-for-purpose approaches.

- **Joint Sessions**: Collaborations with other commissions on integrated land governance, technology adoption, and policy frameworks.

- **Pre-Congress Even**t: A special workshop with Commission 9 exploring the intersection of value, tenure, and technology—a critical dialogue for shaping future land markets and governance systems.

- **Registration is now ope**n! Secure your spot and join us for an unforgettable week of learning, networking, and collaboration in one of the world's most iconic cities.

For details and the draft programme: https://fig2026.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/FIG_Congress26_draft-programme_2025_11_27-1.pdf

FIG C7 Annual Meeting 2026 **Istanbul, Türkiye**

We are thrilled to announce that the **FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting 2026 will take place in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 28–30 October 2026**. This landmark event will be organized jointly with Commission 9 and UNECE WPLA, creating a unique platform for collaboration across land administration, valuation, and policy domains.

The meeting will focus on **critical themes** shaping the future of land governance:

- Legal security and electronic registers
- Artificial Intelligence and digital transformation
- Property valuation and integrated land management

Hosted by the T**urkish Chamber of Geomatics Engineers (HKMO) and the General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre (TKGM)**, the event promises a rich technical program combined with cultural experiences in one of the world's most historic and vibrant cities.

Participants can **look forward** to:

- Technical sessions and workshops featuring global experts
- Networking opportunities with professionals from multiple disciplines
- A social program including visits to iconic landmarks such as Hagia Sophia, Basilica Cistern, and a Bosphorus cruise
- A gala dinner in a stunning waterfront venue
- Accommodation options will be available near the event venue, with details shared early in 2026.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for registration details. Istanbul awaits!

Seasons Greetings!

As 2025 comes to a close, we extend our **warmest wishes** to all delegates, partners, and friends of Commission 7.

Thank you for your dedication and contributions throughout the year—your efforts have driven progress, innovation, and collaboration in land administration worldwide.

May this festive season bring you j**oy, peace, and time to recharge**. We look forward to working together in 2026 as we continue shaping a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future for land governance.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

The C7 Ballade

Florianopolis Edition

November 2025

Verse 1
In this world, you'll find a Commission,
A better Commission you'll never see.
And this is our Commission 7, Commission 7 of FIG
And this is our Commission 7, Commission 7 of FIG

Verse 2
Commission 7 is for Cadastres,
The peak professional body globally.
You must be part of Commission 7, Commission 7 of the FIG
You must be part of Commission 7, Commission 7 of the FIG

Verse 3
Amalia, Israel, and Peter;
Mila, Marisa, Claudia, Simon, Tommy,
Working Group Chairs of Commission 7; Commission 7 of the FIG
Working Group Chairs of Commission 7; Commission 7 of the FIG

Verse 4
Last, we met in Brisbane
And we all learned to say… G'day
We said G'day to Commission 7, but, it was the end of the GCA
We said G'day to Commission 7, but, it was the end of the GCA

Verse 5
Ola, Boa noite, Obrigado
Bea-ut-iful Floripa for our Annual Meet
Annual Meeting of Commission 7, Commission 7 of the FIG
Annual Meeting of Commission 7, Commission 7 of the FIG

The C7 Ballade

Florianopolis Edition

November 2025

Verse 6
Everton, Carlos and Liane
Portuguese, Spanish, English – a truly amazing feat
An amazing feat for Commission 7; Commission 7 of the FIG
An amazing feat for Commission 7; Commission 7 of the FIG

Verse 7
Africa, Europe, Asia, the Americas
We've come from all over to meet and greet
But, hats off to Prof Zevenbergen, 40 hours travel for FIG
Hats off to Prof Zevenbergen, 40 hours travel for FIG

Verse 8
The Brazilian cadastre seems complex…
And they simply must complete!
Complete your cadastre for Commission 7; Commission 7 of the FIG
Complete your cadastre for Commission 7; Commission 7 of the FIG

Verse 9
We've learned about parcel fabric
And just how easy land administration can be
How much does it cost to build a cadastre? Ask Amir and the folks at esri
How much does it cost to build a cadastre? Ask Amir and the folks esri

Verse 10
See you all in Cape Town, South Africa,
Next May, it's where you'll be
We'll sing again for Commission 7, Commission 7 of FIG
We'll sing again for Commission 7, Commission 7 of FIG