

Land Administration Success Story; the World Bank Collaboration in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

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SUMMARY

The World Bank has funded land reform, land administration, and land management projects in the Europe and Central Asia region (ECA) since the early 1990s. The region comprises the 15 countries of the former Soviet Union, the former socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and Turkey. The 1991 dissolutions of the Soviet Union and Republic of Yugoslavia catalyzed unprecedented political, economic, and social changes in ECA. The dissolutions and resulting economic transition launched a wave of massive reforms in economic systems—from command to market-based economies—transforming institutions, processes, attitudes, and fundamental concepts of individual and organizational behavior across the region. Both the privatization of land and property assets and their efficient management and mobilization in the credit markets have been at the center of the transitional reforms to date. During this period, the World Bank has funded 42 investment lending land projects in 24 ECA countries in support of the land and property sector. These projects have successfully implemented a vast variety of reforms—in land, land administration, and land management that many countries in other regions are undertaking today.

In the World Bank's Doing Business 2016 - Registering Property Index, seven out of ten best performing countries come from ECA. In 20 years ECA countries literally transformed land administration systems from disarray and collapse to globally leading perfection. It is time to look back and define what made this amazing success possible and what can we take away from this success to other countries and regions? The paper will present lessons learned that provide a repository of knowledge on successful land administration reforms. However, land administration in the region and globally is in a very rapid pace of development in part driven by continuously renewing technologies, in part by persistent financial crisis that forces rationalization, and in part by global megatrends that cry for new thinking and solutions. The paper will end in predicting what the next generation of land administration systems in ECA and beyond will look like and what kind of

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demands will that create for the land administration sector and profession today.

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