

**Date**

Monday 13th July 2009

**Title of session**

Plenary: Challenges of economic turbulence on mapping and how mapping can help solve it

Developed World: Economic turbulence on Dutch Cadastre and tackling the consequences

**Name of presenter/chair**

Professor Željko Bačić, Director General, State Geodetic Administration Croatia - Chair

Godfried Barnasconi, Board Member, Dutch Kadastre - Presenter

**Name of rapporteurs**

Jenny Green & Danny Hyam

**Economic Crisis in the Netherlands**

- 4.6% of total labour force are unemployed
- Only 6 months of work in real estate market, lowest since 1994
- Banks are not lending or investing in the private sector

**Financial Policy and Internal Management**

- The agency is completely reliant on the market to survive.
- Reviewing the strategy, talking to the government, other agencies and private sector.
- Cost flexibility is important. Even if you are investing millions in new technology if you don't have the market then it will not make any difference.

**Kadaster Organisation**

- The Ministry of VROM (Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieu) is the only shareholder in Dutch Kadaster.
- Clients of the agency are present in the user council and can provide support and recommendations.

**Development of users' fees**

- Dutch Kadaster was separated from the ministry of the environment in 1994.
- Motion taken against a proposal and for the first time in 175 years Dutch Kadaster was on the government agenda.
- As Dutch Kadaster has little influence on the income it receives reducing costs is the only way in which it can cut user fees.

### Cost Structure

- Wages and salaries are the largest cost for Dutch Kadaster.
- The average age in Dutch Kadaster is over 50 years old.
- The average length of service in Dutch Kadaster is 28 years.
- Although wages and salaries are the largest cost it cannot afford the cost of the redundancy packages to cut staff numbers.
- In the last two years Dutch Kadaster has hired many young people. Even though there would be less cost to make these workers redundant this would not be a good long term move.

### Cooperation Private Industry

- It is impossible to continue to improve Dutch Kadaster in isolation. The private market is growing quickly and it is in the interests of Dutch Kadaster to help create a modern and innovative organisation.

### Conclusions

- Google Europe was invited to Dutch Kadaster to think about new products that they could create using Dutch Kadaster data.
- Cost flexibility, innovation and working closely with the private industry is the only way for Dutch Kadaster to survive.
- The goal is to be as small as possible and as big as necessary in this economic climate.

| Questions/Comments  | Answers   |
|---|---|
| <p>Geraldine Ruane – Ordnance Survey Ireland:</p> <p>You mentioned changing the culture of Dutch Kadaster. What are the main three points that are driving this change?</p>     | <p>Godfried Barnasconi: In the past few years Dutch Kadaster has reduced from 3400 to 1900 people and 18 to 8 offices.</p> <p>The directors have visited each site to talk to the staff about changes.</p> <p>The feeling within the country about the work that Dutch Kadaster does has changed. There are now much more positive media reports and the atmosphere surrounding Dutch Kadaster has changed.</p> |
| <p>Muhammad Bashar Nuhu – Federal University of Technology – Nigeria</p> <p>Does Dutch experience reflect the experiences of other mapping agencies in the developed world?</p> | <p>Vanessa Lawrence gave the point of view of Ordnance Survey: The Dutch experience reflects many of the aspects of other nations. The staffing issues that they see are reflected here in Ordnance Survey.</p> <p>Godfried Barnasconi's response was that the board of cadastres are working together to look at these issues that will mean the agencies work together to learn these lessons.</p>            |

| Questions/Comments   | Answers  |
|--|--|
| <p>Professor Jacqueline McGlade – European Environment Agency:</p> <p>Do you only work within the borders of the Netherlands?</p>  | <p>Godfried Barnasconi: Dutch Kadaster also has projects working with other cadastral agencies, but the breakdown of work abroad is still small, around 0.5%.</p>  |
| <p>Colin MacDonald – Land Information New Zealand:</p> <p>You could have been telling our story; the business model is the same (total cost recovery). What conclusions have you come to about sustainability of the business model?</p>   | <p>Godfried Barnasconi: It takes time to admit that the system is not all working, but what is the next best model? Is it a condensed Dutch Kadaster only for the Legal purposes with a very small taxation on all home owners to subsidise the Kadaster, however this would be hard to run with government changes.</p> |
| <p>Haim Sebros – Survey of Israel:</p> <p>We have not heard in these proceedings from anyone in government or from the users themselves. The next conference should include these stakeholders. What is the priority of mapping compared to other agencies within the Netherlands?</p> | <p>Godfried Barnasconi: Dutch Kadaster has never opened its doors/systems to other industries before so it is exciting now to start to work with them.</p>   |