

# Cadastral Development in Norway and Need for Improvements

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## SUMMARY

The Norwegian cadastral system is a German style cadastral system and origins from the 1600s. The land register originates from provisions concerning protocols introduced by the local courts in early 1600s for the purpose of documenting and protecting property transactions. The cadastre has its origins in the old tax cadastre established in the latter half of the 1600s for the purpose of levying tax.

While other European countries with German style cadastral systems modernized the cadastral systems by developing cadastral mapping and surveying professions in the 1800s, this development did not take place in Norway. Land subdivisions should be undertaken by laymen and written descriptions in rural areas until 1980. Cadastral mapping developed in cities and towns.

After World War II there was increased focus on land use planning and control in Norway as in many other countries. While neighboring countries had developed detailed large-scale maps suitable for such purposes, Norway lacked such maps. A large-scale mapping program based on photogrammetry was therefore initiated about 1960 - the economic survey. Efforts to modernize the land subdivision process were initiated, leading to the 1980 cadastral reform and requirements for nationwide cadastral surveying. The municipalities were assigned the task to undertake cadastral surveying, but without specific qualification requirements for the municipal cadastral surveyors or putting in place measures for institution building. From the mid 1980s and onwards, property boundaries in economic maps and survey certificates were digitized. After year 2000 this material was integrated in a new nationwide cadastral map, in force from 2010.

The paper describes the Norwegian cadastral development with focus on cadastral mapping, quality issues in the cadastral map, and some proposals to improve the situation with special focus on the

need for professional development.

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