



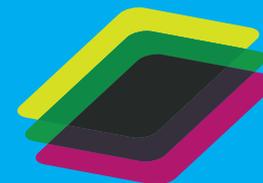
web-workshop series

This report provides a summary of a two-part online workshop in June 2020 to explore the creation of a community of experts to support the ongoing development of the LandVoc concept scheme, and to support ongoing contributions from the LandVoc community to AGROVOC. The workshops brought together 35 experts improve awareness of the importance of controlled and multilingual vocabularies, and of value of semantics to management of agriculture and land related knowledge.

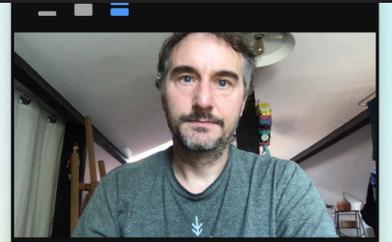
Creating a LandVoc Community of Experts

June 2020 Workshop Report

land
portal



LANDVOC



Content

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY	4
WORKSHOP THEMES	5
MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANDVOC CONCEPT SCHEME	7
APPENDIX 1: DRAFT TOR FOR COMMUNITY OF EXPERTS	9
APPENDIX 2: DRAFT PROCESSES (HOW THE GROUP WORKS)	11
APPENDIX 3; DRAFT TRANSLATION & LOCALISATION PROCESS	14
APPENDIX 4: COMMUNITY OF EXPERTS	16
APPENDIX 5: WORKSHOP AGENDAS	19

Introduction and summary

With support from the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the Land Portal convened a two-part online workshop in June 2020 to explore the creation of a community of experts to support the ongoing development of the LandVoc concept scheme, and to support ongoing contributions from the LandVoc community to AGROVOC. The workshop also sought to improve awareness of the importance of controlled and multilingual vocabularies, and of value of semantics to management of agriculture and land related knowledge.

Workshop participants were recruited through direct invites, and through an open call for applicants, resulting in participation by 35 different experts across the two workshops. This resulted in 15 individuals subsequently joining the ongoing community of experts, bringing insights from organisations in Europe, Northern and Southern Africa,

Latin America and North America, and representing perspectives from industry, international organisations, civil society, academia and technology, and male-female gender ratio of 2:1.

Following an introductory presentation on LandVoc, the workshop explored three streams of activity, which have subsequently been taken up by the ongoing Community of Experts. These were:

- Promoting understanding and uptake of LandVoc.
- Management and development of the LandVoc concept scheme.
- LandVoc translation practices

The workshop resulted in draft Terms of Reference for the Community of Experts and a proposed working process, collaboratively edited through small group break-out sessions.

In the post-workshop survey, a number of participants reported plans to explore new uses of LandVoc, both to support content discovery, and in other ways. There was significant interest in work to take forward further efforts on translation, and to promote inclusion of concepts that take account of gender, race, ethnicity and intersectionality. 60% of those responding to the survey said that the workshop had changed their view on how they and their institution can work with LandVoc.

The following sections of this report share details from the break-out groups.

Workshop themes

PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING AND UPTAKE OF LANDVOC

Communication

Workshop presentations introduced the LandVoc promotional campaign that took place in May/June 2020, and which has developed a mailing list of over 1000 subscribers. Break-out discussions on communicating the value proposition of LandVoc noted that:

- The value of a common vocabulary can be hard to communicate, and can quickly end up with very technical language being used. It would be useful to have a clear communications guide on language to use, and language not to use.
 - Social processes of peer learning are important to bridging knowledge about how LandVoc can be used. Communication should not just be top-down, but should involve horizontal communication strategies. Participatory processes that involve learning to use LandVoc, and being able to critically engage with it, can strengthen engagement.
 - A segmented communications strategy may be needed to reach different stakeholders addressing different communications tailored to international institutions or local organisations and practitioners.
- Storytelling on how LandVoc enables better information discovery is also an important community tool. Finding stories that resonate can be challenging, but is worth spending time on. Stories might address, for example:
- How certain indigenous communities in Nicaragua have found terms like 'Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)' to have great significance for their engagement with International Law. Being able to see how these terms are defined, and the network of concepts they relate to, can support processes of understanding and engaging with FPIC, and can empower groups to critically engage with concepts.
 - International Mortgage Industry players can benefit from having clear access to definitions that let them understand different aspects of ownership across different country contexts.
 - Software providers, academics and communities who might be talking across each other, without shared terminology, who - when turning to LandVoc - can bring greater clarity to their work.
 - Communication concerns need to be 'built into' LandVoc: if it's easier to adopt, it's easier to communicate. This can involve providing plugins and simple tools to help people get started using LandVoc.

- There could be clearer communication about the tools around LandVoc, perhaps through more detail of supporting tools in the 'Use' section of the LandVoc website (which is currently focussed on direct technical use of the vocabulary, rather than use-case propositions and simple starting points).

In the post-workshop survey, participants identified that there are also opportunities to promote LandVoc through linkage to other vocabulary projects (in addition to its existing tight connection with AGROVOC). They noted the challenge of securing adequate funding to be able to maintain promotion of LandVoc, and to take on the substantial work of raising awareness of what LandVoc can bring beyond existing technical/specialist communities.

Technology

A number of presenters shared examples of how they have already, or plan to, engage with LandVoc for knowledge management. A break-out group on technology explored how the LandVoc community could build on this learning and develop new features including:

Refining the core tools that manage and present LandVoc to:

- Clearly explain the origin of each term and the definitions and cross-references provided. Some participants suggested this should involve LandVoc allowing multiple definitions of each term, and recognising that definitions in different languages do not always perfectly overlap, although use of multiple definitions is at odds with

AGROVOC practices of one concept, one definition. Providing more explanation and context for definitions could involve adding tags to them to indicate their origin, and who uses them, and/or providing additional scope notes.

- Surface the social processes behind LandVoc's creation, giving more profile to the people and process involved in adding new terms and translations (e.g. attribution of translations).
- Highlighting that each translation may have both a language, and regional/national dimension. For example, one participant noted that "as in Spanish, in Arabic there are some country specific translations and words (for example, certain land terms in Egypt [ISO 639-1 code: ar-EG]), which might mean there should be multiple Arabic translations of a term".
- Present access to examples of content tagged with a given term to help illustrate how the term can be used.

Developing new tools, including:

- An automated tagging tool (LandTagger) like the Climate Tagger.
- Providing a SPARQL endpoint for LandVoc that includes its own hierarchy more clearly.
- Plugins for common content management systems to facilitate tagging and search that uses LandVoc. Targeted platforms include WordPress, Drupal, CKAN, DSpace and possibly others such as Wix.

MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANDVOC CONCEPT SCHEME

During workshop presentations, participants had the opportunity to *learn about how AGROVOC, and LandVoc within it is maintained*. Through plenary sessions and break-out groups, there were detailed discussions of the process for adding to, updating and developing the LandVoc concept scheme. Discussions centred on:

- Understanding the concept hierarchy - which was introduced in the latest version of LandVoc. Participants asked about how collections of local/national terminology could be related to the global LandVoc, and about the tensions of balancing global definitions with local concepts and definitions that take into account diversity and pluralism.
- Foregrounding gender in future development of LandVoc - with an explicit recognition that there is no position of neutrality from which a vocabulary can be developed.
- Managing multiple definitions and hierarchies - and balancing between creation of a shared information infrastructure, and a platform that helps foster understanding of different perspectives on land issues across regions and countries.

A break-out group focussed on developing a draft Terms of Reference to describe how the Community of Experts should be involved in future governance of LandVoc (Appendix 1), and a second group developed suggested working practices for managing future revisions in consultation with the Community of Experts (Appendix 2)

LANDVOC TRANSLATION PRACTICES

Following a presentation of learning from the process of translating LandVoc, group discussions explored the importance of translation and localisation to LandVoc. A number of participants made explicit commitments to work on future translations on LandVoc terms.

A break-out group developed a draft translation and localisation process (Appendix 3) including:

- » Recognition that partial translations are welcome, to reflect the need for particular terms in particular languages.
- » That translators should be involved and join the Community of Experts, so that they can input on future term proposals, and propose new terms themselves.
- » That translations should be reviewed by a land expert fluent in the language before the translation becomes part of LandVoc.
- » That the LandVoc Community of Experts should have a short period to review translations before they are incorporated into LandVoc.

NEXT STEPS

Participants were invited to a post-workshop survey, which resulted in 15 members joining the ongoing Community of Experts. The majority of survey respondents indicated a desire for **quarterly exchanges** to build on the workshop, and further address topics covered in it, including concept hierarchy, localisation, pluralism, gender and local perspectives, and further promotion of LandVoc.

As one response put it: “LandVoc is probably one of the most **comprehensive and authoritative glossaries** related to land but many of the key stakeholders and potential users are still not aware of it. “

The challenge ahead for the LandVoc team and community of experts is to both maintain that status of LandVoc, and to further the work on uptake so that its full value can be realised.

Appendix 1

Draft ToR for Community of Experts

CONTEXT AND PURPOSES OF LANDVOC

The Land Portal Foundation has taken the lead in the land governance sector to develop a standardized vocabulary: LandVoc, the Linked Land Governance Thesaurus.

LandVoc is mainly derived from AGROVOC, the standard Agriculture vocabulary, but links together many other vocabularies designed and/or used by land governance stakeholders on both a global and local level. LandVoc continues to be a working product, constantly being reviewed and improved. It is important to emphasize that LandVoc is not meant to serve as a glossary for land governance-related issues. The Thesaurus is designed to:

- » standardize the classification of content and resources while respecting diversity
- » improve the understanding, discoverability of and access to land-related information, from both global and grassroots sources, from all over the world
- » support the aggregation and reporting of land-related information across boundaries, languages and cultures

COMMUNITY OF EXPERTS ROLE

LandVoc is a collaborative effort. Contributions are done on a voluntary basis. While editing of LandVoc is done by the LandPortal team, the expertise of the LandVoc Community of Experts is invaluable, especially to provide technical guidance. This may include:

- » suggesting new concepts and translations
- » suggesting new or better definitions for concepts
- » suggesting alignments to other concept schemes
- » providing expert advice on land governance concepts where needed
- » help standardize the classification of content on land-related information, while also recognising and highlighting the need for concepts and content classification to reflect specific contexts and languages.
- » helping promote uptake and use of LandVoc, including advising on outreach activities and tools (targeting universities, land agencies, statistical bureaus)
- » facilitate strategic discussions on land governance concepts, and on direction of LandVoc.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Community of Experts is a voluntary role. Land Portal will provide invites to periodic meetings, training and development opportunities, and advanced opportunities to preview LandVoc developments, tools and resources.

Land Portal will seek to ensure that the Community of Experts is representative of the many stakeholders in the land community, and includes members who can make connections with different sectors, and with other vocabulary projects.

Members of the Community of Experts are recognised and acknowledged on the LandVoc website.

A break-out group focussed on developing a draft Terms of Reference to describe how the Community of Experts should be involved in future governance of LandVoc (Appendix 1), and a second group developed suggested working practices for managing future revisions in consultation with the Community of Experts (Appendix 2)

CONSTRAINTS

LandVoc is also a specialized concept scheme within AGROVOC, so all new concepts and terms need to follow the AGROVOC editorial guidelines.

Appendix 2

Draft Processes (How the group works)

ROLES AND COMMUNICATION

LandPortal will appoint two or more LandVoc Editors (one land domain expert and one vocabulary manager) who are responsible for day to day management of the following processes.

The editor(s) will respond to the landvoc@landportal.info mailbox.

The land domain expert LandVoc editor(s) will be responsible for facilitating the debate around the issues raised by the community.

The vocabulary manager LandVoc editor(s) will be responsible for keeping the coherence of the vocabulary and manage the technicalities (like ingesting the final result of the debates into VocBench, the vocabulary management system).

The list of changes that will activate the chain are:

- add/remove/update a concept
- changes in the hierarchy of concepts
- add/remove/update a definition
- add/remove/update a translation

The preferred communication's language of the LandVoc Community of Experts is English.

All public discussions about that situation (new concepts, changes to existing concepts, hierarchy changes, etc..) will take place, primarily, through an online discussion e-mail list (with digest option available) [asynchronous communication]. The use of online/offline synchronous meetings could be considered in particular cases

The mailing list can be used to:

- Discuss any change in the LandVoc vocabulary (1st step)
- Decide any change in the LandVoc vocabulary (2nd step)
- Announce the decision about a change and the actions to be taken (3rd step)
- Confirm/notify the execution of the actions (4th step)

Discussions might result in a new concept, terms of definition - but may equally result in a write-up, blog post or other output that summarises the discussions.

Any notifications described below will be sent to members of the LandVoc Community of Experts mailing list and clearly indicated to be distinguished from discussion posts.'

Change example: New concept

Anyone can suggest a new concept.

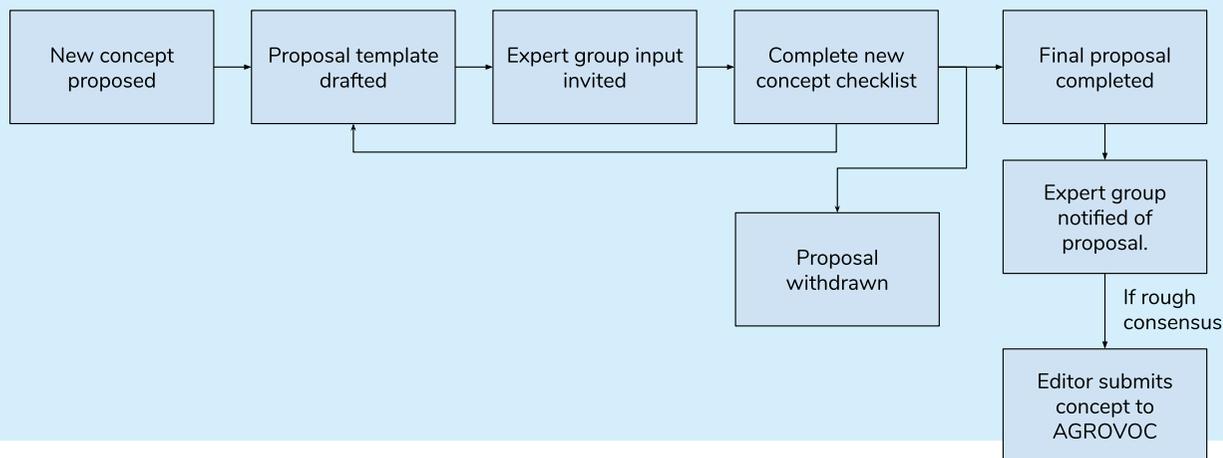
For each new change, a proposal template should be completed.

The template should include at least:

- A description of the need for the change (why this concept is needed?)
- Examples of content that would be classified with this concept
- A suggested term (preferred Label).

The template may also include:

- List of synonyms
- Suggested definition
- Suggested cross-mapping (external vocabularies)
- Suggested location in LandVoc hierarchy
- Suggested location in AgroVoc hierarchy
- Suggested example.
- Documentation referred to this concept (e.g. the document where it was coined, organizations already using this concept).
- List of other LandVoc concepts that might be affected due to this change.



Once a proposal is drafted and posted in the discussion space, a notification should go to the Community of Experts (using an internal communication channel) to invite their input.

The editors, concept proposer and community of experts should work together to complete the concept review checklist.

Checklist (draft)

- » Has the proposal had input from at least three geographic regions?
- » Has the proposal had input from at least three linguistic communities?
- » Is the proposal coming from a referenced document/standard?
- » Have gender, indigenous community, and other diversity perspectives been addressed?

When the checklist is complete, the editors and concept proposer should discuss and agree to:

- Withdraw the proposal
- Update the proposal
- Finalise the proposal for Community of experts review

A finalised proposal must include all the information required to enter the concept into LandVoc, including hierarchy position (in both, LandVoc and Agrovoc).

The Community of Experts should be notified of completed proposals, and should have at least 2 weeks to debate and to raise any weak or strong objections to the inclusion of the term in LandVoc.

If objections can be addressed to the satisfaction of those raising them, then the vocabulary manager will put the proposal forward to AgroVoc.

In addition to soliciting and taking contributions from community members at any time, the LandVoc team at Land Portal will share proposed updates to LandVoc for decision with the Community of Experts at least 4 weeks before these are put forward to the AGROVOC team.

The Land Portal Foundation will endeavor to find consensus amongst the community on proposed updates to concepts and translations. In cases of disagreement, the decision of the Land Portal Foundation appointed editor is final.

Timeline

- All the changes will be edited directly in Agrovoc (that is monthly released).
- LandVoc is released each 6 months.

Appendix 3

Draft Translation & Localisation Process

OUR APPROACH TO TRANSLATION AND LOCALISATION

LandVoc seeks to have terms and definitions available in a variety of languages.

LandVoc does not require that translations are complete. For example, a translation may only cover a subset of terms. It may translate terms only and not definitions. Or it may only translate certain definitions.

LandVoc recognises local variations of language (ISO codes needed). For example, LandVoc may have various national variations of Spanish translations (es, es-419).

PROCESS FOR TRANSLATIONS

Any organisation or individual can propose a translation of LandVoc by contacting the LandVoc editors. A proposal should outline:

1. Who will carry out the translation
2. Whether the translation will cover all terms and definitions, or only a subset of these
3. Whether the translator is willing to make updates when new LandVoc terms are introduced
4. Any plans for community engagement in the translation
5. How translations will be reviewed

The LandVoc editors will respond to confirm their support for any translation plan, or to suggest potential collaborations that would help in the process.

Once a proposal is accepted, the editors will provide guidance, support and templates for any new translation.

Translators will be invited to join the Community of Experts.

PROVIDING AND REVIEWING TRANSLATIONS

Translations generally take place using an Excel template provided by LandVoc, formatted to support easy import into the VocBench tool used by LandVoc in future.

Translations must be provided under an open license compatible with LandVoc.

The LandVoc editors will provide regular updates on translations in progress with the Community of Experts.

Before a translation is put forward for inclusion in LandVoc:

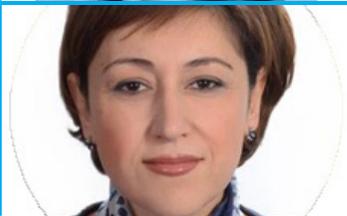
- It must be reviewed by a land expert fluent in the language;
- The LandVoc Community of Experts should be offered an opportunity to comment of at least two weeks

When translations are considered final, they will be imported into VocBench, and included in the next release of LandVoc.

Appendix 4

Community of Experts

	<p>Prof Dr Christiaan Lemmen University of Twente - ITC Faculty Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation</p>	<p>Christiaan Lemmen is full Professor at ITC, the Faculty of Geo-information Science and Earth Observation, University of Twente, the Netherlands (part-time, 1 day per week). Christiaan is a Geodetic Advisor with Kadaster International, the international branch of the Netherlands Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency. His expertise concerns land administration, fit-for-purpose land administration, land registration, cadastre, land consolidation, institutional and organisational development, strategy development, (initial-) data acquisition for land administration, quality management, data and process modelling, ICT aspects and evaluation and monitoring. He is co-editor of the Land Administration Domain Model and designer of the Social Tenure Domain Model.</p>
	<p>Eileen Wakesho</p>	<p>From Landesa: Eileen is currently the Women's Land Rights Advisor at Oxfam International focusing on work that draws on regional, national work and grassroots women's experiences and leads to greater attention to securing women's land and property rights in all relevant policy arenas globally. She supports the design and execution of research to inform advocacy interventions. Eileen helped coordinate the Civil Society Platform on land in Africa; a platform to facilitate effective input from grassroots organizations, social movements, and a wide range of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to position the land agenda within the wider African Union.</p>
	<p>Patricia Chaves Espaço Feminista and member of the Feminist Land Platform (global)</p>	<p>From WorldBank blogs: Patricia Chaves is the executive director of Espaço Feminista, a Brazilian feminist NGO dedicated to the economic and political empowerment of women. At Espaço Feminista, Ms. Chaves has developed leadership and skills of rural and urban grassroots women in participation and decision-making. She is especially focused on the linkages between agrarian reform, food security and women's land rights. With a strong background in business administration and post-graduated in Business Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) London, her work is dedicated to the empowerment of rural and urban women.</p>
	<p>Rick de Satge Senior Research Associate - Phuhlisani NPC</p>	<p>Dr. Rick de Satgé is a Senior Research Associate with Phuhlisani NPC. Partnering with the Land Portal to add country resources for South Africa.</p>

	<p>Amanda Martínez Elvir Universidade Federal de Pernambuco</p>	<p>Amanda Martinez is a PHD Candidate in Urban Development at the Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil. Research areas lines based on urban socio-spatial segregation, gender and urban planning, land rights and decolonial studies related to space production in Latin America.</p>
	<p>K'odieny Hillary Ogina Program Officer - Kenya Land Alliance</p>	<p>K'odieny Hillary Ogina is a Land and Natural resources policy advocacy expert with a bias on community land rights for marginalized communities.</p>
	<p>Sara Jani Project Monitoring and Knowledge Management Coordinator - MEL/ICARDA</p>	<p>Sara Jani is the Project Monitoring and Knowledge Management Coordinator of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning platform (MEL). She started her work with MEL in 2016. She provides support and training to ICARDA capacity, manages ICARDA knowledge products uploaded to the MEL platform to ensure maximum compliance with FAIR principles. In addition, she works on updating MEL's online user guide. Recently, she is involved in recording ICARDA projects and managing the contribution of ICARDA to the FAO-managed AGROVOC repository.</p>
	<p>Erik Stubkjær Professor emeritus Aalborg University in Aalborg (Denmark)</p>	<p>Professor emeritus Erik Stubkjær is co-author of the Cadastre and Land Administration Thesaurus (CaLAtHe), issued 2011 and now referenced by The Basel Register of Thesauri, Ontologies & Classifications (BARTOC), The OGC Definitions Server, and the Linked Land Governance Thesaurus (LandVoc). Erik is engaged in standardization activities, contributing to the Land parts of OGC standards LandInfra and InfraGML (2016/17), and striving to align standards within the domain of land administration, including the ISO 19152:2012 Land Administration Domain Model (LADM). He has published more than 100 papers, developed lecture courses and initiated the research project 'Modelling Real Property Transactions,' supported by European Science Foundation as COST action G9. He holds a Lic.agro. (Ph.D.).</p>
	<p>Caterina Caracciolo Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN</p>	<p>Caterina Caracciolo is senior information specialist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). After working at the National Council of Research (CNR) in Pisa, she joined FAO in 2006. Currently, she works with the Statistics Division to improve and manage and use statistical classifications and vocabularies. In the past, she served as the coordinator of AGROVOC. She holds a Masters in Philosophy from the University of Pisa and a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Amsterdam.</p>
	<p>Tim Fella Esri</p>	<p>Timothy Fella has over 15 years of experience of working on land tenure and land administration issues around the world. He is currently the Global Business Development Manager at the geographic information systems company ESRI, having previously worked at Indufor and USAID among others. Mr. Fella has a Master degree in Social Sciences for International Development and Bachelor degree in International Relations.</p>
	<p>Girma Habtegiorgis Technical Advisor and trainer - Geospatial Information Institute.</p>	<p>Girma Habtegiorgis is now technical advisor and trainer at Geospatial Information Institute. He has been working as director, coordinating and managing to update and modernize reference frames, topographic surveying, field test and methodology study of cadastral survey to choose suitable for Ethiopia, and as an instructor, giving lectures in surveying.</p>

	<p>Mike Powell Emergent Works</p>	<p>Mike Powell is former director of the IKM Emergent program, focusing on knowledge management in development, and now works as an independent consultant on ICT4D. His work focuses on being an effective intermediary between technology developers and users of information and communications systems at all levels in the development sector. This involves action to relate the technical choices that have to be made as ICT systems are developed to the intended relationships and information needs of those who want to use the result as a resource for development. Mike has championed action research work to understand the impact of emerging technologies such as linked data, noting that when new practices such as the use of linked data are being introduced, their impact on development dynamics is very often overlooked and underfunded.</p>
	<p>Prof Moha El-Ayachi NELGA North Africa</p>	<p>Professor Moha El-ayachi, Professor at the Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine Hassan II, Collège of Geomatic Sciences and Surveying Engineering, Morocco. His domain of academic and research activities are Land governance and geospatial sciences. Currently, He is the Academic Coordinator of the Master degree program in Geospatial Sciences and Land Governance and leading the regional Network of Excellence on Land Governance in North Africa. He served as Editor-in-Chief of the African Journal on Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences. He is a consultant Educator and certified Trainer in Land governance enhancement using the GNSS based VRS Network technology. He fluently conducts studies in Arabic, English, and French. The major topics of his work are linked to the use of Mobile GIS technology gathering both the GIS tools and GNSS solutions to facilitate spatial data collecting and processing and enhance land management and natural resources management.</p>
	<p>Volkan Çağdaş Associate professor - Ph.D. at Yildiz Technical University in Istanbul (Turkey)</p>	<p>Volkan Çağdaş is associate professor on cadastre and land administration at Yildiz Technical University, Department of Geomatic Engineering. He is co-author of Cadastre and Land Administration Thesaurus (CaLAThe) together with professor emeritus Erik Stubkjær. He has been teaching on cadastre, immovable property law, land re-adjustment, real estate valuation, and land information management systems at undergraduate and graduate levels. His current research includes development of semantic tools or knowledge organization systems which may support standardization activities in the domain of cadastre and land administration.</p>
	<p>Stein T. Holden Norwegian University of Life Sciences</p>	<p>Stein is a professor in Development and Resource Economics in the School of Economics and Business at Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway. He is also an active member of the new Centre for Land Tenure Studies in our university that was established in 2011 and is a collaboration between four of our Departments.</p>

For a list of the current community of experts, please see <https://landportal.org/voc/landvoc/experts-community>

Appendix 5

Workshop Agendas

Both sessions were held on Zoom, using the break-out group feature to support a more participatory workshop design. Workshops were facilitated by Tim Davies of Practical Participation (tim@practicalparticipation.co.uk).

SESSION 1: MONDAY 8TH JUNE 2020

0:00 - Introductions

0:20 - Workshop overview

0:25 - LandVoc - origins and development (Presentation)

0:40 - A tour of LandVoc (Presentation)

0:50 - Q & A (Discussion)

1:00 - How is Landvoc being used right now (Presentations & Discussion)

1:30 - Break

1:45 - Future uses of LandVoc (Brainstorm)

2:15 - Promoting LandVoc Uptake (break-out groups)

2:45 - Recap and close (Plenary)

SESSION 2: TUESDAY 23RD JUNE 2020

0:00 - Introduction, Recap & Icebreaker

0:25 - Maintaining LandVoc (Presentation)

0:35 - Governing LandVoc (Presentation)

0:45 - Question & Answers (Discussion)

1:00 - A future roadmap for LandVoc (Focussed conversation discussion)

1:30 - Break

1:45 - The Role of the Community of Experts (Discussion)

2:00 - Break-out groups - topics to be shaped by participant input

2:45 - Plenary and close.

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 high-risk collaboration digitization
 pastoral resource
 spatial information protection
 geodata transparency timeliness
 gap digital
 development re-use upon market
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Key words related
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