

In Brussels, on 23rd May 2024

Dear members, dear colleagues, dear friends,

It's been a fifth of a century since ELRA started to bring together national land registry organizations and to create a collaborative and generative environment for them. 20 years of almost 100 conferences and workshops, hundreds of presentations, and speeches, more than 20 successful applications for European grants, projects, studies, fact sheets and reports. All of these have been done for the better understanding of the land registry and to the benefit of the rule of law.

All of the above represent the outcome of the hard work of ELRA Contact Points - the members of European Land Registrars Network (ELRN) - who have contributed to its evolution. Throughout the years, more and more organizations have joined ELRA, which means that ELRA represents the right place to exchange the best practices, a friendly and inclusive environment for those who believe in the value of land registry and who want to get involved.

Looking back to the beginning, we should be proud of ELRA's achievements. ELRA is the most representative land registry organization in Europe and collaborate with the most relevant European and international organizations. Such a company requires high standards which ELRA has always had, thanks to the Contact Points contributions.

Besides, the last 20 years have been a very challenging period of time. ELRA has witnessed so many changes which have brought more and more challenges. ELRA has successfully kept up with the evolution, proving its adaptability and flexibility without losing its focus. Perhaps the best example is IMOLA project, which represent a milestone and an important part in the land registries interconnection process. It is the best example to prove that ELRA is also a hub of ideas and a generator of valuable, practical outcomes.



But ELRA is not only about its purposes and its achievements. ELRA is also about people. People who have dedicated their time and knowledge for this organization, people who identify their professional goals with those of ELRA, people who believe in this organization. For some of them, being part of ELRA family overlapped with their main active professional lifetime and we should be grateful for all of those who have contributed to what ELRA represents today.

The retrospective above can help with creating the perspective. Just like the wake of a boat on the sea can reveal the heading, looking back to ELRA's evolution we can foresee its future. We have the solid grounds to build our organizational future and we are ready to contribute to the most efficient implementation of new legal and technical instruments. We are aware that land registries are located at the confluence point of very important information workflows and a lot of adjacent systems rely on the data created or conveyed by them. From this position land registries can provide stability and certainty as long as they are allowed. In such a dynamic world, land registry can and should represent a stability pillar.

As we stand on the threshold of the future, it's crucial to recognize the pivotal role of land registry. In the future, as our planet faces unprecedented challenges such as climate change, rapid urbanization and increased mobility of the people, effective land registry will become even more paramount. New technologies enable new possibilities to use land registry information and to provide services unimagined before. Interconnection of land registries or implementation of new instruments based on artificial intelligence are obvious goals to be achieved, but we have to ensure that this evolution and these achievements will preserve the role and the value of land registries.

Land registry should continue to represent a guardian of the civil traffic, an instrument for the economic growth, accessible and reliable for everyone.



By chance, I'm the actual president of ELRA. It is a privilege, an honor from this ephemeral position to express the gratitude for all of those who brought ELRA to this stage. It is also my duty to ensure the continuity of this evolution at the highest standards established by my predecessors.

As a 20-year-old member of ELRA, I have witnessed all the relevant events of this organization, and I am so grateful for the opportunity I've had to be part of its evolution. I wish that this anniversary was not only about 20 years of proud activity, but also a celebration of the future of EUROPEAN LAND REGISTRY ASSOCIATION.

As we celebrate this milestone, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support and commitment. Thank you for being part of ELRA's journey. We look forward to many more years of cooperation and accomplishments.

Mihai Taus

ELRA President

