

Austria

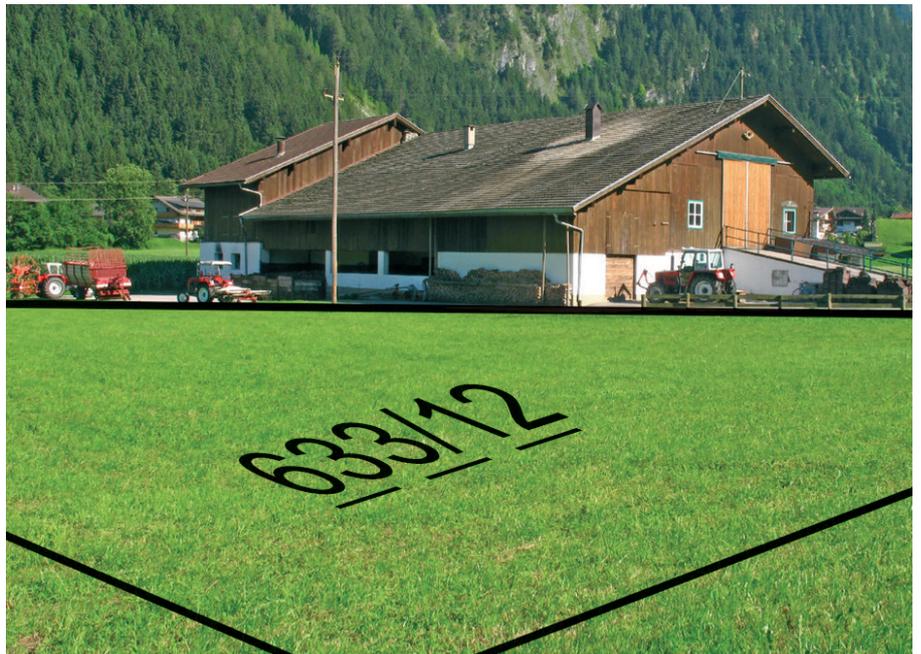
Austria takes another step towards digitalising the cadastral maintenance process

Maintenance of the Austrian cadastre is organised through a public-private cooperation model between the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV) and licensed private surveyors under the authority of BEV.

In 2018 BEV introduced a process to generate an electronic data flow allowing automatic analysis and processing of surveying documents.

Approximately 37,000 surveying documents (plans) are submitted annually to BEV's 41 local cadastral offices. The majority of these plans need to be authorised by BEV with a certificate confirming they are correct so that they can be used by the land registry court for decision-making. Following a positive land register decision, these documents are implemented into the cadastre by the cadastral office. Other kinds of surveying documents are used to update the cadastre by the surveying authority itself immediately after positive verification.

Since 2012, there has been a consistent digital transmission of surveying documents starting from submission to the cadastral office to the district court (land register). The surveying documents are submitted in an electronic



document file format (PDF/A-1b) fit for long-term archiving, digitally signed and archived in the cadastral register. As it is only available in a digitally unstructured PDF format, the content cannot be automatically analysed and further processed. Entering the data into the cadastral maintenance system, therefore requires manual transformation and integration into the cadastral maintenance system by the cadastral office. Even variety of tests during the process may leave some errors undetected.

To overcome this and to improve the digital process, the textual parts of the document (surveying plans and other supplements) are stored in PDF form fields with given field names to allow fully automated formal validation of the structured content. In terms of the surveying plan, a BEV-module

extracts and analyses the data and compares them with the legal status in the cadastre. The author may carry out a non-binding automatic pre-validation of the documents prior to application and is informed about deficiencies and inconsistencies via an automatically generated report, allowing corrections to be made and the resubmission of the application. As a result, the data are then transferred to the cadastral maintenance system as the basis of the business case.

The submission of structured documents was introduced on 1 October 2018, operating in parallel with the previous system. During the first three months, 36 surveying documents were submitted to BEV based on the new PDF using form fields.