

The Struggle for a Land Surveying Profession in Norway – is Progress Made?

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SUMMARY

Prior to 1980 land subdivisions in rural areas in Norway were carried out by lay-men using metes-and-bounds boundary descriptions, and there was no cadastral mapping. When nationwide cadastral surveying was introduced from 1980, this task was assigned the municipalities as a monopoly task. There was no strengthening of the education system nor introduction of an authorization system. It was in principle the responsibility of the individual municipality to ensure the competence and skills of the cadastral surveyor. Quality problems should soon appear. The first attempt at quality improvement was to introduce privatization and authorization of cadastral surveyors in 1999. This initiative by the Ministry of Environment, should fail due to resistance against privatization. A new initiative for privatization and authorization in 2015, now from private mapping companies, failed in 2018 in the Parliament. A greater majority of municipalities and their surveyors resisted once again against the change. However, the Parliament now decided that authorization shall be introduced. In August 2019 the Ministry sent out on public hearing amendments in the by-laws specifying the educational requirements for future authorisation. The paper will give an outline of the historical development to explain a situation with no cadastral surveying and mapping in rural areas in Norway until 1980, the cadastral surveying system then introduced and the quality problems in cadastral surveys and maps, and the succeeding attempts to introduce authorized surveyors, and the failures. Further it will be discussed the proposed regulations for education and authorisation, input from consultation bodies, and possible outcomes.

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