

Supporting modernization of land administration in Colombia with joint further education programs

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SUMMARY

Since 2016, Colombia has conducted important reforms for the modernization of the Land Administration sector, such as the development of a multipurpose cadaster as a public service and its operational decentralization. This challenging undertaking not only demanded a rethinking at all political and institutional levels, but also revealed an urgent need for qualified professionals who can ensure its correct implementation. In this framework, the Institute of Geomatics of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) developed and implemented a project funded by the Swiss Confederation to support capacity building in Land Administration in Colombia. This article presents the successful cooperation between FHNW, two Colombian Universities and the Colombian Geographic Institute IGAC, which resulted in a fit for purpose and innovative certificate in advanced studies (CAS) in Land Administration with dual certification (FHNW and national diplomas). A close collaboration with national and international specialists from both public and private sectors made it possible to meet the requirements in terms of scope, to transfer the know-how between the involved partners and to ensure the development of relevant modules, topics and contents. The successful implementation of the first edition of the “CAS in Land Administration in the framework of the Colombian Public Policy” resulted in the certification of 23 participants. In addition, the developed CAS offers the involved educational institutions the possibility to align the content and the teaching formats for the different needs of a decentralized Land Administration at the territorial level, thus contributing to a high-quality training of the much-needed professional staff in the different regions of Colombia.

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