

## NOTAT

### Icelandic Property Registry

1.June 2010

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## Icelandic Country Report: Addresses 2009-2010

### 1 Address Government and cooperation

#### 1.1 The most important authorities and tasks

##### 1.1.1 Address Authority

No ministry has the overall responsibility of controlling registration and disposition of addresses in Iceland. Furthermore, there are no law existing, regulations or guidelines regarding registration of access addresses. However, according to law, all real properties must have attached a name identity which corresponds more or less to the wider definition of addresses. Here after referred as real property address as distinguished from access address.

Currently there are 76 municipalities in Iceland and they register real property addresses, along with other real property data into a central database managed by The Icelandic Property Registry (IPR). Municipalities are the planning authorities and thus responsible for the naming of real property addresses which should be considered as the official address that other public registries link to.

One of the main problems of our system is that real property address is not always a good representative for an access address, and thus difficult to use in everyday life.

IPR falls under the Ministry of justice and Human Rights and is responsible of managing the real property database in Iceland, which the address repository is part of. IPR is also responsible for maintaining data quality and distribute the address data to end users.

##### 1.1.2 Official address

An official address is the real property address as it is registered in the real property database that IPR governs. It can either be a road name along with house number (with or without added character) or simply a place name e.g. a rural farm or name of an area or structure.

Dwelling numbers can be obtained from the real property database but are not part of the official address system. Thus persons or business are not registered within dwellings.

Some key figures:

There are 119,775 registered real property addresses in Iceland.

- 97,155 of those addresses have been located with an address point (81.11%).
- 61,708 are registered as legal home addresses whereas 61,610 of those have been located (99.84%).

### *1.1.3 The National Registry*

The National Registry (NR) is responsible for registering people with a legal home addresses. It maintains its own database, which is not directly linked to the real property database, and by doing so some incongruence arises between the two. Attempts have been made to minimize this. Today a real property address has to exist in the real property database before persons can be registered in the national register, there are however no rules or procedures that state that the two registration have to match perfectly.

Legislation regarding the merge of Iceland Property Registry and National Registry is now discussed in the parliament and it is likely that the two institutions will merge this July (actually we have already underway of sharing offices). This is a good opportunity to enhance the address system.

### *1.1.4 Statistics Iceland*

Statistics Iceland falls under The Ministry of Economic Affairs and has the responsibility of carrying out the Census 2011. It will be implemented in close cooperation with IPR and NR.

### *1.1.5 Business Registration*

Business registration falls under the responsibility of the Internal Revenue Directorate (Taxation authorities in Iceland). No connection is to the official addresses registered at the IPR. The addresses are stored only as simple text.

### *1.1.6 Icelandic Post*

The mail address usually consists of a road address with postal code and postal place name. Mail addresses can also have other form, such as the mailbox address. Iceland Post is the authority for changes in postal codes and postal place names.

No formal cooperation is between the Icelandic Post and other official registration authorities in Iceland.

### *1.1.7 Geographical infrastructure, INSPIRE*

National Land Survey of Iceland (NLS) is the responsible authority of implementing the INSPIRE Directive in Iceland, maintaining topographical base map (1:50.000) as well as maintaining and surveying for common spatial reference systems (ISN93 & ISN2004).

Addresses are defined as reference data and as an important component in the geographical infrastructure in the INSPIRE.

## **1.2 Cooperation between regulatory bodies**

### *1.2.1 General*

The development of common address registration has been under work for a long time. Around the year 2000 several governmental bodies joined in cooperation attach coordinates to all addresses in Iceland, with emphasises on summerhouses for emergency rescue purposes.

This cooperation showed the need for on central and common address system in Iceland. In 2006 IPR initiated a project with the aim of doing so. Formal agreement between all the main stakeholders was made in 2008 which included: The Icelandic Property registry, National Registry, Statistics Iceland and The Association of local Authorities in Iceland. The agreement defines the address concept, the aim and scope of the address project and assigned project management.

In 2009 a delegate from the Ministry of Transport, communications and local government was added to the project group. Currently we are waiting for response from the Committee of Place Names to assign their delegate.

### *1.2.2 Cooperation with municipalities*

Regular meetings are held between the project manager of the address project and the board of municipal planning- and building authorities.

## **2 Address legislation and administrative procedures**

### **2.1 Background**

#### *2.1.1 Legislation and regulations*

Several law deals with addresses in Iceland, but none of them defines or regulates an actual access address.

The reason for this can be found in our history. Real property names (often referred as the land name) have since the settlement been the primary identity of real properties. The first registration of real properties around

1096-97 uses this system, and it was more or less unchanged to late 1900. This was not a problem while people lived dispersed and no urban areas existed. With development of urban areas, with all its complicated housings like condominiums and multiple houses within the same parcel, this system is now exploded and necessary to define the address system from scratches.

The legislation we have today states:

- All roads, streets and squares must have a name decided by local authorities and numeric identity.
- When land is divided, new land should be given appropriate name, a real property address. The format of the address depends on if it is within planned area or not, that is if the real property address relates to a road name or not.
- In the case if several real properties are built within the same parcel (without being a condominium), like row-houses, each property gets its own real property address, discrete from the address of the land.
- The committee of place names has the role to verdict if new farm names are accepted or not. The names of many farms have a long history and the purpose is to maintain this culture.

### *2.1.2 Guideline and information*

Not existing.

## **2.2 Changes in legislation**

Work is underway on altering current legislation. This will be administrated by the address project management mentioned in chapter 1.2.1. However, since the collapse of the financial system in Iceland in 2008 we have had an uphill struggle to get the attention of the government for the need of enhanced law regarding registration and use of addresses.

On change that has helped us though it was not change of law, is that now we do not have to 'Tinglysa' changes of real property addresses. As the real property addresses was for long time used as the main identity of real properties, any alteration was difficult to manage and synchronise between authorities. Since early 2010, we have found ways of doing this differently in our system, so we do not have to do this longer.

## **2.3 Administrative procedures**

Municipalities assign, edit and delete addresses. Permission from the committee of place names is though needed if real property addresses are to be changed outside planned urban area. The GIS department of IPR is

responsible of managing the quality of address registration, correct writing of names and accurate location.

## **2.4 Guideline and education**

Not existing.

## **3 Address Data: Registration, distribution, use and benefit**

### **3.1 Registration of address data**

#### *3.1.1 Icelandic Property Registry*

IPR is developing new real property registration system that covers also registration of addresses. The new system is based on an enhanced conceptual model which has been in development for last four years. In this model the relationship between land, structures and ownership is defined in a new way and more independent from each other. The concept of an address is also defined independent from the other entities, thus *bye* to real property addresses and *hello* to new access address system.

#### *3.1.2 National Registry & Statistic Iceland*

The National Registry should start registering people to access addresses maintained by the IPR as soon as IPR is ready with its new registration system. Followed will be an effort to relate people to individual dwellings within houses.

#### *3.1.3 Municipalities*

Local authorities are waiting for the new system to be operational, so they can start harmonising real property addresses (and sometimes also legal home addresses) with the new defined access addresses.

Estimation shows that around 20-25% of the real property addresses have to be altered.

### **3.2 Distribution of address data**

- IPR distributes official addresses in Iceland. Customers can choose if they want real property addresses or access addresses which IPR has been collecting.
- National registry distributes legal home addresses. No coordinates are attached to these addresses. No common key is available to link the real property addresses and legal home addresses together apart from the address name itself.
- Two private companies distribute access address database along with coordinates and quality parameters to their regular clients. This is done in cooperation with IPR, as the companies have a direct access to our database.

### **3.3 Use and utility of address data**

No analysis has been made related to the use and benefit of the address data.

## **4 Projects for addresses and address data**

### **5 International**

#### **5.1 International general**

##### *5.1.1 Nordic Forum Address*

Referring to the Danish country report.