

# The Struggle for a Land Surveying Profession

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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. 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 to introduce privatization and authorization of cadastral surveyors in 1999 initiated 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. 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 how transformation of the existing system to a land surveying profession can take place.

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