

CREATING A SINGLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON LAND OWNERSHIP LEGAL RESTRICTIONS FOR SWITZERLAND

Bringing together information about more than 150 legal restrictions on land ownership will create a new type of cadastre for Switzerland.



Arising from the new federal law on geographic information, the Cadastre of Public Law Restrictions (PLR) on land ownership is now being developed by the Federal Office of Topography, swisstopo through the Federal Directorate of Cadastral Surveying. Unlike the Land Register which contains PLRs imposed in an individual case, the PLR Cadastre will deal with decisions on general regulations such those for communal or municipal buildings.



Information about a specific PLR relating to a parcel of land is currently available by contacting the relevant canton or commune office. Complications arise when people need to compare or combine different restrictions which means contacting a number of offices and, in some cases, getting help to evaluate all the information. The PLR Cadastre will change this by compiling all the information from these different sources to provide a comprehensive, reliable central register.

As well as the regulations setting out what is included in each restriction and its effect, the PLR Cadastre will also contain plans showing the area to which these apply. Users will be able to retrieve information online or by asking for a paper or digital extract. A certified extract, which has official status, can also be requested.

The first phase of development has focused on the 17 most important restrictions from eight sectors including contaminated sites, groundwater protection and forests. Cantons can also add their own restrictions. The pilot cantons have now reported on their experiences. By 2015 eight cantons will have introduced the register with the rest expected to do so by 2019.