

Land administration tools to support national security

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SUMMARY

Rapid changes in global geopolitics have prompted debate about national security in cross-cutting focus of public administration, land administration being no different. The research related to land ownership and national security has mainly focused on impacts on foreign investment on infrastructure, but less on the mechanisms that are used to restrict or monitor this ownership by national security grounds. As governments have recognized land ownership enabling a possible pattern for hostile hybrid influencing to the right holder, the purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of land administration tools that are used for monitoring and/or restricting ownership right of land, in order to support national security in the context of Northern Europe. The results show that while some of the tools are based on specific legislation related to national security, some are embedded in generic legislation. There is also variation in the established processes – while in some countries, the law sets clear buffer zones for using the tools, in some environments the actions are done more ad hoc. Also, due to the complexity of national security issues, while the use of a specific tool is based on some other land policy goal, it may still support national security simultaneously or indirect.