

## The “Franzische Kataster” (land register) – Only a historical Map?

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Franz I. of Austria that the legislative and technical hindrances were cleared away in order to commence with big changes. One can truly say that it was due to his land tax patent from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 1817 that he founded the main land register of Austria and of the whole empire. The basic ideas of this patent are still valid today.

This land register, named after its originator, was also said to be a “stabile” land register because the net profit rate, which was crucial for the rating of taxation, was to be stabilized without giving consideration to higher productivity or diligence except to cases in which the fertility of the earth was destroyed by natural phenomenon.

The land register was developed for the city of Vienna in the years 1819 to 1824.

This land register of Vienna was scanned and digitized by the Urban Archaeology of Vienna.

Since the launching of the “Kulturgüterkataster (Cultural Heritage Cadastre)” in 1996, the individual municipal departments of the City of Vienna have developed a massive body of know-how regarding the various fields of interest. In particular, the inventorying and evaluation of architectural objects as implemented by the City of Vienna could be easily adapted to other EU cities. It has already been suggested to initiate corresponding EU projects or participate in such.

The long-time objective is an Internet portal. Based on the applications and competence developed in Vienna, the cultural assets of European metropolises could be digitised to present them in a novel forum. Lovers of culture, historians and urban planners would thus dispose of an instrument that renders urbanistic research much more efficient.

Here, the “Franzische Kataster” could play a key role. Especially in the candidate countries in Eastern and South-eastern Europe, land surveying to this day would be unthinkable without this land register. A digital version of the register, could provide enormous support to the surveyor’s offices in the new Member States.