

# **Shaping the environment in land consolidation projects in Poland**

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FIG Working Week 2008, Stockholm, Sweden, June 14 2008 – June 19 2008

**Have the new law regulations changed  
our attitude to rural landscape?**



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## characteristic features of Polish rural areas

small and scattered parcels

the average farm size in Poland is ca. 8 hectares

the average area of land plot is merely 0,79 hectares

the average farm consists of 6,79 land plots

big regional diversification of farm size

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## characteristic features of Polish rural areas

- 38,2 % of the population lives in rural areas
- ca. 25% of the population works in the rural sector

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## characteristic features of Polish rural areas

- a big regional diversification of population density index



([www.mapa-polski.net](http://www.mapa-polski.net))

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## characteristic features of Polish rural areas

- underdeveloped infrastructure
- biodiversity, estimated as one of the highest in Europe

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**about two million hectares of arable land in Poland  
diligently require land consolidation...**

financial funds for the period 2007-2013 will only cover the costs for 210 thousand hectares...

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**what are the recent pro-environmental changes  
in land consolidation procedure?**

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- **Environment Protection Law (in force since 2001)**
- **associated legal provisions**
- **Land Consolidation Act (in effect since 1982)**
- **guidelines completing existing land consolidation procedure**

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## land consolidation pre-studies

e.g.  
land ownership pre-study  
land use pre-study  
relief pre-study  
  
environmental pre-study

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## environmental pre-study

prepared when the land consolidation area exceeds 300 hectares



source: Dolnośląskie Biuro Geodezji i Terenów Rolnych

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## environmental pre-study

borders of occurring zones should be marked:

- wet and waterlogged zones
- coastal zones
- mountainous or sylvan zones
- protected zones, including water intake zones and protected zones of water reservoirs,
- protected habitat zones, including Natura 2000,
- zones with exceeded environmental standards,
- populated zones,
- zones with significant historical, cultural and archeological landscapes.

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## from environmental pre-study to EIA

1. **surveyor elaborating the preliminary land consolidation project**
2. **environmental pre-study**
3. **'starost' (the environmental office of the proper administrative district)**
4. **the environmental impact assessment procedure**

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## who can handle the EIA report?

**universities and other research centers which deal with environmental subject-matter**

**surveyors' offices employing professionals in landscape planning/protection and ecology**

**the Rural Development Society**

**and individuals having professional experience in environmental planning and protection**

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**the content of an environmental impact report  
is specified in the Environment Protection Law**

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## **conclusion**

- **ongoing discussion of the professionals on areas with special landscape values in land consolidation procedure**
- **should farmers be entitled to financial compensation for the loss of possible farm structure improvement?**
- **how financial compensation could be accomplished?**

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