



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

**Presented at the FIG Congress 2022,
11-15 September 2022 in Warsaw, Poland**

The potential of multi-purpose land consolidation in Eastern Europe

FIG / FAO Joint Session TS08B:

Leveraging the potential of multi-purpose land consolidation in Eastern Europe

14 September 2022

FIG Congress 2022

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Multi-purpose land consolidation in Western Europe

- Many countries in Western Europe have a long land consolidation tradition (100+ years).
 - Land consolidation has from around the 1980s developed into a multi-purpose instrument (different objectives pursued in different parts of the same project area).
 - Drivers of multi-purpose land consolidation in Western Europe:
 - Increased general attention to nature, environment and sustainability
 - Need for nature restoration and to address loss of biodiversity, environmental problems caused by intensive agricultural production, in particular industrialized livestock production
 - Increased competition on the land use in rural areas and conflicts between different types of land use
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Farm structures in Eastern Europe

- Most countries have farm structures dominated by smallholders and family farms and land fragmentation is excessive.
 - In many countries the average farm size is between 1 and 3 ha, and the average parcel size is around 0.3 ha.
 - Some countries have dualistic farm structures with many very small farms and few large corporate farms (e.g. Serbia and Moldova).
 - Few countries have farm structures mainly dominated by large-scale corporate farms (Belarus and Ukraine).
 - In most countries, the current farm structures are the result of land reforms implemented from 1990 and onwards (*restitution* and/or *distribution*).
 - In many countries land abandonment is wide spread.
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Fragmentation of both land ownership and land use



FAO land
consolidation pilot
project in Terbuf
village, Albania

Three pillars of the FAO regional programme on land consolidation

1. Technical guidelines
2. Field projects in so far 11 FAO programme countries
3. LANDNET - the informal network of land tenure professionals interested in land consolidation, land banking, land market development etc.





Five minimum requirements for having an operational land consolidation programme

1. Land consolidation is embedded in the overall land policy.
 2. Legal framework for land consolidation has been adopted.
 3. Public lead agency for land consolidation has been established and delegated the task to manage the programme.
 4. Secured funding on an annual basis.
 5. Technical and administrative capacity has been developed for both field work and to manage programme.
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Experiences with land consolidation in Eastern Europe

- Of 13 FAO programme countries in Eastern Europe, only three (Türkiye, Serbia and North Macedonia) have operational land consolidation programmes.
 - Land consolidation was introduced in additional eight of the countries but not yet operational national programmes.
 - The main driver has been the political wish to improve farm structures by reducing land fragmentation and facilitating farm enlargement.
 - So far very few examples of multi-purpose land consolidation in Eastern Europe.
 - Good experience in all three programme countries with combining land consolidation and improvement of local agricultural infrastructure.
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Status for the development of land consolidation programmes in Eastern Europe (as of September 2022)

<i>Countries with ongoing national land consolidation programme</i>	<i>Countries with land consolidation experiences but not yet with a national programme</i>	<i>Countries with little or no experiences in land consolidation</i>
North Macedonia	Albania	Belarus
Serbia	Armenia	Montenegro
Türkiye	Azerbaijan	
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	
	Georgia	
	Kosovo*	
	Moldova	
	Ukraine	

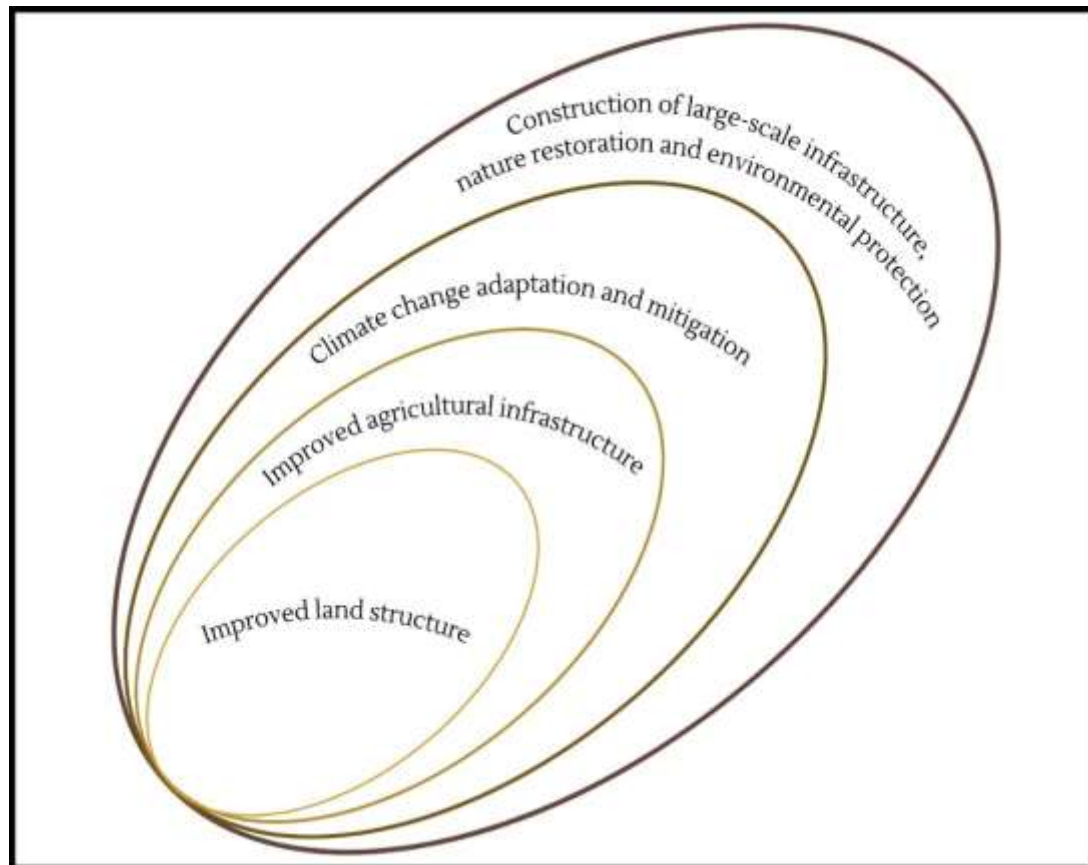
* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).



The potential of multi-purpose land consolidation in Eastern Europe

- FAO strongly promotes multi-purpose land consolidation when relevant.
 - Legislation should define broad land consolidation objectives (beyond agricultural development).
 - Land banking can be used to support multi-purpose land consolidation, in particular when private agricultural land is taken out of production.
 - Programme countries are in a very favorable position to apply multi-purpose land consolidation when relevant.
 - Adds new strong political arguments for introduction of land consolidation instruments and contributes to long-term sustainability of the instrument.
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The potential of multi-purpose consolidation in Eastern Europe



Objectives of land consolidation in a multi-purpose approach



Requirements to apply multi-purpose consolidation in Eastern Europe

- The objectives of land consolidation must be broadly defined in the land consolidation legislation.
 - Need to engage non-traditional government institutions (nature, environment, transport ...).
 - Need to plan in detail the objectives and interventions for each specific multi-purpose land consolidation project (i.e. where to develop agriculture, where to take land out of production etc.).
 - Need to provide land (ensure land mobility) to compensate private owners for land taken out of production and to use for farm enlargement (from existing state land, from land banking or from private sellers during the re-allotment planning).
 - To avoid that complexity leads to long project implementation.
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Thanks!

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VGGT and Governance of Tenure:

<http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/en/>

FAO Regional Initiative on Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms in ECA:

<http://www.fao.org/europe/regional-initiatives/smallholders-family-farms/en/>

Proceedings from LANDNET workshops 2002 – 2019:

<http://www.fao.org/europe/resources/land-tenure-workshops/en/>

Published papers:

<https://aalborg.academia.edu/MortenHartvigsen>

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Morten_Hartvigsen
