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FIG WORKING WEEK 2017

Helsinki Finland

29 May - 2 June 2017

Land consolidation as vehicle for implementation of VGGT and SDGs

Morten Hartvigsen, Maxim Gorgan and Katalin Ludvig,
FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

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How can land consolidation contribute to the implementation of the international development agenda?

- **The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT)**

What does it mean for our daily work as land tenure professionals?

Land consolidation in a global perspective

- Land consolidation is a well-established land management tool with a fairly global application but with its main prevalence in Europe and South Asia.
- In Europe, modern land consolidation goes back more than 100 years.
- Land consolidation can be applied on both ownership and use rights.
- Traditionally an instrument for agricultural development by facilitating reduction of land fragmentation and enlarged holding and farm sizes.
- More and more a multi-functional tool for integrated community development with improved agricultural infrastructure and furthermore public interventions such as nature restoration, environmental protection and development of infrastructure.

Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals

- Adopted in September 2015.
- 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets.
- Requires a more programmatic and integrated approach.
- Need to re-think development work to ensure that support to land consolidation best possible contributes to achieving the SDGs.



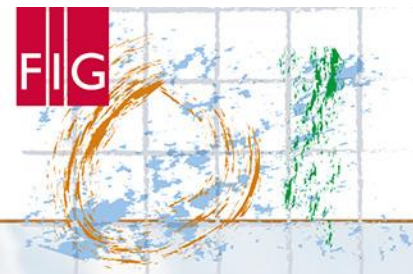


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Examples of how land consolidation can contribute to the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (1):

- **Promotion and implementation of pro-poor approaches to policies and programmes, including national land consolidation strategies and programmes => contributes to**
 - ✓ **SDG 1.b: Designing policy frameworks based on gender-sensitive development strategies.**
 - ✓ **SDG 8.3: Promotion of development oriented policies, that improves job-creation and entrepreneurship.**



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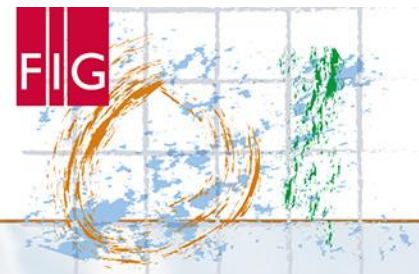


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Examples of how land consolidation can contribute to the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (2):

- **Enhancement of access to natural resources, including the access to land, through land consolidation => contributes to**
 - ✓ **SDG 1.4: All men and women have equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land, and other natural resources**
 - ✓ **SDG 2.3: Double agricultural productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers**



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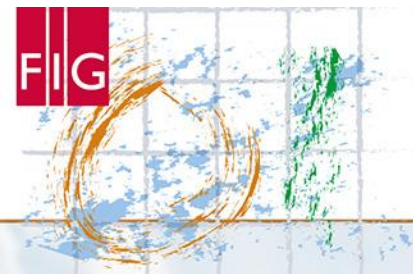


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Examples of how land consolidation can contribute to the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (3):

- Inclusiveness of women, youth and vulnerable groups is also a key principle in a participatory land consolidation process => contributes to
 - ✓ **SDG 5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources and access to ownership and control over land.**
 - ✓ **SDG 5.c: Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for promotion of gender equality.**
 - ✓ **SDG 5.5: Ensure women's equal opportunities.**

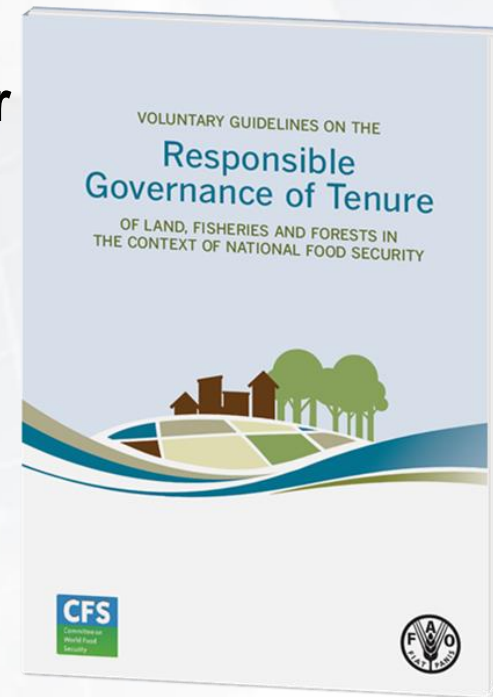


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The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT)

- Endorsed in May 2012 by the Committee on World Food Security on behalf of all UN member countries
- First international document on governance of tenure.
- A reference to improve governance of tenure based on international best practice.
- Promotes secure tenure rights and responsible governance with respect to all forms of tenure.
- Implementation of VGGT in it self contributes to achieving SDGs.



What do VGGT say about land consolidation? (Part 4, Section 13)

- States should recognize and respect all legitimate tenure right holders and their rights and promote formal registration.
- Participants are to be at least as well off after the schemes compared with before.
- Multi-functional approach to land consolidation is promoted when appropriate.
- Promotes voluntary land consolidation but a majority based approach is in line with VGGT if proper safeguards are in place.
- Promotes development and adoption of national land consolidation strategies.

Ownership and farm structures in Central and Eastern Europe

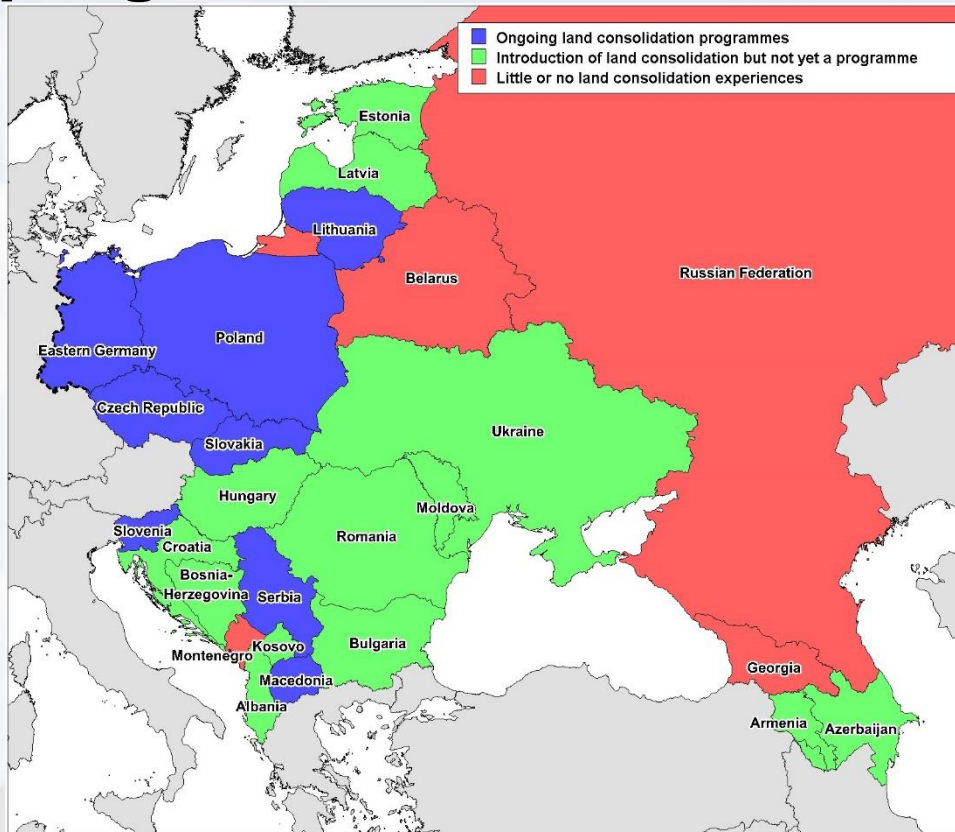
- **Except for a few countries such as Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine, farm structures are dominated by smallholders and family farms.**
- **Medium or highly fragmented land ownership exists.**
- **Land fragmentation is often (but not always) the outcome of land reforms implemented from 1990 and onwards.**
- **Land use fragmentation is excessive in 5 of 7 countries where state land was distributed in physical parcels.**
- **15 of 25 countries have high level of both ownership and land use fragmentation.**

Land consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe

- The need to address the structural problems has been recognized.
- So far 21 of the 25 countries have since the beginning of transition introduced land consolidation instruments.



Status of development of land consolidation programmes in Central and Eastern Europe



As of May 2017:

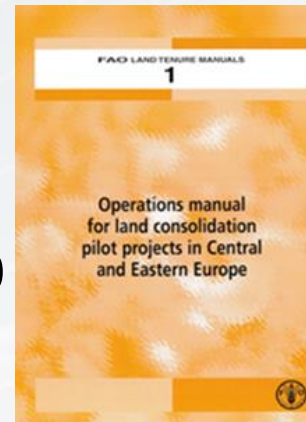
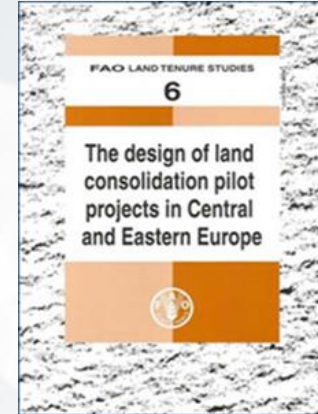
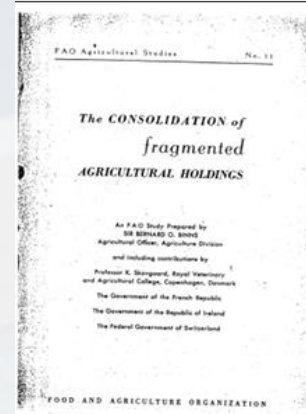
- **8 countries** with ongoing land consolidation programmes

- **In 13 countries** land consolidation introduced but not yet a programme

- **4 countries** with little or no land consolidation experience

The experiences of FAO

- FAO started work on land fragmentation and land consolidation shortly after it was founded in 1945.
- FAO has now for more than 15 years supported land consolidation in CEE by:
 - Providing policy guidelines
 - Implementing field projects in so far 10 countries
 - Organized 16 regional workshops between 2002 and 2016 (LANDNET)



Implementation of VGGT integrated into the work of FAO on land consolidation

- **Screening of existing legal and institutional framework for compliance with VGGT.**
- **Building on VGGT when supporting countries introducing land consolidation and developing National Land Consolidation Programmes:**
 - **Respect all legitimate tenure rights (not just formally registered ownership rights).**
 - **Include safeguards – participatory process, fair valuation and accessible options for appeal.**
 - **Prepare for land consolidation with multiple objectives.**

The case of FYR Macedonia

- **Two rounds of land consolidation pilots with Dutch support 2008-12.**
- **National Land Consolidation Strategy adopted in 2012.**
- **Law on consolidation of agricultural land adopted in 2013 with two approaches; voluntary and majority based.**
- **During 2014-17, FAO project has screened for compliance with VGGT, tested legal framework in two pilots, provided legal recommendations and build up capacity for field work and managing programme.**
- **With EU IPA funds, FAO will during 2017-20 implement the first round of projects under the national programme and suggest fine-tuning of legal framework and prodecures.**

Conclusions and way forward

- **Land consolidation can provide important contribution to the international development agenda – Achieving the SDGs and implementation of VGGT**
- **But it does not come automatically and depends on how projects and programmes are designed and implemented (integrated approach).**
- **SDGs and VGGT is not only an issue in developing countries and should be considered in all our work as land tenure professionals.**



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Thank you very much!

Morten Hartvigsen

Land Tenure Officer / Regional Initiative Delivery Manager

Morten.Hartvigsen@fao.org

Maxim Gorgan

Land Tenure and Rural Development Consultant

Maxim.Gorgan@fao.org

Katalin Ludvig

Rural Development Specialist

Katalin.Lugvig@fao.org



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