

International Workshop on Land Consolidation and Land Banking

Budapest

8-11 November 2010

Introduction

On behalf of DLG - The Netherlands, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Budapest, and the FARLAND Network, we are happy to invite you for an International Workshop on Land Consolidation and Land Banking, taking place in Budapest, from 8-11 November 2010.

Most countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) face severe problems in their rural land structure. Fragmentation of ownership and small scale of holdings are prominent. Weak institutional frameworks cause bad functioning land markets that prevent investments and creation of viable, competitive rural areas. A weak land structure has different dimensions. The FARLAND network has concluded in 2007 that Europe faces many challenges in making its rural land structure sustainable. This involves anticipating on changing market conditions (like liberalisation, open competition) but also anticipating on environmental developments (increasing occurrence of floods, forest fires). Climate change increases the risks for environmental hazards and puts important parts of ecological systems under threat. The land use and the land structure are important foundations, determining the resilience of territories to cope with changes from outside. The challenges mentioned, are not limited to CEE countries but are valid for many other European countries as well.

Since 2007 the FAO led network of CEE countries and FARLAND are connected, creating excellent conditions for exchange of knowledge and upgrading of approaches. In many European countries, instruments for land consolidation and land banking are under evaluation to cope with current and new challenges. The present workshop will build further on previous workshop outcome. It has the ambition to set a next step in creating proper institutional frameworks for countries and organisations to refer to while adjusting their institutional set up.

In concrete terms the workshop will;

- discuss a technical paper on land banking. A proper complete basic framework for land banking is not yet available. The objective is to bring best European knowledge together and to inspire each other in developing new up to date forms of land banking;
- define jointly the elements of a general legal framework for land consolidation that (i) is specific enough to be used as a clear reference for countries and organisations while developing their instruments and (ii) is general enough to allow tailor made country applications

A number of keynote presentations and country presentations will support the discussions.