

Land Consolidation and local Rural Development / LEADER

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European tradition for Land Consolidation

- **Some countries in Western Europe have a tradition for land consolidation / land reform that goes back more than 200 years.**
- **Land Consolidation has traditionally been an instrument to improve the local agricultural structures through enlargement of farm sizes and reduction of fragmentation.**
- **In most countries in Western Europe the purpose of doing Land consolidation has shifted in the last 20 years towards a more integrated and multifunctional approach (instrument for integrated rural development, nature and environmental protection, implementation of infrastructure projects etc.).**

The result of the land reform process since 1990 in Central and Eastern Europe:

- Agrarian structures unsuitable for today's Europe in a globalizing economy.
- Land fragmentation and small average farm sizes emerged as a side effect of the land reforms in most countries in the region.
- In Moldova: Average agricultural holding size is 1,56 ha located in 3-4 land parcels (often with 10-15 km between parcels).
- In Armenia: Average agricultural holding size is 1,2 ha located in 2-4 land parcels (often with up to 10 km between parcels).
- In Kosovo: Average agricultural holding size is 2,5 ha often located in 8 or more land parcels.

Recognition of the structural problems in the agrarian sectors (fragmentation and small farm sizes):

- Over the last 5-10 years an increasing recognition of the problems among political decision makers and experts in the region.
- Second wave of land reform in CEEC:
 - Land consolidation
 - Land funds / Land banks
 - Improved land management schemes
- Land consolidation is increasingly becoming an instrument for implementation of integrated local rural development.

Status of land consolidation activities in the region:

- Most of the countries have had the first experiences with land consolidation over the last decade.
- The variation between the countries is considerable.
- Five of twenty countries already have on-going National Land Consolidation Programmes co-funded by EU under the Rural Development programmes (Czech Rep., Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia).
- Four of the countries have not yet had any practical experience with land consolidation.
- Most of the countries are somewhere in-between.
- In a few of the countries land consolidation is not a political priority. The Government relies on the land market to solve the problems.

Status of land consolidation activities in the region:

	Land consolidation pilot projects under implementation	Land consolidation pilot projects already implemented	National land consolidation strategy under preparation or already prepared	Land consolidation legislation developed	On-going national land consolidation programmes
Albania		x			
Armenia	x		x		
Bosnia & Her.					
Bulgaria		x	x		
Croatia	x		x		
Czech Rep.				x	x
Estonia		x			
Georgia					
Hungary		x	x		
Kosovo	x			(x)	
Latvia		x			
Lithuania		x	x	x	x
Macedonia					
Moldova	x		x		
Poland			x	x	x
Romania	x		x		
Serbia	x		x	(x)	
Slovakia				x	x
Slovenia				x	x
Ukraine					

Perspectives:

- **The experiences with land consolidation in recent years in Central and Eastern European Countries demonstrate that land consolidation can be an effective and active instrument to:**
 - Address problems with land fragmentation and small farm sizes
 - Implement infrastructure-, nature- and environmental projects
 - Implement local measures for rural development (community area development plans)
- **EU member- and candidate countries have access to funding for land consolidation from EU rural development funds.**
- **The rest of the countries have no such possibility and are forced to try to fund land consolidation activities through donor funded projects.**

Land consolidation – An integrated part of rural development:



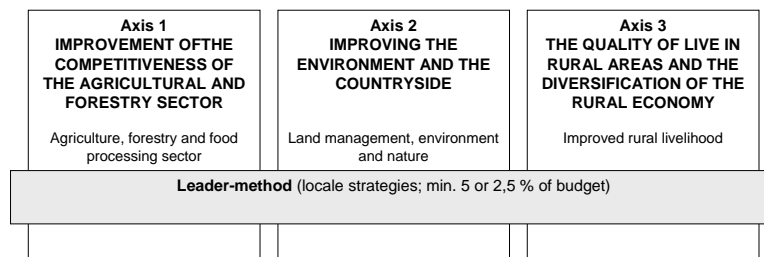
Bravicia Village, Moldova (February 2005)

Land consolidation most be seen in a broader rural development context.

Re-parcelling alone does not solve the basic structural problems.

EU Council Regulation no. 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

OVERALL STRUCTURE :



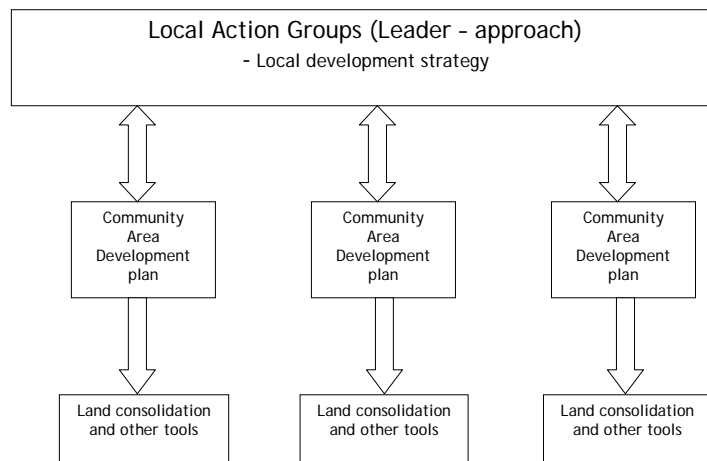
Land consolidation can be implemented according to article 30 under axis 1

It is the intention of the EU Commission that rural development projects shall be as integrated as possible (cross sector approach – symbiosis effects)

***Land Consolidation* is an excellent instrument to implement projects with multiple purposes / goals:**

- Improvement of agricultural structures by enlargement of farm sizes and reduction of fragmentation.
- Implementation of nature and environmental projects according to EU regulation (Natura 2000 and Waterframe directives).
- Compensation of landowners in relation to construction of infrastructure of national importance (new highways or railroads).
- Local infrastructure projects (roads, access to land, drainage- and irrigation systems).
- Local improvement of nature values and access to nature.
- Improved local rural livelihood in general.
- Many others.

Interaction between Leader approach and land consolidation projects



Nor Erznka Land Consolidation Pilot Project, Armenia (FAO project): Area Development Plan



Nor Erznka Land Consolidation Pilot Project, Armenia (FAO project): Area Development Plan

Current land use



Proposed changes

Land
reserve to
expand
farms

Expansion of
the cemetery

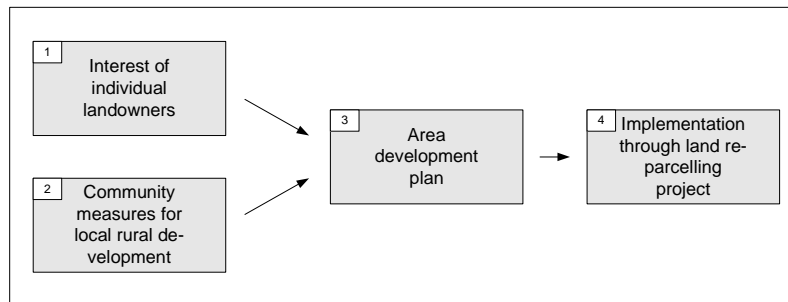


Extension of residential areas

Newly planted orchard in Nor Erznka village, Armenia (FAO project) – implementation of Community Area Development Plan (November 2006)

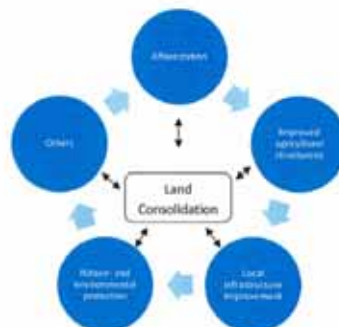


Practical integration of local measures for rural development in relation to land consolidation projects



The LEADER-approach in relation to land consolidation:

- Participatory (bottom up) approach (both in relation to Local Action Groups (LAGs) and in project implementation)
- Cross-sector approach
- Local rural development strategy for the geographical area of the LAG => Community Area Development Plan => Implementation partly but not only through a land consolidation project



Small Danish Project

Roedding Lake Land Consolidation project – Plan 1



Small Danish project

Roedding Lake Land Consolidation project – Plan 2



Roedding Lake project after implementation

