





Government Service for Land and
Water Management
Ministry of Human Affairs, Agriculture and
Innovation

4th International Workshop Budapest

12-15 November 2012

Proposed Set Up LANDNET



4th International Workshop on Land Market Development and Land Consolidation – Budapest, 12-15 November 2012





LANDNET Declaration

Representatives of countries of the LANDNET workshop, held from 12-15 November 2012 have developed emerging developments related to land-use structures in Europe and have adopted the following conclusions:

The present situation is that:


- Rural areas in Europe are challenged by globalization, increased competitive pressures on agriculture, land use conflicts, non-urban migration, leading to unbalanced trends in rural areas;
- Rural and structural change in Europe are characterized by social issues, fragmented agricultural holdings;
- Rural land market functioning in many countries is strongly hampered by various reasons such as lack of information, unbalanced legal situation, high transaction costs, undeveloped spatial planning frameworks, unclear and insecure property rights etc.;
- Existing legal frameworks and/or instruments are not well developed;
- Land reform issues are not getting sufficient attention by both European and national policies;
- Competitiveness of European rural areas is seriously affected by the slow pace of restructuring of rural land-covering and/or difficulties to get mortgages on rural land etc.;
- Addressing rural land use issues resulting from policy choices – such as for example EU rural 2000 development of public infrastructure – water management etc. – can only be effective when supported properly with and focused to healthy agricultural sector or in new functioning, new model;
- The common goal of the involved member states seriously impacts land development.


Consequently that:


- An informal network has been functioning since 2003, organized by FAO and supported moderately by European Commission, primarily, partly by the member states and partly by organizing a number of workshops;
- Based on the introduction to the initial network, a number of technical assistance projects dealing with rural consolidation have been initiated, targeting different countries (EU – Agency for, FAO, GIZ, etc.);
- Involving countries and regions have been engaged by setting up the network and legal frameworks for particular member states and rural areas are still either in preparation or in the phase of pilot actions or monitoring;
- Financial frameworks do not adequately support policy initiatives, among others by absence of sufficient national budget of individual countries to implement programmes to improve land structures.




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Questions

- do you support the Set Up? What improvements / changes could be made?
- who could be the national contact person in your country?
- what concrete activities could be part of a three year programme of the LANDNET which are relevant to you / your country? (to be developed as annex 2 of the set up)
- what could you/your organisation/your country possibly contribute (in 'kind' or financing)

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Aim

The aim of the LANDNET is to stimulate proper and timely responses to (changing) needs of society regarding land use and land tenure in rural and peri-urban areas. By various activities like studies, collection of knowledge and experiences, exchange and capacity building, innovation of institutional frameworks and implementation approaches is stimulated.

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Scope

The scope is the broad set of institutional requirements needed to facilitate, guide and complement rural land markets. This concerns both the 'hard side' of regulatory / legal frameworks for market functioning like laws of land ownership and leasing, taxation and the 'soft side' like promotional measures, mediation and solving of land use conflicts. Moreover it includes the range of public and public/private interventions to adjust the use and/or the ownership structure of land to the current economic, environmental and social reality.

Interventions often take place as integrated territorial development projects serving different objectives at local, regional and national level, including instruments like land swapping, land consolidation (voluntary or statutory) and land banking. Approaches are 'people oriented' in the sense that they are carefully planned and implemented and contain sufficient opportunity for recourse. LANDNET activities are based on principles laid down in the "Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security"

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Operational objectives

1. Deepen the understanding of the issues that hamper rural land markets and their interrelation in various parts of Europe
2. Exchange knowledge and experience to enhance capacity among its members and to create a broader knowledge base
3. Identify good practice in order to formulate common visions on the main elements needed to come to effective policies
4. Stimulate the establishment and upgrading of regional and national approaches and institutional frameworks
5. Influence upgrading of the national and European policies by joining policy consultations and taking part in public and policy debate
6. Stimulate and facilitate professional training and capacity building in order to create the organisational preconditions for implementation



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Activities

- Organise thematic international workshops focused on knowledge exchange
- Organise study visits focused on new (experimental) applications and approaches
- Study specific themes and country cases
- Contribute to implementation of pilots in different areas of the LANDNET mandate
- Contribute to guidelines and good practice manuals
- Facilitate E-discussions and a web forum
- Formulate common positions related to new policy developments
- Mobilise and organise the participation in other events or programmes
- Participate in policy debate sessions
- Identify relevant international events and subsidy programmes
- Maintain a webpage (linked to the FAO site and the FARLAND site)
- Issue a yearly newsletter
- Maintain an international contact point
- Compile and maintain a database of experts



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Organisation

FAO REU in Budapest is willing to be the Network Manager and to fulfil a function as Secretariat

Each country (EU / Candidate EU and New Neighbours) appoints a national contact person to ensure linkages with the relevant government organisation.

In each country, the organisations that support the LANDNET will be formalised by registering as LANDNET partner organisation

A small board of high level representatives representing FAO and the members determines the main directions

A small core team of European experts is created to assist FAO in the preparation and implementation of content related activities (workshop programs, studies etc.)

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Thank you!

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