



Experience in Land Consolidation in Macedonia

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Facts about Macedonia

- ▶ Population: 2.046.177, citizens/km²: 79,8
- ▶ Total area: 25,713 km²
- ▶ (Hills and mountains 79,0 %)
- ▶ (Plains 19,1 %)
- ▶ (Natural lakes 1,9 %)

- ▶ Forest land: 1.159.600 ha (45%)
- ▶ Agricultural land: 1.121.000 ha (44%)
- ▶ Cultivated agric. land: 509.000 ha (20%)
- ▶ Pastures: 611.000 ha (24%)

- ▶ *State-owned land: 200.000 ha/ 143.600 ha distributed*

- ▶ Agriculture:
- ▶ Main occupation in the rural areas
- ▶ 43% of population is rural
- ▶ 13% share in GDP
- ▶ 21% of population employed in agricultural sector

Agricultural land, farm structure and land fragmentation

Efficient land use is hampered by the small scale and fragmented private farms

► Statistical surveys

Number of family farms : 192.675 in 2007 (226.000 in 1994)

Average farm size : 1,47 ha in 2010 (1,6 ha in 2007 / 2,6 ha in 1994)

According to 2007 census - less than 1ha are 63% (54% in 1994), 90% up to 3 ha

► Farm Register

Number of farms (with agric. land): 97.748

Average farm size: 3,15 ha

Average farm size of farms using state-owned land: 26,80 ha belong to 5.350 users (but the most 4.700 are with 10 ha plots)

Fragmentation

Cadastral: 4.5 million cadastral parcels with average size of a parcel of arable land is 0,26 ha (0,2 ha with private parcels, 0,53 ha with state land parcels)

Farm register: In average 3,5 parcels per family farms and 5 for legal entities with average parcel size of 0,6 ha/parcel

Fragmented Agricultural Land



Introduction of land consolidation in Macedonia

- ▶ In Macedonia, like in large parts of Central and Eastern Europe problems of small farm size and fragmentation of land ownership hamper rural development. The Government of Macedonia (GOM) acknowledges this problem and has expressed its willingness to solve it
- ▶ Land fragmentation and small scale subsistence farming are dominant features in Macedonian agricultural land use, which is hampering the development of a sound commercial agricultural sector. An effective tool to address these issues is land consolidation, which Macedonia has not anymore applied since the late 1980'ies
- ▶ In the national agricultural and rural development strategy (2007-2013) the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Water Economy (MAFWE) states that: "Effective use of agricultural land in Macedonia is hampered by parcelling and fragmentation stemming from previous limitations on usable areas and ownership, inheritance customs, as well as a tradition of informal relations in the land market"
- ▶ The hardly existing weak land market, which fails to contribute to farm consolidation, as well as the low economic growth and lack of social security, keeps feeding the process of fragmentation and diversification of production in small lots in order to offset market fluctuations and satisfy food needs

EMERALD 2008-2009

- ▶ In September 2008 the Dutch Government Agency for Land and Water management (DLG) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) of Macedonia started, in cooperation with SNV Macedonia the Emerald project. This cooperative project between Macedonia and the Netherlands aims at strengthening the Macedonian Government in setting main directions for developing a comprehensive rural land development policy
- ▶ The Emerald project aimed at achieving the following results:
 - To investigate, analyse and evaluate the main threats and opportunities for scaling up farms and consolidate land plots
 - To define follow up steps for a Land Development Policy, based on first experiences in pilot areas
 - To strengthen the capacity of MAFWE for preparation and implementation of Land Consolidation strategies and policies; thereto a training programme has been developed and performed

Recomendations Towards Rural Land Development in Macedonia

- ▶ General recommendations to provide a framework for stimulating the rural land market
- ▶ The strategic use of State lands to improve the land use structure
- ▶ Develop measures to activate private land on the land market
- ▶ Create the organisational capacity to guide the programme
- ▶ Final recommendation >

Prepare and develop a list of action points, and set priorities. Advised to make this one of the first activities in the follow up project of STIMERALD

STIMERALD 2010 - 2012

The purpose of the project:

- ▶ The Dutch Government assisted the Macedonian Government in preparing a strategy and organization set up for implementing a comprehensive land development policy. The project resulted in the National Strategy on Land Consolidation including a comprehensive program
- ▶ The second purpose of the project was to strengthen the capacity of MAFWE staff on national and regional level to implement Land Consolidation. The capacity has increased in several ways: broader and smaller groups of governmental employees have been trained, have seen experiences from other countries and have experienced the job of land consolidation

National Land Consolidation Strategy for 2012 - 2020 (1)

Strategic goal:

- ▶ **“Mitigation and graduate overcoming of the unfavourable structure of the agricultural land as a main resource for the economic activities in the rural areas in order to increase the competitiveness of the Macedonian agricultural production, to improve the living conditions in rural areas and to provide sustainable use of natural resources.”**
- ▶ Land consolidation is emphasized as:
 - ▶ Integrated rural development approach
 - ▶ Territorial planning and re-design activity linked to re-parceling of the land to improve agriculture
 - ▶ Strong linkage to road and irrigation network investments (all where appropriate)
- ▶ Due to the fact LC aimed at public goods and market deficiencies as well sustain the development of rural areas, **land consolidation is recognized as activity of public interest**

National Land Consolidation Strategy for 2012 - 2020 (2)

Specific objectives:

- ▶ **Reduction of fragmentation of land parcels with grouping and improvement of their location in regards to farm buildings**
- ▶ **Improvement of irregular shape of the parcels in order to apply contemporary technologies and techniques to production**
- ▶ **Increasing of average size of the farms, (by putting of all available resources possible (state land and other land resources of the Land Bank)**
- ▶ **Provision of access to parcels of new or rehabilitated irrigation network, as well as road infrastructure,**
- ▶ **Reduction of areas of uncultivated or abounded agricultural land (more then 100.000 ha)**
- ▶ **Minimization of negative effects on optimal land structure caused by implementation of facilities of public interest (road, social, other infrastructure), or parallel spatial reorganization of land parcels to improve current unfeasible structure,**
- ▶ **Enhanced ecological protection and sustainable management of natural resources**

Follow-up Strategic Activities

- ▶ Legal and institutional foundations were established with the adoption of the Law on Consolidation of Agricultural Land and bylaws
- ▶ Department for Consolidation within the MAFWE was established in 2013
- ▶ The first pilot land consolidation projects started in 2014 with the support of FAO

FAO Technical Cooperation Project (1)

- ▶ In the period 2014-2017, the FAO funded and implemented the TCP project “Support to Formulation and Implementation of a National Land Consolidation Programme (TCP/MCD/3502)”
Support was given for:
 - ▶ Testing in two pilot areas (Egri and Konce)
 - ▶ Improving the new legal framework for compulsory and voluntary land consolidation to make it effective and operational
 - ▶ Aligning the legal framework in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VVGTT)
 - ▶ Training and capacity development for the implementation of land consolidation activities

FAO Technical Cooperation Project (2)

- ▶ With the finalization of the FAO TCP project in March 2017, the implementation of the two pilots lead to the identification of several legal constraints in land consolidation in Macedonia
- ▶ Non-adjudicated properties, unresolved inheritance claims, complicated and unclear procedures for organisation of the Land Consolidation Assembly and finalisation of the land valuation process, as well as limitations to exchange state land with private land
- ▶ The FAO's TCP project provided detailed recommendations on necessary amendments to the Law on Consolidation of Agricultural Land and the related by-laws, as well as recommendations for amendments to the broader legal framework where bottlenecks affecting the land consolidation procedures have been identified
- ▶ It developed a land consolidation project to mainstream the National Land Consolidation Programme to be funded by the European Union

Discussion of Re-allotment Plan in Egri



Thank you