



**LAND
TENURE**
JOURNAL

REVUE DES
**QUESTIONS
FONCIÈRES**

REVISTA SOBRE
**TENENCIA DE
LA TIERRA**

Call for abstracts

After a Century of Land Consolidation in Europe

Taking Stock and Looking Forward

Background

Land consolidation projects and programmes started in many countries in Western and Central Europe in the years after the WWI ended in 1918. In Poland, the first land consolidation law was adopted in 1923. In the Netherlands and Denmark similar laws were adopted in 1924. Objectives, approaches and procedures for land consolidation have in most countries changed significantly during these hundred years. Land consolidation was traditionally an instrument for agricultural development with the focus of improving inefficient farm structures by reducing land fragmentation and facilitating farm enlargement. In most countries in Western Europe with active land consolidation programmes the objectives of the instrument have gradually developed since the 1980s towards a multi-purpose approach where also non-agricultural objectives such as nature restoration, environmental protection and most recently climate change adaptation and mitigation are integrated with the traditional objective of agricultural development. Land consolidation is in many countries supported by land banking. This is particularly important when private agricultural land is taken out of production as part of the implementation of the mentioned non-agriculture public projects. In such a case, land consolidation in combination with land banking can allow landowners and farmers to be compensated with additional land and ensure that the adverse impact on local farm structures is minimized.

After the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 and the countries in Eastern Europe began their transition to market economies, most of these countries conducted land reforms where agricultural land collectivized after WWII was privatized either through restitution of land rights to the former landowners that had lost their rights during the collectivization or the state land was distributed to the rural population. In many countries this resulted in farm structures with excessive land fragmentation and small farm sizes, usually around 1-3 hectares. In order to improve such farm structures and increase productivity and competitiveness of the small family farms, most countries in Central and Eastern Europe have, from the 2000s onwards, introduced land consolidation instruments; although only a few of those countries have so far fully operational national land consolidation instruments and programme. FAO has so far supported 12 programme countries in Central and Eastern Europe with the introduction of land consolidation, published technical guidelines and established the informal technical network known as LANDNET facilitating the sharing of good practices and experiences between the countries in the region and beyond.

Time to take stock and look forward

After a century of implementation of land consolidation projects in Europe, it is now time to take stock of the lessons learned and discuss the way forward. This is the main theme of the 15th International LANDNET workshop organized in the Netherlands from 5-7 June 2024 in cooperation with Kadaster and the Province of Zeeland: <https://www.fao.org/platforms/green-agriculture/events/events-detail/15th-international-landnet-workshop/en>

An ongoing online discussion is organized until 31 May on the same topic as part of the preparation for the workshop: <https://www.fao.org/platforms/green-agriculture/connect/forums-of-discussions/after-a-century-of-land-consolidation-in-europe---taking-stock-and-looking-forward/en>

A special issue of the Land Tenure Journal on land consolidation

Building on the outcome of the online discussion and the LANDNET workshop in June, a special edition of the Land Tenure Journal is dedicated to the centennial of land consolidation in Europe. This special journal issue aims to provide an overview of the richness of land consolidation experiences and pave the way forward.

The issue is suggested to include:

1. An overview paper: *After a century of land consolidation in Europe - taking stock and looking forward* written by FAO REU Land Tenure Team
2. Three-four papers from countries in Western Europe on experiences, status and perspectives (e.g., the Netherlands, Germany, Finland, Denmark or Poland)
3. One or two papers from countries in Eastern Europe in the process of introducing land consolidation
4. One or two country papers on the experiences in regions other than Europe (e.g. Japan, China, Myanmar, Tunisia, Egypt, Ethiopia)

Who should contribute?

This call for papers is broadly and non-exclusively addressed to all development practitioners, governments, private companies, academics, political and civil society actors, and land tenure professionals (lawyers, notaries, cadastral surveyors, registrars, valuers, developers and others).

How to contribute?

Interested authors are first invited to submit a proposal for an article in the form of an abstract of no more than one page presenting the context, objective, methodology, and discussion. Accepted abstracts are selected by the editors of the special issue using a blind peer review. Authors of accepted abstracts will then be notified so that they can submit their paper by a set deadline.

Editors of the special issue:

- Vladimir Evtimov, Land Tenure Officer, ESP
- Morten Hartvigsen, Land Tenure Officer, FAO REU
- Maxim Gorgan, Land Tenure Officer, FAO REU
- Internal FAO and external peer reviewers according LTJ editorial process, coming from practice and academia with research experience on the topic, LANDNET members.

Timeline

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15th June 2024

Final acceptance of abstracts: until 1st July 2024

Submission of authors' paper: 15th September 2024

Contact

Send abstracts and proposals to: Land-Tenure-Journal@fao.org

Guidelines for authors

Please follow the guidelines below when writing your article. All articles are reviewed by the editorial team using a blind peer review. They must be in line with the call for abstracts and papers and the approved abstracts. The final decision on the publication of articles will be made by the editorial team.

Language

Authors are invited to submit papers in English.

Abstract and keywords

An article should include an abstract that summarises the most important results (maximum 1 200 characters with spaces). Authors are encouraged to provide three or four keywords that best define their paper.

Item length

The maximum length of submitted papers is 8 000 words, including the abstract and excluding endnotes and references.

Format and layout

Articles should be submitted by email to Land-Tenure-Journal@fao.org. Preferred formats are Microsoft Word (.doc).

Text should be single-spaced and use Times New Roman or Calibri 12 point font. The use of italics is encouraged, rather than underlining.

Articles may be structured by subheadings at a maximum of two different levels.

All figures and tables should be cited in the text and numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals. They should be placed in the text at appropriate points, rather than at the end. A title and a legend explaining any abbreviations used should be provided for each figure and table.

The use of footnotes is not recommended. They should be incorporated into the text.

Authors are encouraged to highlight key phrases in their manuscripts. These can be used by the editor as "call outs" in the final layout.

Visuals

Infographics can be useful for explaining complex concepts or data. They are not an alternative way of redrawing a simple table, but a specific communication medium that emphasises visual elements to support complex information. Simple data should be represented visually in graphs.

Authors are also encouraged to send the editor 3-5 digital photos related to their article, with photo credits and a short description/caption for each. Captions should be brief, explanatory and refer to the country.

When selecting photos, please consider the following:

- Relevance to the text and the topic.

- Potential political and human sensitivities (no child labour, animal cruelty, discrimination, etc.).
- The balance of photos in the publication in terms of ethnicity, gender, professional roles, activities and geographical regions.
- Respect for the people in the image.
- The expression and attitude of people.
- Do not make any substantial changes to the image, but only slight alterations (e.g. contrast, lighting).
- Avoid collages, cut-outs and compositions; a single effective image is more powerful.

References

Authors should provide their full name, affiliation, organisation and email address.

All references should be cited in brackets in the text by author and year, for example (FAO, 2007). An alphabetical bibliography should be provided at the end of the article. Full bibliographic details should be given so that readers can easily find the sources they wish to consult. The list of references should only include works cited in the text that have been published or accepted for publication.

Example of reference for books:

Author(s). year of publication. full title of the book. publisher, place of publication. number of pages in the book.

(FAO. 2007. Good Governance in Land Tenure and Administration. FAO Land Tenure Studies No.9, Rome. 57p.)

Example of reference for articles:

the author(s). the year of publication. the full title of the article. the full title of the journal, volume and journal number. the page numbers of the article.

(FAO. 2007. Sample article. Land Reform, Land Settlement and Co-operatives, no. 1, pp. 21-30).

Checklist for preparing the submission

As part of the submission process, authors are required to check that their submission complies with all of the following points. Submissions may be returned to authors who do not adhere to these guidelines.

- Manuscripts have not been previously submitted to or published in another journal in the same or similar form. Manuscripts previously published in a workshop, symposium or conference may be submitted for consideration provided that the authors inform the editor at the time of submission.
- The submission file is in Microsoft Word. The content, including the abstract, is less than or equal to 8 000 words, and the file size is less than 4 MB.
- Where possible, the URLs of the references have been provided. All URLs in the text are activated and ready to be clicked on.
- The text is single-spaced, uses a 12-point font (Calibri or Times New Roman), uses italics rather than underlining (except for URLs), and all illustrations, figures and tables are placed in the text in the appropriate places, rather than at the end.
- The text meets the stylistic and bibliographic requirements set out in the Guidelines for Authors.
- The manuscript is ready for the blind peer review process. Please ensure that the authors' names and affiliations are removed from the submission file.

Instructions for submission

Proposals and papers should be submitted by e-mail to Land-Tenure-Journal@fao.org.

Disclaimer of liability

This publication is intended to support the use of the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security (VGGT). It is not intended to contradict the language of the Guidelines as approved by the Committee on World Food Security on 11 May 2012, nor the role of states in their implementation.

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