



This project is funded by the European Union



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MAINSTREAMING OF THE NATIONAL LAND CONSOLIDATION PROGRAMME (MAINLAND)

# Newsletter

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## WELCOME

Welcome to the first **MAINLAND (Mainstreaming of the National Land Consolidation Programme) project newsletter**. It is packed with the latest information about this important initiative in the Republic of North Macedonia and one of the most comprehensive of its kind.

Through MAINLAND, modern land consolidation projects are being implemented for the first time in the history of the country. The implementation of the National Land Consolidation Programme supported by MAINLAND has positioned the Republic of North Macedonia as a leader in the region in implementation of such complex structural land reforms. It is becoming an excellent example of successful land consolidation also in an international perspective.

The European Union is funding the MAINLAND project with co-funding from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It is being implemented by FAO in close partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy and other national stakeholders to assist agricultural landowners and rural communities improve the structure of agricultural land and the access to infrastructure, technology and markets, while preserving the environment for the future generations.

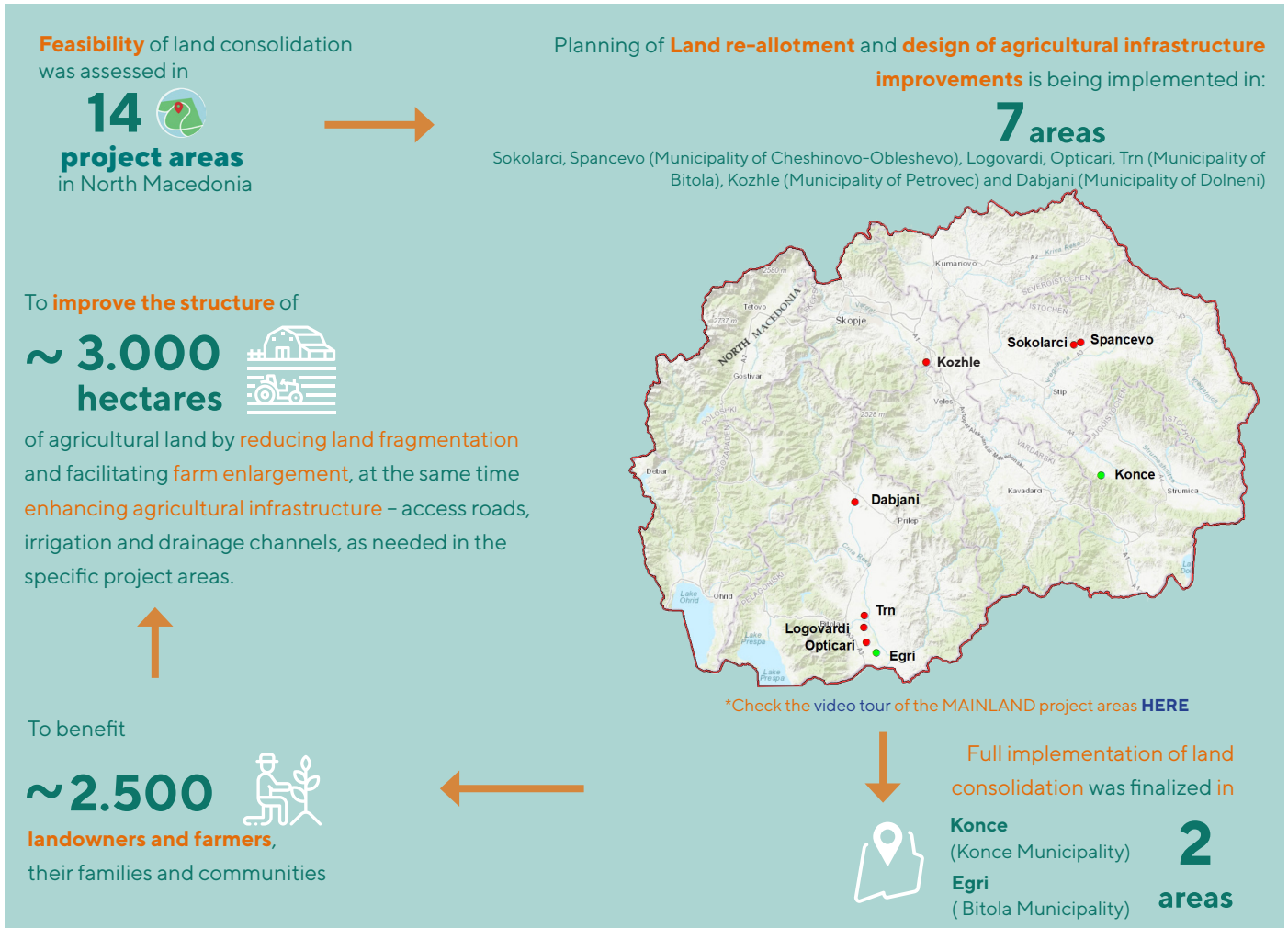
To keep you up-to-date on our activities, progress and news, we will be sharing this newsletter on a quarterly basis.

To learn more **about the project**, please visit the project webpage [HERE](#)

## KEY PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

As a result of the joint efforts of the EU Delegation to North Macedonia, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE), including on intensive awareness-raising on land consolidation among farmers and rural communities, knowledge and capacity development within MAFWE, key public agencies and the private sector, development of administrative and managerial procedures and tools for operating the National Land Consolidation Programme, preparation and implementation of sound and feasible land consolidation projects across the country – **land consolidation has advanced in nine project areas in North Macedonia**. The following has been achieved so far:

## FACTS AND FIGURES



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Egri - the first majority-based land consolidation project in North Macedonia officially registered in the Real Estate Cadastre

The village of Egri, Bitola Municipality, became the first majority-based land consolidation project in North Macedonia, after the **land re-allotment plan was adopted** by the qualified majority of landowners in January 2020 ([PHOTO ALBUM](#)). With land consolidation, the number of land parcels in Egri was reduced by almost fourfold, from 874 parcels to 260. The 214 landowners now have bigger, regularly-shaped parcels that allow for better farming practices. The average parcel size is now 1.30 ha, compared to only 0.38 ha average before land consolidation. Land consolidation in Egri also includes investments in agricultural infrastructure improvements, expected to be finalized by the end of 2021. These include construction of drainage channels, extension of the existing irrigation network and construction of gravel roads in the village of Egri, funded by the MAINLAND project.



Map of Egri – before and after land consolidation [click HERE for larger view](#)



Staked out boundary of a new land parcel in Egri village

In parallel with the ongoing preparations for start of the construction works, the newly-formed land parcels in Egri were registered in the Agency for Real Estate Cadastre and the staking out of their new boundaries on the field was successfully finalized in the end of March 2021. This means that all 214 landowners in Egri will receive new ownership titles and will start the agricultural season 2021 on their newly consolidated land parcels, that allow for better and more efficient farming practices.

## North Macedonia's achievements in land consolidation received EU recognition

The 2020 European Commission Report on North Macedonia has recognized the advanced status of land consolidation in the country. This achievement is a result of the joint efforts of FAO, the European Union, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy. The advancement of land consolidation in North Macedonia, as recognized by the European Commission, confirms that the joint efforts of FAO, the European Union, and the Government of North Macedonia to mainstream and scale-up the National Land Consolidation Programme across the country have brought visible results. [Read the full story.](#)



Drone image of the land consolidation area in Egri village, Bitola Municipality

## FROM THE FIELD

### Story from a farmer benefiting land consolidation: "How MAINLAND is reorganizing land to boost farms' productivity"

Ljupco Angelovski is a young family farmer and one of the 214 landowners who participate in the MAINLAND project in Egri village. Through the MAINLAND project, Ljupco's land comprised of 15 tiny parcels was consolidated into three regularly-shaped and much larger parcels, with better access to agricultural infrastructure. Read the full story [HERE](#)



Farmer Ljupco Angelovski, Egri village

### MAINLAND remained close to farmers during the Covid-19 pandemic

Active involvement of agricultural landowners and rural communities have remained in the focus even during the challenging circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In line with the health and safety protocols, the MAINLAND team together with MAFWE and partner geodetic companies has visited village by village and dedicated serious efforts to listen to and address landowners' preferences/concerns regarding consolidation of their land in order to implement the package of incentives and benefits that advance individual and rural community needs. Due to delay in implementation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the project duration has been extended until November 2022.



Landowners Assembly in Dabjani village

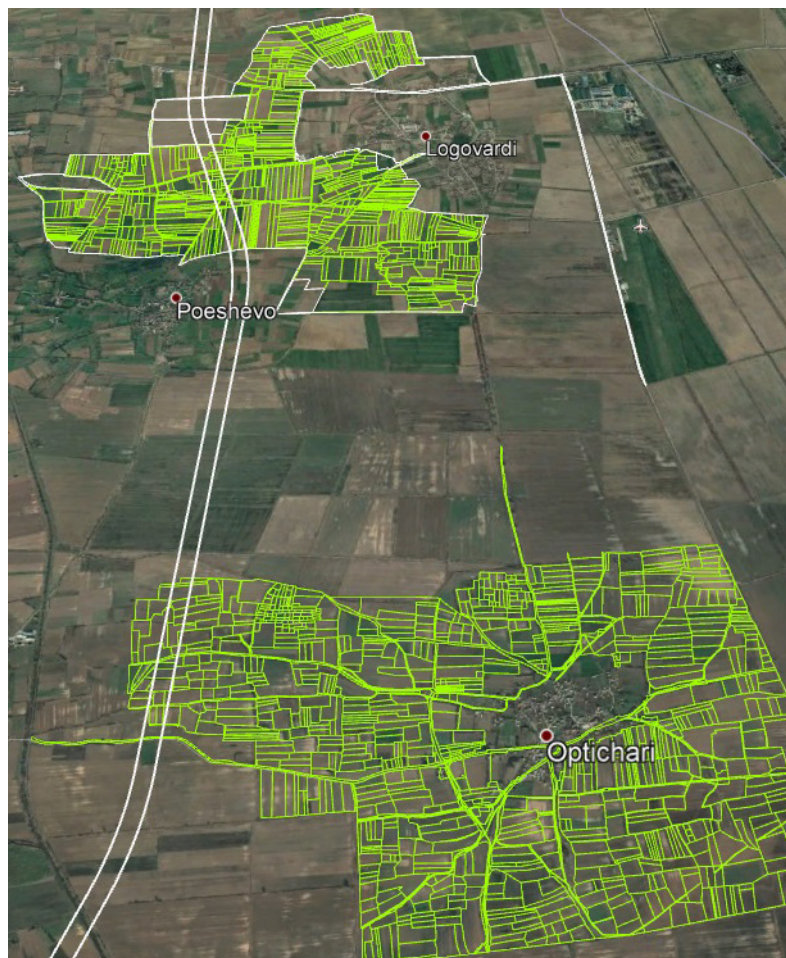


Community meeting in Leshani village

## SPECIAL FOCUS: Multi-purpose land consolidation

Land consolidation is a well-proven land management instrument, which has traditionally been used for agricultural development, through reducing land fragmentation and facilitating farm enlargement, on a voluntary basis. However, the benefits of land consolidation go far beyond the improvement of the agricultural land structures, which was the main reason for introducing land consolidation policy in North Macedonia. In the last decades, countries in Western Europe have developed land consolidation into a **multi-purpose instrument with a broader objective in support to sustainable development**. Multi-purpose land consolidation can facilitate the implementation of projects that serve multiple public objectives (in addition to agricultural development) in an integrated way, such as nature restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation and large-scale infrastructure projects where land consolidation provides an opportunity to compensate landowners and farmers in land instead of monetary compensation.

The land consolidation project areas of **Logovardi** and **Optichari** in Bitola Municipality, where re-allotment planning is ongoing, **will be the first multi-purpose land consolidation projects in the country**, where agricultural development is being combined with construction of large-scale infrastructure. Specifically, the planning of construction and related land acquisition for the express road from Bitola to the Greek border will be combined with the ongoing planning of land re-allotment in both areas. The integration of the two projects will benefit landowners and farmers by ensuring farm structures improvement and providing additional land in compensation.



Express road passing through Logovardi and Optichari land consolidation areas

## KNOWLEDGE BOARD

 [Guide to Agricultural Land Consolidation](#) [click here](#)

 [Animation video: Land consolidation - benefits for farmers and rural communities](#) [click here](#)

 [Legal Guide on Land Consolidation](#) [click here](#)

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