



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# 13<sup>th</sup> International LANDNET Workshop

Skopje, North Macedonia  
25-27 May 2022



Organized in cooperation with:





**Draft Concept note**

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Since 2002, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO REU) has organized 20 annual regional workshops on land tenure topics such as land consolidation, land banking, state land management, land abandonment and land market development. Since 2010 the technical network is known as LANDNET. In 2019, the workshop was organized in Galicia, Spain, jointly with AGADER (regional ministry of agriculture and rural development), GIZ and FIG (International Federation of Surveyors) with around 200 participants from more than 30 countries in Europe and Central Asia. The 2020 and 2021 workshops were unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the continuation of the technical network and strengthening of partnerships with key regional and national stakeholders, organizing a workshop in 2022 was a priority for FAO REU.

The 13th LANDNET workshop will be held in a hybrid format (physically and virtually) from 25 to 27 May in Skopje, North Macedonia, organized together with the University Ss. Cyril Methodius, Faculty of Civil Engineering through a Letter of Agreement. The workshop is co-organized in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy and the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of North Macedonia.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided to organize a hybrid event, where participants able to travel will gather in a physical setting while others can participate virtually from their home countries. There are expected to be 80-100 participants in Skopje and approximately 80 connecting virtually. All local health and safety precautions and guidance will be observed.

The workshop will take place over 2 ½ days. On the first day, the focus will be on land banking instruments with a presentation of the recently published FAO land banking study (<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8307en>) and the launch of a new FAO initiative on capacity development for land consolidation and land banking. On the second day, the focus will be on the introduction of land consolidation in North Macedonia with presentations in the morning and a field trip to land consolidation project areas in Bitola municipality in the afternoon. The final day will focus on policies to address land abandonment and also on LANDNET itself with the election of the new LANDNET Board.

The objectives of this year's LANDNET workshop are to:

- Revitalize the regional technical network
- Provide an overview of good practices for land banking in Europe
- Present and discuss lessons learned from the introduction of land consolidation in North Macedonia
- Discuss policy options to address land abandonment





## Wednesday, 25 May 2022

*Theme of the day: Land banking and capacity development*

09.00 – 9.30	Registration of participants
<b>Session 1: Opening</b>	
Moderator: Morten Hartvigsen, FAO REU	
9:30 – 9:35	Welcome by Jovan Stojanovski, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Republic of North Macedonia
9:35 – 9:40	Welcome by Steffen Hudolin, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of North Macedonia
9:40 – 9:45	Welcome by Dr. Zlatko Srbinoski, Dean, Faculty of Civil Engineering
9:45 – 9:50	Welcome by Nabil Gangi, Deputy Regional Representative, FAO REU (online)
9:50 – 10:00	Introduction and setting the scene for the workshop by the moderator + introduction of the election of the LANDNET Board by Morten Hartvigsen, Land Tenure Officer, FAO REU
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee &amp; Tea Break</i>
<b>Session 2: Land banking instruments and their application in Europe and Central Asia</b>	
Moderator: Jan Spijkerboer, Dutch Kataster	
10:30 – 11:00	Keynote presentation: FAO Study on European Good practices on Land Banking, by Tomas Versinkas, International Legal Specialist
11:00 – 11:20	Keynote presentation: An overview of land banking instruments in ECA, by Maxim Gorgan, Land Tenure Officer, FAO REU
11:20 – 12:00	Q&A and discussion
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>Session 3: Land banking - country experiences</b>	
Moderator: Evelin Jürgenson, Estonia Life Science University	
13:30 – 13:50	Country presentation: Land Banking in Slovenia by Anka Lisec, Associate Professor, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering, Ljubljana University (online)
13:50 – 14:10	Country presentation: Land banking in Denmark by Erik Blaabjerg, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
14:10 – 14:30	Country presentation: Land banking in Latvia by Ivars Rubenis, Project Manager, Land Fund Management Division, ALTUM (online)
14:30 – 15:00	Q&A and discussion
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee &amp; Tea Break</i>
<b>Session 4: Capacity development for land consolidation and land banking</b>	
Moderator: Bradley Paterson, FAO REU	
15:30 – 15:45	Capacity development needs for land consolidation and land banking by Maxim Gorgan, Land Tenure Officer, FAO REU
15:45 – 16:00	Country presentation: Education of future land consolidation professionals in North Macedonia by Gjorgji Gjorgjiev, Faculty of Civil Engineering
16:00 – 16:15	Country presentation: Education of future land consolidation professionals in Lithuania by Giedrius Pasakarnis, Vytautas Magnus University
16:15 – 17:00	Discussion and establishment of a working group to develop a generic curricula for land consolidation based on the principles of VGGT and the FAO Legal Guide on Land Consolidation
17:00 – 17:30	Wrap-up and closing of the first day



## Thursday, 26 May 2022

*Theme of the day: Land consolidation in North Macedonia*

### Session 5: Lessons learned from introduction of land consolidation in North Macedonia

Moderator: Kristina Mitic Arsova, FAO North Macedonia

09:00 – 09:15	Overview of land policy and priorities in North Macedonia by Kiril Georgievski, Head of Land Consolidation Department, MAFWE
09:15 – 09:30	Overview of EU support to agriculture and rural development in North Macedonia by Steffen Hudolin, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of North Macedonia (online)
09:30 – 10:00	The outcome of the EU funded MAINLAND project by Kristina Mitic Arsova, Team Leader, FAO
10:00 – 10:15	Overview of FAO support to land consolidation and related technical areas in North Macedonia by Morten Hartvigsen, Land Tenure Officer, FAO REU
10:15 – 10:30	Introduction to the field trip by the MAINLAND project
10:30 – 11:00	Q&A and discussion
11:00 – 19:00	<b>Field trip to visit land consolidation project areas in Egri and Logovardi in Bitola Municipality</b>

## Friday, 27 May 2022

*Theme of the day: Land abandonment and LANDNET*

### Session 6: Policies to address land abandonment

Moderator: Andrew Cartwright, CEU

09:00 – 09:15	Introduction to land abandonment in Eastern Europe and Central Asia by Andrew Cartwright, CEU
09:15 – 09:30	Country presentation: Land Abandonment in Armenia by Arman Khojoyan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy of Armenia
09:30 – 09:45	Country presentation: Land Abandonment in Turkey by Metin Turker, Deputy General Manager, General Directorate of Agrarian Reform, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey
09:45 – 10:00	Country presentation: Instruments to address land abandonment in Lithuania by Giedrė Leimontaitė-Mačiulienė, Head of Land Management Division, Land Management and Administration Department, National Land Service of Lithuania
10:00 – 10:30	Q&A and discussion
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Coffee &amp; Tea Break</b>

### Session 7: LANDNET – The way forward

Moderator: Morten Hartvigsen, FAO REU

10:45 – 10:55	Country presentation: Land reform in Uzbekistan by Ibrokhim Shukurbekov, Junior Researcher, State Scientific and Design Institute "Uzdavayrloyikha" under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan
10:55 – 11:05	Land consolidation in Ethiopia by Nenad Gvozdenovic, GIZ and Eyerusalem Feleke Dibawo, Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia
11:05 – 11:25	LANDNET Board elections and next steps for the network
11:25 – 11:45	Conclusions / topics for follow up
11:45 – 12:00	Closing of the workshop by Abdylyshyqyr Abedini, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Republic of North Macedonia
12:00 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>