



Overview of land policy and priorities in North Macedonia

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NATIONAL STRATEGY ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, economic sustainability and income of agricultural holdings
 2. Application of environmental practices in production that lead to mitigation of the impact of climate change adaptation to the same
 3. Ensuring sustainable development of rural areas
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NATIONAL STRATEGY ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027

- harmonized with the latest European Commission regulations governing the relevant area of agricultural and rural policy for the period 2021-2027
- primarily the draft regulation of the European Parliament and the Council (2018) 392 final - 2018/0216 (COD)



NATIONAL STRATEGY ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027

- Agriculture sector identified as priority economic sector for the country (third most important economic activity in the country)
- multidimensional significance as sector that provides food population and sustainability of rural areas and has significant environmental and climatic links
- COVID- 19 pandemic and current crisis on food shortage emphasized the importance of agriculture, ie the need for the population to be provided with healthy, safe, quality and varied food of domestic origin



National Legislation

- Law on Agricultural Land
- Law on Consolidation of Agricultural Land
- Law on Sale of State owned Agricultural Land

Departments within MAFWE

- Department for land consolidation of agricultural land, land exchange and land parcel identification
- Department for registration, management, improving and sale of state owned agricultural land



Farm structures in North Macedonia

- small family farms with an average farm size of around 1.6 ha and an average of seven land parcels per agricultural holding
- average size of privately owned agricultural land parcels is approximately 0.22 ha.
- 89 percent of all family farms are smaller than 3 ha, and they cultivate 54 percent of the utilized agricultural area
- structural problems in agriculture with excessive land fragmentation and small sizes of agricultural holdings and farms, and also a need for improved agricultural infrastructure, such as rural roads, irrigation and drainage.



Fragmentation of agricultural land



Improving the unfavourable structure of agricultural land

- necessary planning, legal and institutional conditions are finalized in order to improve the structure of agricultural holdings;
- active interventions of the agricultural land consolidation policy have been launched on a total of 2,953 ha at nine locations across the country.
- In 2019, the historically first consolidation procedure (voluntary based) in the village of Konce was successfully realized;
- In 2020, the first majority based consolidation procedure was successfully realized in village of Egri.



Improving the unfavourable structure of agricultural land

- Agricultural land consolidation policies directly intervene in addressing the root cause (small and fragmented land parcels)
- Preparation of a multi-year Consolidation Program for operational and financial planning of future activities,
- Implementation of multi-purpose agricultural land consolidation projects in the construction of line infrastructure facilities, conservation of protected areas in the field of cultural heritage or environmental protection, which will achieve additional goals in addition to consolidation, and will preserve or improve the existing structure of private agricultural holdings and avoid expropriation proceedings,



Improving the unfavourable structure of agricultural land

- using the consolidation procedure in overcoming the problems with the denationalized land;
- analysis and further regulation of the procedures for exchange and completion of the arondation processes in order to improve the land structure and reduce the legally unfinished arondation processes. Procedures need to be made flexible in order to achieve consolidation goals more effectively.



State owned agricultural land in North Macedonia

- around 240,000 ha of arable agricultural land
- around 40 percent of all arable land in the country
- The average size of state-owned land parcels is 0.56 ha

- Almost ½ of the available state owned agricultural land is under long term leases.



State owned agricultural land as catalyser for land consolidation

- For re-allotment planning;
- For interventions in agricultural infrastructure;
- For facilitation of enlargement of small family farms into commercial farms;



Land abandonment

- Around 1/3 of arable agricultural land is abandoned and not utilized
- Agricultural land (private and state owned) is very valuable asset for strengthening the local food production, increase competitiveness and productivity.
- Main reasons are excessive land fragmentation and small farm sizes, resulting in low profitability in agriculture and outmigration from rural areas.



Planned investments through national financing

- investments intended for infrastructure for access to agricultural land;
- activities for consolidation of agricultural land and improvement of agricultural land;
- activities for protection of agricultural production damaged by natural disasters, which refer to cleaning of the canal network for drainage and irrigation and regulation of riverbeds for flood protection.



Food and Agriculture Organization
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Thank you for your attention!

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