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# FAO support to land consolidation and related technical areas in North Macedonia

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## FAO land consolidation related technical work in recent years in North Macedonia

- Introduction of land consolidation (TCP/MCD/3502)
  - MAINLAND project (GCP/MCD/002/EC)
  - Management and sale of state land (TCP/MCD/3701/C1)
  - Project to co-finance MAINLAND (TCP/MCD/3801)
  - Support to integrated community development (TCP/MCD/3702)
  - Support to land market development and bringing abandoned land back into production (TCP/MCD/3802/C1)
  - Climate change adaptation project under formulation
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## FAO land consolidation TCP project 2014 - 2017

- Implemented land consolidation pilots in two areas – voluntary and majority based – to test the new land consolidation legislation before scaling up to national land consolidation programme.
- Assessed the legal framework and prepared amendments to have the procedures fully operational.
- Initial training and capacity development of MAFWE staff.
- The MAINLAND project was formulated at the request of MAFWE and the EU Delegation to North Macedonia.



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## Management and sale of state land

- Around 240,000 ha of the arable agricultural land in the country (around 40 %) is owned by the State and managed by MAFWE.
- State land is either distributed in large blocks given to private companies in long-term concession or fragmented in the same way as private land.
- Political will to strengthen management and to privatize state land.
- The existing State land can be used in land consolidation projects as land banking (increasing land pool and land mobility).
- Amendments of Law on sale of State land is prepared





## Support to land market development and addressing land abandonment

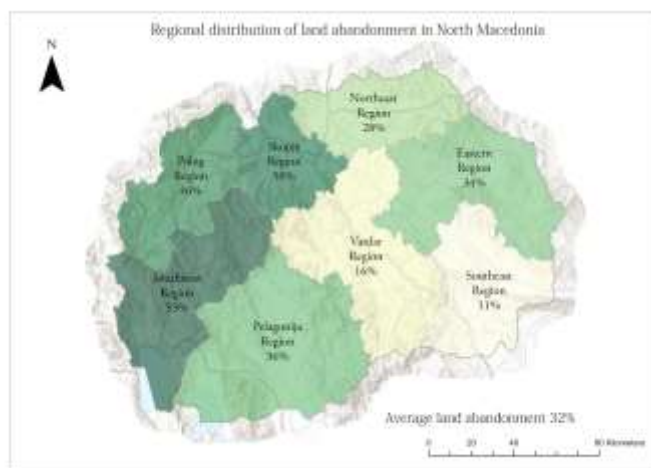
- To strengthen the overall land policy of the country in line with the National Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy 2021-2027.
- Currently conducting an analysis of the development of the agricultural land markets in the country to provide policy recommendations.
- Currently conducting an analysis of the level of land abandonment, its regional distribution and root causes.
- Land consolidation and land banking and/or active management of State land are strong instruments to address land abandonment and develop land markets.

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## Land abandonment in North Macedonia



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## The role of land consolidation in local rural development

- Integrated community development support in two pilot areas in Bitola and Kocani where land consolidation under MAINLAND was ongoing.
- Community Development Action Plans prepared in participatory process.
- It is key to ensure inclusive rural transformation and Leaving No One Behind.
- Policy recommendations provided to Government.



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## Towards multi-purpose land consolidation in North Macedonia

- Experiences with multi-purpose land consolidation in MAINLAND (express road).
- North Macedonia has a great potential to use the now fully operational land consolidation instrument not only for agricultural development but also for:
  - Construction of large-scale infrastructure
  - Nature restoration and environmental protection
  - Climate change adaptation and mitigation (modern irrigation, afforestation affecting private land, land degraded areas etc.).





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# Thank you for your attention!

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- VGGT and Governance of Tenure: <http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/en/>
- FAO Regional Initiative on Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms in ECA: <http://www.fao.org/europe/regional-initiatives/smallholders-family-farms/en/>
- Proceedings from LANDNET workshops 2002 – 2022: <http://www.fao.org/europe/resources/land-tenure-workshops/en/>
- Published papers: <https://aalborg.academia.edu/MortenHartvigsen>  
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