

Sub-regional Expert Hub on Modernising Land Consolidation in the Western Balkans

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Introduction

Initiative by:

- Strengthening Municipal Land Management (GIZ- **SMLM Serbia**) funded by the German Government (BMZ)
- Strengthening Spatial Planning and Land Management Kosovo (GIZ-**SSPLM Kosovo**) funded by the German Government (BMZ)

In cooperation and coordination with:

- UN-**FAO** - Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
- **EU MAINLAND** Project in Skopje
- **LANDNET**
- Various **GIZ departments** and projects and other regional networks




Why a hub on (rural) land consolidation?

- In Western Balkans, Albania, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia are **applying land consolidation** (or are in need for).
- During many years, they have gained **valuable experiences**.
- Still, they are **facing challenges to improve their processes and procedures** in land consolidation, as modern land consolidation is complex and can always be improved – based on new scientific knowledge and other countries experiences.
- Therefore, the countries of the Western Balkans could benefit from establishing a mechanism for **frequent exchange of expertise and peer-to-peer learning** among experts.



The sub-regional expert hub: the concept

- The **group of focal points** was established in a **kick-off workshop**, priority topics identified (18.6.2018).
- During each **thematic workshop** of the sub-regional expert hub for modernizing land consolidation **one specific topic** that is of immediate importance for one country will be discussed:
 - **Focal points and one additional expert** on this specific topic from each country will meet for a workshop in the country that requested that topic to be addressed.
 - The expert from the **host country will present its case and the challenges** they are facing. The other countries will respond to it by jointly **analysing the host country's situation**, sharing their **own experiences** and **elaborating jointly practical solutions** and a road map for the host country.



Intended Time Line

June 2018	Dec 2018...	2019 April	Further ...
Kick off WS FP Funded: SMLM, SSPLM	Thematic WS1: Serbia Funded: SMLM (cancelled)	Thematic WS2: Kosovo Funded: SSPLM	Thematic Workshops (?)

Feeding lessons learnt into regional:
LANDNET,
GIZ networks

Feeding lessons learnt into regional networks:
GIZ, FAO, LANDNET, MAINLAND

19.12.2018
Präsentationstitel hier eintragen
Seite 5



The sub-regional expert hub: the concept

At the end of each workshop, there always should be two outcomes:

- 1. Concrete recommendations** for the host country (next steps, way forward, who shall do what, estimated time frame).
- 2. General lessons learnt, key principles and guidance for all countries** in the region (including key elements, important steps etc.) – as “take home messages” and to share on other (regional & international platforms)

Seite 6



First (tentative) priority topics

Country / Priority	Serbia	Kosovo	FYRO Macedonia	Albania
Priority 1	Legal Framework * and institutional embedding (?)	Agricultural Zoning	Land Banking, Compensation*	Integration of LC instruments in overall LC policy
Priority 2	Funding and Public procurement (?)	Legal Framework*	Package of comprehensive state support	Improving land mobility
Priority 3	Roles and tasks of all LC stakeholders (?)	Land Registration / Clarification of Ownership	Efficient less complicated appeal procedures	Land Banking*