Introduction to LANDNET

10 November 2016

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LANDNET - History

18 workshops on land tenure issues implemented during the last 14 years in partnership and with support from Government agencies from Germany, Denmark, Czech Republic, Portugal, Autonomous Region of Galicia, The Netherlands, Turkey and the EC (FARLAND, TAIEX)

- 2002 Munich; International Symposium "Land Fragmentation and Land Consolidation in CEEC: A gate towards sustainable rural development in the new millennium"
- 2002 Rome; Land Consolidation Workshop to prepare guidelines for the “Design of land consolidation pilot projects in Central and Eastern Europe” (LT6)
- 2002 Prague; Land Consolidation, Improved Land Management and Territorial Organization in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe
- 2004 Tonder; International Workshop on Land banking / Land funds as an Instrument for Improved Land Management in CEEC and CIS
- 2005 Prague; Regional Workshop on Land Consolidation and Territorial Organization
- 2006 Prague; Regional Workshop on Land Consolidation and Land Development
- 2007 Prague; Regional Workshop on EU Rural Development Programme 2007-13 and its application to land consolidation
- 2008 Prague; Regional Workshop on Land Tenure and Land Consolidation - Land Banks and Impact Assessment
LANDNET - History

- 2009 Santiago de Compostela; Regional Workshop on Land Tenure and Land Consolidation - Land Development Instruments and Information Tools to Assist Land Structure Reforms: the Galician Experience
- 2009 Oeiras; How to Revitalize Farming and Agricultural Land Use? European Options for the Future
- 2010 Prague; Regional Workshop on Land Tenure and Land Consolidation - Land Banking and Public Land Management
- 2010 Budapest; International Workshop on Land Consolidation and Land Banking
- 2011 Budapest; 2nd International Workshop on Land Consolidation and Land Banking
- 2012 Budapest; 3rd International LANDNET workshop on Land Market Development and Land Consolidation
- 2012 Budapest; 4th International LANDNET workshop on Land Market Development and Land Consolidation
- 2013 Skopje; 5th International LANDNET workshop on Land Market Development and Land Consolidation in EU countries
- 2014 Belgrade; 6th International LANDNET conference
- 2015 Ankara; 7th International LANDNET conference
Objective

stimulate proper and timely responses to (changing) needs of society regarding land use and land tenure in rural and peri-urban areas through

- studies and collection of knowledge and experiences
- knowledge exchange and capacity building
- innovation of institutional frameworks and implementation approaches
Identity

- community of professionals from different countries and different organizations (government, private sector, NGO’s, universities and research institutes)
- LandNet logo

Organization

- informal, Secretariat by FAO supported by LandNet Core Group (appointed)
- financing of events through FAO and Government sponsors
- members contribute in-kind (labour)
Activities implemented so far

- Organize thematic international workshops focused on knowledge exchange – LandNet workshops and conferences
- Study specific themes and country case
- Contribute to guidelines and good practice manuals
- Maintain a webpage (linked to the FAO site and the FARLAND site) - currently only related to the workshops
- Maintain an international contact point
Symposium on land consolidation and land readjustment / LANDNET workshop in Apeldoorn, Netherlands 9-11 November 2016

Future Development of the LANDNET

10 November 2016

Morten Hartvigsen
Land Tenure Officer

FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
Purpose of the session

How to further develop LANDNET and make it more sustainable
- how to transform the current LANDNET into a stable, well institutionalized network on rural land structure issues?
- how to organize more commitment /legitimacy in the countries involved?
- How to secure a more stable work package and funding?

Today:
1. Quick review of developments since 2012
2. Discuss on how to proceed
   - Ideas for a new Concept Note
   - Discuss follow up actions
3. Election of a LANDNET Board
1. Developments since 2012

- LANDNET Declaration 2012
- Proposed Set up 2014
  - Activities and outputs
  - Themes
  - Organisation
LANDNET Declaration

Calls for recognition, participation and support to transform the LANDNET into a stable permanent and institutionalized network on rural land structure issues (Budapest, 2012)

LANDNET Declaration

Participants from 27 countries of the LANDNET workshop, held from 9-11 February 2012, have discussed ongoing developments related to rural land structures in Europe and have reached the following conclusions.

The present situation is that:

- Rural areas in Europe are challenged by globalization, increased competitive pressure on agriculture, land use conflicts, rural-urban migration, leading to undesired impact in rural areas;
- Rural land structures in large parts of Europe are characterised by small scale, fragmented agricultural holdings;
- Rural land market functioning in many countries is strongly hampered by various reasons such as lack of information, unsolved legal disputes, high transaction costs, underdeveloped spatial planning frameworks, unclear and unsecured property rights etc;
- Existing legal frameworks and policy instruments are not well developed;
- Land tenure issues are not getting sufficient attention by both European and National policies;
- Competitiveness of Europe’s rural areas is seriously affected by the slow pace of restructuring of rural land ownership and use, difficulties to get mortgages on rural land etc.;
- Addressing other land use claims resulting from public policies - such as for example Natura 2000, development of public infrastructure, water management etc., can only be effectuated when balanced property with and tuned to a healthy agricultural sector in a well functioning land market;
- The combined output of the referred negative factors seriously hampers rural development.

Considering that:

- An informal network has been functioning since 2002, organised by FAO and supported incidentally by Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, and Spain by organising a number of workshops;
- Based on the interactions in the informal network, a number of technical assistance projects dealing with land consolidation have been initiated, funded by different donors (GIZ / Agency NL, FAO, SIDA, WB);
- Several countries and regions have made progress by setting up the policies and legal frameworks for particular instruments but most actions are still either in preparation or in the phase of pilot actions or introduction;
Proposed set up

Aim and objectives
(already presented)
Activities and outputs
Programming
Organisation
Themes for development
Activities and Outputs (2014)

Proposed Activities (underlined already ongoing)

- Organize thematic international workshops focused on knowledge exchange
- Organize study visits focused on new (experimental) applications and approaches
- Study specific themes and country cases
- Contribute to implementation pilots in different areas of the LANDNET mandate
- Contribute to guidelines and good practice manuals
- Formulate common positions related to new policy developments
- Mobilize and organize the participation in other events or programmes
- Participate in policy debate sessions
- Facilitate E-discussions and a web forum
- Identify relevant international events and subsidy programmes
- Maintain a webpage (linked to the FAO site and the FARLAND site)
- Issue a yearly newsletter
- Maintain an international contact point
- Compile and maintain a database of experts
Proposed set up (underlined functioning structure):

- **FAO REU to continue its role as the Network Secretariat**
- Each country (EU / Candidate EU and New Neighbors) appoints a national contact person/focal point
- In each country, the organizations that support will be formalized by registering as partner organization
- **Core team of European experts to assist FAO in the preparation and implementation of content related activities**
2. How to proceed?

- An updated (shorter) concept note to promote the LANDNET
- Review of themes / topics
- A strategy and action plan for lobbying / interest raising
- Pro-active approach in applying for relevant funds
- A stronger organisation: replacing the Core Team with a LANDNET Board
Updated Concept Note

- Focus on Central and Eastern Europe (CEE): Balkan, Turkey, Eastern Partnership countries (Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine) and newer Member States (e.g. Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Croatia and Baltic States) but stressing the importance of having a Europe wide network
- Describing the role of agriculture in CEE countries (key figures)
- Describing land fragmentation as a severe obstacle to development of the agricultural sector (key figures)
- Brief explanation what is done already in CEE countries
- Describing the role of the LANDNET in boosting current and new activities in CEE countries
- Set of activities to deepen under understanding, exchange knowledge, identify good practices, create awareness and support
Themes / topics (updated)

- Monitor, present and discuss ongoing developments in the various countries (regular country updates)
- Studies, pilots, evaluations and/or gathering best practices in the following topics:
  - Agricultural land market data as part of land market functioning
  - Leasing and crop consolidation as options for structural improvement
  - Land mobility instruments and land abandonment: reasons of land abandonment and policy recommendations
  - Stakeholder involvement in land consolidation processes
  - Impact of land fragmentation on land market development
  - Outcome of land consolidation in terms of increased productivity and competitiveness
  - Integration of land registration as part of land consolidation processes
  - ……..
Strategy for lobbying / interest raising

- Identify and approach key people in international organisations like EU DG NEAR, DG AGRI, EU Delegations, UNECE, Worldbank etc
- Present LANDNET issues and experience in other (inter)national meetings and fora
- Participate in policy debate sessions such as…
- ……
Proactive approach to use existing funds

- EU Regional Cooperation. e.g. for the Western Balkan
- Horizon 2020 calls for multi-actor projects, thematic networks
- EU TAIEX
- ......
Stronger organisation: LANDNET Board

The role of the LANDNET Board is to support the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) in Budapest in preparing and implementing the LANDNET activities.

Tasks will deal with the programming of activities, the implementation of activities and lobbying / networking / promoting / resource mobilization.

The Board:
- Consists of 9 members elected by the participants in the annual LANDNET workshop
- Is elected for a two year period (first time for the period November 2016 – December 2018);
- The elected Board members appoint a chairperson of the Board;
- The Board and in particular the chairperson represent, together with the secretary in FAO REU, the network towards external parties.
Candidates LANDNET Board

(In alphabetical order of family name)

- Margarida Ambar (Portugal) – Ambar Consultancy
- Andrew Cartwright (UK/Hungary) – Central European University
- Vilma Daugaliënė (Lithuania) – Ministry of Agriculture
- Richard Eberlin (Switzerland) – BIRD
- David Egiashvili (Georgia) – Terra DeNovo
- Frank van Holst (Netherlands) – RVO / Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Perica Ivanoski (FYR Macedonia) – Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
- Kalle Konttinen (Finland) – National Land Survey of Finland
- Ileana Spiroiu (Romania) – ANCPI Romania
- Kiril Stoyanov (Bulgaria) – Ministry of Agriculture and Food
3. Election...

- All LANDNET members have three votes for different candidates
- You can vote on everyone, also yourself
- The voting will be anonymously on paper
- All voting forms will be collected and counted
- The 9 candidates with the most votes will constitute the board
Thank you very much!