



Concept note

FAO WEBINAR

Application of land banking instruments in Europe and Central Asia - Consultation on land banking study

Friday 11th December 2020

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has in the recent years received an increasing number of requests from member countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to support development of land banking instruments and active management and privatization of state owned agricultural land. In general, these requests have been driven by either a political wish to address excessive land abandonment or to support land consolidation instruments already ongoing or in development. In some countries both policy objectives exist at the same time.

Land management instruments such as land banking and also land consolidation have when applied in a cross-sectoral and integrated approach strong potential to significantly contribute to poverty reduction in rural areas. In this way the instruments are also contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG Target 1.4 on access to land and other natural resources, Target 2.3 on doubling productivity and income of small-scale food producers and Target 5.a on women's equal rights to economic resources including land. The COVID-19 pandemic has in 2020 further emphasized the need in many countries to strengthen local food production to enhance local food security by improving farm structures and utilizing the suitable agricultural land.

The focus of the webinar will be on land banking instruments and their application in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia is finalizing a study on European good practices on land policy Instruments with particular focus on land banking. The webinar will also serve as part of the consultation of the draft land bank study with focus on discussion and validation of its key recommendations.

The session will support the application and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT). The Land Banking study will be useful to a broad range of stakeholders: policy makers, land management professionals, academia as well as civil society.

The objective of the webinar will be to promote good land banking practice and its practical application in countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia with specific focus on development of small family farms including providing access to land for young farmers.

It is expected that the webinar discussions will highlight how land banking instruments can contribute at the policy level to an overall sustainable agriculture and rural development and through the practical implementation to improve farm structure and enhanced productivity and competitiveness of small family farms.

Webinar Programme

10:00	Welcome by <i>Raimund Jehle, Regional Programme Leader, FAO REU</i>
10:05	Introduction and setting the scene for the webinar by the moderator: Land Banking experiences in Western Europe and the need for land banking in Eastern Europe and Central Asia <i>Morten Hartvigsen, FAO REU Land Tenure Officer (10 min)</i>
10:15	Panel discussion 1: The potential of land banking in Eastern Europe and Central Asia based on Western European good practice (40 min) <u>Panelists:</u> <i>Frank van Holst, Programme Manager, International Territorial Development, Netherlands Enterprise Agency (The Netherlands)</i> <i>Loïc Jegouzo, SAFER (France)</i> <i>Katja Dells, Head of International Department, BVVG (Germany)</i> <i>Metin Turker, Deputy Director General, GDAR, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Turkey)</i> <i>Rahela Nišavić, Head of Department for Development, International Relations and IPA funds, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Montenegro)</i>
10:55	Presentation of FAO Study “European Good Practices on Land Policy Instruments with focus on land banking” <i>Tomas Veršinskas, FAO International Consultant (15 min)</i>
11:10	Panel discussion 2: FAO land banking study consultation (45 min) Moderated discussion based on questions and comments in the chat from the audience. <u>Panelists:</u> <i>Marije Louwsma, FIG Commission 8 Chair & Dutch Kadaster (The Netherlands)</i> <i>Ramona Duminicioiu, European Coordination Via Campesina & Eco Ruralis (Romania)</i> <i>Kristina Mitic-Arsova, FAO Team Leader (North Macedonia)</i> <i>Tomas Veršinskas, FAO International Consultant</i>
11:55	Wrap up of the webinar by moderator <i>Morten Hartvigsen, FAO REU Land Tenure Officer (5 min)</i>
12:00	End of the webinar