Shaping the environment in land consolidation projects in Poland

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Have the new law regulations changed our attitude to rural landscape?



characteristic features of Polish rural areas

small and scattered parcels

the average farm size in Poland is ca. 8 hectares the average area of land plot is merely 0,79 hectares the average farm consists of 6,79 land plots big regional diversification of farm size

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characteristic features of Polish rural areas

- 38,2 % of the population lives in rural areas
- ca. 25% of the population works in the rural sector

characteristic features of Polish rural areas

· a big regional diversification of population density index



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characteristic features of Polish rural areas

- · underdeveloped infrastructure
- · biodiversity, estimated as one of the highest in Europe

about two million hectares of arable land in Poland diligently require land consolidation
financial funds for the period 2007-2013 will only cover the costs for 210 thousand hectares
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what are the recent pro-environmental changes in land consolidation procedure?
in land consolidation procedure:

- Environment Protection Law (in force since 2001)
- · associated legal provisions
- Land Consolidation Act (in effect since 1982)
- guidelines completing existing land consolidation procedure

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land consolidation pre-studies

e.g. land ownership pre-study land use pre-study relief pre-study

environmental pre-study

environmental pre-study

prepared when the land consolidation area exceeds 300 hectares

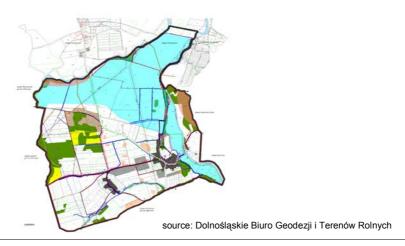


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environmental pre-study

borders of occurring zones should be marked:

- wet and waterlogged zones
- coastal zones
- mountainous or sylvan zones
- protected zones, including water intake zones and protected zones of water reservoirs,
- protected habitat zones, including Natura 2000,
- zones with exceeded environmental standards,
- populated zones,
- zones with significant historical, cultural and archeological landscapes.

from environmental pre-study to EIA

- 1. surveyor elaborating the preliminary land consolidation project
- 2. environmental pre-study
- 3. 'starost' (the environmental office of the proper administrative district)
- 4. the environmental impact assessment procedure

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who can handle the EIA report?

universities and other research centers which deal with environmental subject-matter

surveyors' offices employing professionals in landscape planning/protection and ecology

the Rural Development Society

and individuals having professional experience in environmental planning and protection

the content of an environmental impact report is specified in the Environment Protection Law

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conclusion

- ongoing discussion of the professionals on areas with special landscape values in land consolidation procedure
- should farmers be entitled to financial compensation for the loss of possible farm structure improvement?
- how financial compensation could be accomplished?

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