

**FIG**



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# FIG WORKING WEEK 2017

Helsinki Finland

29 May - 2 June 2017

## Land consolidation as vehicle for implementation of VGGT and SDGs

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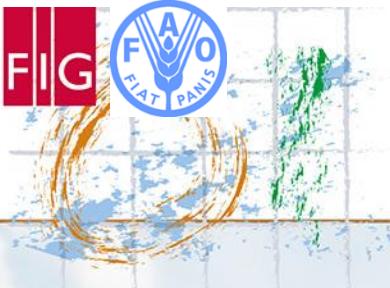
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## How can land consolidation contribute to the implementation of the international development agenda?

- The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT)

## What does it mean for our daily work as land tenure professionals?



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## Land consolidation in a global perspective

- Land consolidation is a well-established land management tool with a fairly global application but with its main prevalence in Europe and South Asia.
- In Europe, modern land consolidation goes back more than 100 years.
- Land consolidation can be applied on both ownership and use rights.
- Traditionally an instrument for agricultural development by facilitating reduction of land fragmentation and enlarged holding and farm sizes.
- More and more a multi-functional tool for integrated community development with improved agricultural infrastructure and furthermore public interventions such as nature restoration, environmental protection and development of infrastructure.

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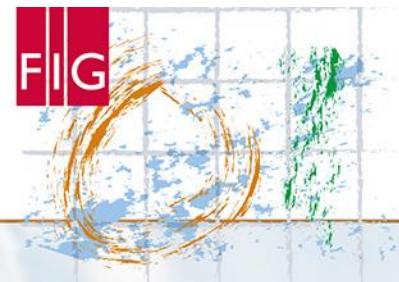
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## Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals

- Adopted in September 2015.
- 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets.
- Requires a more programmatic and integrated approach.
- Need to re-think development work to ensure that support to land consolidation best possible contributes to achieving the SDGs.





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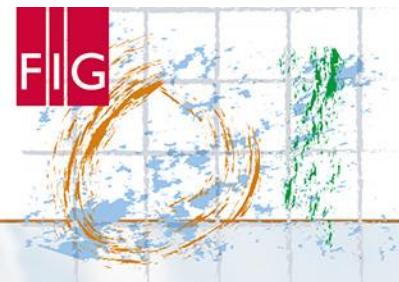
## Examples of how land consolidation can contribute to the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (1):

- Promotion and implementation of pro-poor approaches to policies and programmes, including national land consolidation strategies and programmes => contributes to
- ✓ SDG 1.b: Designing policy frameworks based on gender-sensitive development strategies.
- ✓ SDG 8.3: Promotion of development oriented policies, that improves job-creation and entrepreneurship.



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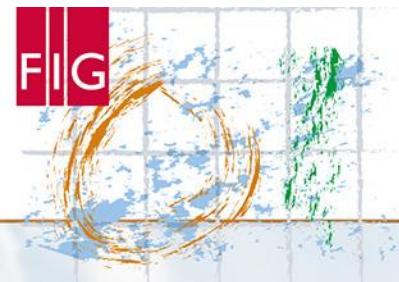
## Examples of how land consolidation can contribute to the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (2):

- Enhancement of access to natural resources, including the access to land, through land consolidation => contributes to
  - ✓ SDG 1.4: All men and women have equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land, and other natural resources
  - ✓ SDG 2.3: Double agricultural productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers



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## Examples of how land consolidation can contribute to the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (3):

- Inclusiveness of women, youth and vulnerable groups is also a key principle in a participatory land consolidation process => contributes to
  - ✓ SDG 5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources and access to ownership and control over land.
  - ✓ SDG 5.c: Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for promotion of gender equality.
  - ✓ SDG 5.5: Ensure women's equal opportunities.



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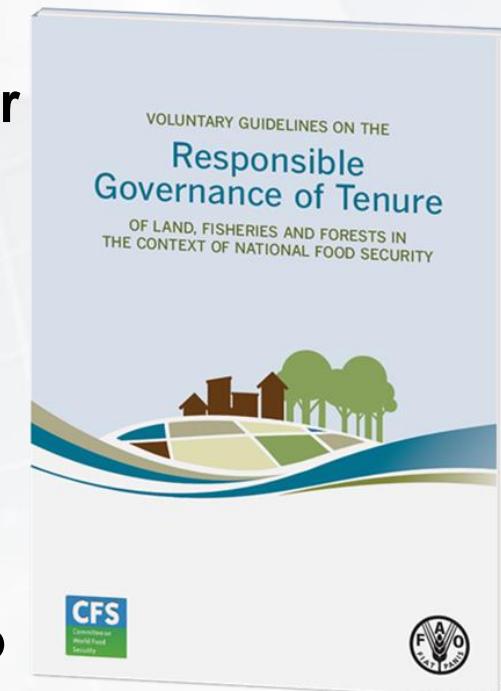
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## The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT)

- Endorsed in May 2012 by the Committee on World Food Security on behalf of all UN member countries
- First international document on governance of tenure.
- A reference to improve governance of tenure based on international best practice.
- Promotes secure tenure rights and responsible governance with respect to all forms of tenure.
- Implementation of VGGT in itself contributes to achieving SDGs.





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## What do VGGT say about land consolidation? (Part 4, Section 13)

- States should recognize and respect all legitimate tenure right holders and their rights and promote formal registration.
- Participants are to be at least as well off after the schemes compared with before.
- Multi-functional approach to land consolidation is promoted when appropriate.
- Promotes voluntary land consolidation but a majority based approach is in line with VGGT if proper safeguards are in place.
- Promotes development and adoption of national land consolidation strategies.



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## Ownership and farm structures in Central and Eastern Europe

- Except for a few countries such as Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine, farm structures are dominated by smallholders and family farms.
- Medium or highly fragmented land ownership exists.
- Land fragmentation is often (but not always) the outcome of land reforms implemented from 1990 and onwards.
- Land use fragmentation is excessive in 5 of 7 countries where state land was distributed in physical parcels.
- 15 of 25 countries have high level of both ownership and land use fragmentation.



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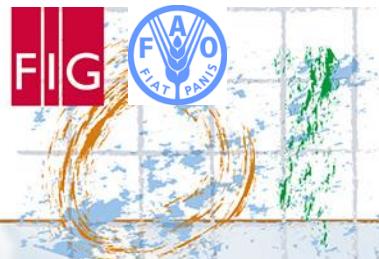
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## Land consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe

- The need to address the structural problems has been recognized.
- So far 21 of the 25 countries have since the beginning of transition introduced land consolidation instruments.





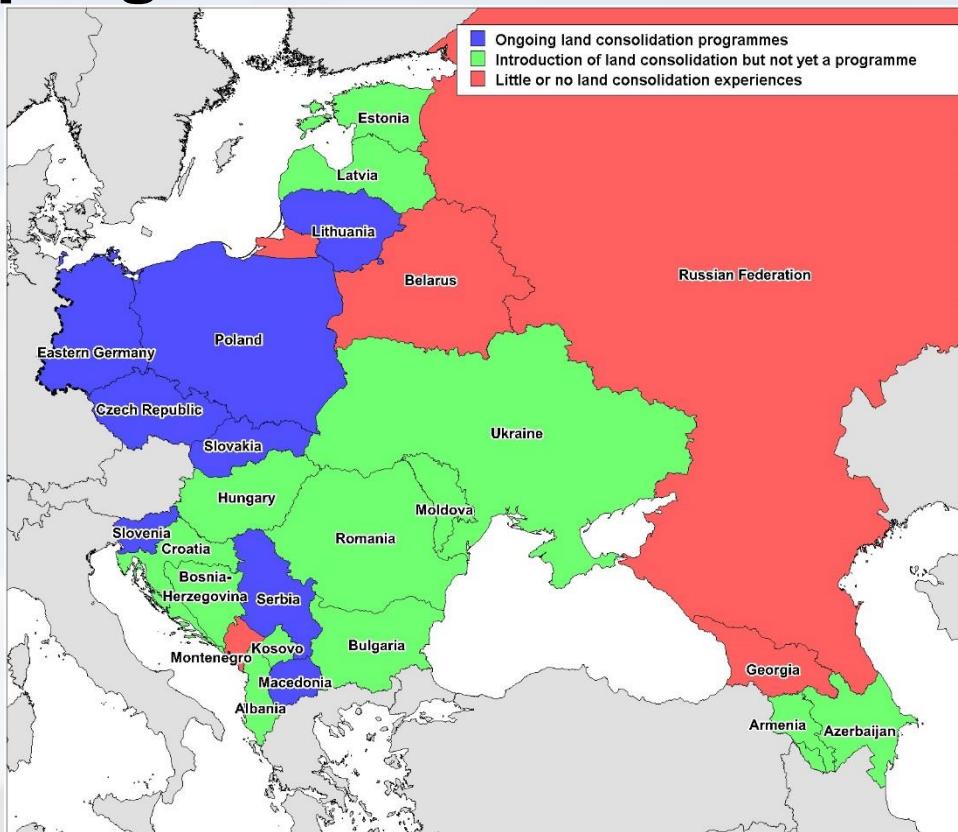
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## Status of development of land consolidation programmes in Central and Eastern Europe



As of May 2017:

- **8 countries** with ongoing land consolidation programmes

- In 13 countries land consolidation introduced but not yet a programme

- **4 countries** with little or no land consolidation experience



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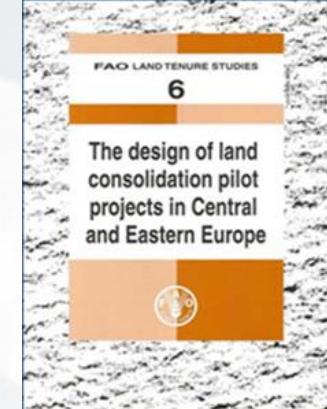
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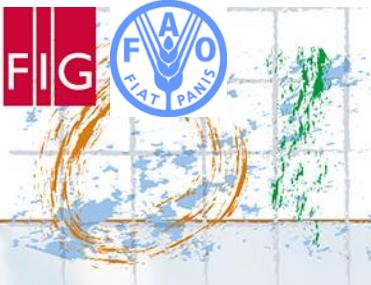
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## The experiences of FAO

- FAO started work on land fragmentation and land consolidation shortly after it was founded in 1945.
- FAO has now for more than 15 years supported land consolidation in CEE by:
  - Providing policy guidelines
  - Implementing field projects in so far 10 countries
  - Organized 16 regional workshops between 2002 and 2016 (LANDNET)





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## Implementation of VGGT integrated into the work of FAO on land consolidation

- Screening of existing legal and institutional framework for compliance with VGGT.
- Building on VGGT when supporting countries introducing land consolidation and developing National Land Consolidation Programmes:
  - Respect all legitimate tenure rights (not just formally registered ownership rights).
  - Include safeguards – participatory process, fair valuation and accessible options for appeal.
  - Prepare for land consolidation with multiple objectives.



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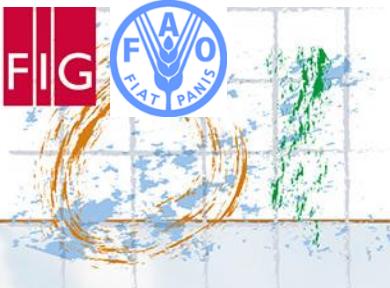


## The case of FYR Macedonia

- Two rounds of land consolidation pilots with Dutch support 2008-12.
- National Land Consolidation Strategy adopted in 2012.
- Law on consolidation of agricultural land adopted in 2013 with two approaches; voluntary and majority based.
- During 2014-17, FAO project has screened for compliance with VGGT, tested legal framework in two pilots, provided legal recommendations and build up capacity for field work and managing programme.
- With EU IPA funds, FAO will during 2017-20 implement the first round of projects under the national programme and suggest fine-tuning of legal framework and procedures.

## Conclusions and way forward

- Land consolidation can provide important contribution to the international development agenda – Achieving the SDGs and implementation of VGGT
- But it does not come automatically and depends on how projects and programmes are designed and implemented (integrated approach).
- SDGs and VGGT is not only an issue in developing countries and should be considered in all our work as land tenure professionals.



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**Thank you very much!**

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