

# **European good practice on land banking and its application in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

Morten Hartvigsen, Tomas Versinskas and Maxim Gorgan

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## **SUMMARY**

Land banking based on the acquisition-sale or lease of agricultural land is broadly applied in Western European countries. It facilitates the solution of a range of land management issues, some of which are among the priorities in Central and Eastern Europe as well as in Central Asia. FAO has since the early 2000s supported several member countries in the region with the introduction of land consolidation instruments. In recent years, a number of countries have also requested support to introduce land banking instruments. For this reason, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia has in 2020 conducted a study on good European land banking practices and their applicability in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Additionally, in 2021 a survey on land banking, land consolidation and land abandonment was carried out, involving experts from most of the European countries.

This paper presents the key findings of the study as well as those of the land banking element of the survey. It overviews the land banking experiences in selected Western European countries as well as the efforts to introduce land banking in Central Europe. The latter efforts have largely failed so far and the paper identifies the main challenges of the process. It also analyses the land management situation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the potential benefits that land banking could bring. The paper summarizes the key recommendations of the study, related to the introduction of land banking in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It concludes with a section on further developments of the land management tool box in the region and overviews the potential linkages of land banking with land consolidation, state land management and the development of agricultural land markets.