

ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CONSOLIDATION IN COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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The land reforms and restructuring of the large-scale socialist farms were in all countries in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in Ukraine, a key part of the overall agrarian reforms. The land reforms were implemented by two fundamentally different approaches: the restitution of land rights to former owners and the distribution of state land to the rural population. This has led to the structural problems in the agricultural sector with extensive land fragmentation and small farm sizes. The majority of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe have introduced the land consolidation as an instrument to combat such problems.

There are no comparative studies on the introduction of land consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe and Ukraine. It is the aim of this paper to analyze the problems related to land consolidation and implementation of

different methodological approaches in Central and Eastern Europe. Distinction is often made between “simple” and “comprehensive” land consolidation and between “voluntary” and “compulsory” land consolidation. The paper provides the detailed characteristics of both land consolidation approaches. The strengths and weaknesses of the voluntary and compulsory land consolidation have been considered. The study shows that these traditional models in the context of countries in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in Ukraine, have more weaknesses than strengths.

We conclude that there is the need to develop a new land consolidation model or models more suitable for Ukraine than two classical models discussed above. This new model(s) should be adopted to local circumstances and provide tailor-made solutions.