

Fair Funding:

Providing accurate subsidies for farmers

The prospect of EU membership brings for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the opportunity to access funds for the agricultural sector, among others. For this, a more transparent and easier system of farmlands' measurement was needed.

A functioning system for land parcel identification is a key component of the European Union's Integrated Administration and Control System. It measures farmers' land through a combination of aerial photography, satellite imagery and land registry documents and serves as the basis for managing the applications for financial support.

BETTER LAND MANAGEMENT

The 'EU helps establish Land Parcel Identification System' is a two-phase project that began in 2009. The overall aim is to improve the efficiency of land management and agricultural subsidies across the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A key feature of the project involves training the staff at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy to ensure they are up to speed with the system's software and are able to interpret aerial photos correctly.

The first successful steps of establishing an EU-compliant system included training and supporting the staff assigned to farmlands' measurement, taking aerial photographs, purchasing software and increasing cooperation between institutions and awareness among farmers. The second phase focuses on complementing and upgrading the system for registering farmland with further details, particularly about highland pastures and forests.



SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES, PREVENTING FRAUD

"Once the system is fully functional, farmers will have an accurate and up-to-date view of their agricultural land", explains the project's team leader, Andrew Rowlands. The previously daunting process of applying for aid will be greatly simplified. Subsidies to local farmers for the production of agricultural products will benefit customers in both the domestic market and the EU

market, which will have access to agricultural products from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, particularly tomatoes, peppers and melons.

Ministry offices across the country will also have all the necessary equipment and means to effectively control

farmers' applications for subsidies. This will simplify the current system and hinder fraud. Due to its accuracy, the quality of data will be higher than previously possible. Crucially, the upgraded system means operating and personnel costs will be cut.

PROJECT DETAILS –

EU helps establish Land Parcel Identification System

Partners:

Phase 1: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Geodetski zavod Celje d.o.o. (Geodetic Service Celje – Slovenia), GISS d.o.o. (Geographical Information Systems Slovenia), Rural Systems OU (Estonia), Infoterra Ltd. (United Kingdom)

Phase 2: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) Geodetski zavod Celje d.o.o. (Geodetic Service Celje – Slovenia), GISS d.o.o. (Geographical information Systems Slovenia), Ekotoxa s.r.o. (Czech Republic)

Total cost in €:

Phase 1: € 538,750

Phase 2: € 733,500

EU Contribution in €:

Phase 1: € 538,750 (100%)

Phase 2: € 660,150 (90%)

Duration:

Phase 1: August 2010 – November 2011

Phase 2: January 2013 – January 2014

Results:

Identification of cadastral parcels in line with the actual situation on the ground, Simplified procedures, Applications for subsidies containing accurate data, Reduced costs for both farmers and the Land Parcel Identification System, Unit at the Ministry, Increased farmers productivity

