



F:ACTS! Internship Form

Hosting Organization	Regional Ministry of Rural Affairs - Land Bank of Galicia – Spain
Visiting Organization	LT–Ministry of Agriculture, LT–National Land Service and LT–State Land Fund
Duration of the visit	FROM 2011-01-31st TO 2011-02-01st
Subject of the Internship	<u>Land Bank</u>

Lithuanian team consisted of three members:

- Gediminas Mažeika – Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Department of Rural development, chief specialist;
- Giedrė Leimontaitė – National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, chief specialist;
- Audrius Petkevičius – State Land Fund, director.

Preparation for the internship

During the preparation for the internship learning needs that must be discussed and the most urgent issues were identified and a presentation on Lithuanian land management system and land fund was prepared.

Objectives and learning needs

The intended results of the visit were gaining knowledge about how the land bank of Galicia works, as well as learning about the implementation of other land development instruments used in Galicia when developing territorial strategies. All learning wishes more or less related to the F:ACTS! principles.

It was expected to have a fruitful internship as well as to share the experiences from Lithuania about concerning issues.

Expectations

Before the internship it was expected to get as much information as possible during two days, to get some ideas which would be possible to apply in Lithuania and to observe Bantegal working in practice.

Form of the Internship

The internship took place in the office of Bantegal in Santiago de Compostela. Topics on land banking, Law on Land and other land policy in Galicia were introduced during the two days of working sessions in the form of presentations and mutual discussions. Different experiences were shared concerning the development instruments in Galicia (land funds, land consolidation, Law on Land). Ideas were exchanged on institutional and organizational aspects of the Land Bank in Galicia and Lithuania. A brief presentation on Bantegal financing and recourses was made. Tools to assist land funds (SITEGAL) were presented with various examples. Also Bantegal introduced a couple of new pilot projects carried out in Galicia.

Competences gained during the internship

Competence in Galician land fund – legal framework was gained during the internship, also practise and tools such as SITEGAL.

Influence of the Internship

This internship influenced the work of the Lithuanian State Land Fund and influenced rapid development of land management system in Lithuania.

In order to reduce abandoned land, the Lithuanian State Land Fund is trying put into practice experience of Bantegal and to mediate between land owners who do not want to use their land but agree to rent this land for farmers and farmers who want to lease abandoned or unused land.

Before participating in the internship in Galicia, neither the National Land Service nor the State Land Fund had any ideas on things like the possibility for the State Land Fund (SLF) to become a rerenting body. After the internship the SLF informed land owners during some seminars that if they wanted to rent any land or they wanted to rent certain land but did not know who were the owners, they can come to SLF and fill the

application and SLF is going to find land which they would like to rent or to find land owners and to talk to them.

Moreover the question about abandoned land and ways to reduce it has been influenced by this internship. One of the ideas was, after identifying land abandonment, informing land owners that they should start to use the land, or they would get fines. But at the same time another possibility could be suggested to the owners: giving using rights of such land plots to SLF as is the case of Bantegal. This year SLF will do one pilot project and will try to find out what the reaction of land owners could be. Still it is just our vision, but we decided first to try in practice and only then prepare legal basic.

Also Lithuanian State Land Fund is creating a new system for organization of free state land auctions using tools similar like SITEGAL uses. Since 2010-07-01 SLF is responsible for organizing renting and selling auctions of free state land. Until now it is not a big problem as the number of auctions is small, but it is foreseen that in coming years (after land reform will be finished) there will be a lot of free state land. The Ministry of Agriculture wants to prepare for that situation when it will be possible to put all land to the market. It means that SLF will have to organize hundreds of auctions during a short time. Mostly free state land parcels will be very small and it will not be efficient to do all procedures for hundreds times to try and sell one parcel. SLF foresees that it would be efficient to organize auctions with physical participation just for very high valuable land parcels. Auctions of other parcels should be carried out paperless. For that is necessary to create a base, such as SITEGAL, where every person who is interesting in possibilities to buy land could find all information about free state land available.

Some other experience gained during the Internship will be used in Lithuanian Land Fund too, e.g. acting as a rerenting body and giving the specific guarantees.

Dissemination

Knowledge and experience gained during internship was shared with colleagues from the Ministry of Agriculture and National Land Service under the the Ministry of Agriculture during several meetings. During seminars related to land consolidation issues information about gained information of Galician experience was shared with land owners, farmers and municipalities.

Conclusions/recommendations for host

Bantegal has a well-developed system for rerenting lands. It is clear that Bantegal is able not only rerent lands but also buy and sell it. Land trade would be a way to become financially independent and it would be effective to use pre-emption rights.

Guidance

The internship was arranged in a very professional way. Presentations were made by very competent persons. The material was clearly presented and all the questions were answered.