

Experiences and good practices in the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

This document presents, in original language, the inputs provided following the call for submissions to inform the global thematic event at the CFS 43rd session in October 2016. The following document provides an overview of those inputs: [CFS 2016/43/8- Experiences and Good Practices in the Use and Application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security \(VGGT\) - Summary and Key Elements](#)

S42. EUROPE: European farmers' organizations advance towards VGGT implementation in the region

Country(ies)/ Region(s)/ Organization/ Entity	Europe/Belgium – European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)
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Brief description of the successful experience (including location, geographical coverage, main actors, main activities, timeframe)	<p>Between January 2015 and April 2015, ECVC, the European region of LVC, collaborated with other CSOs to organize a series of training workshops on the VGGT targeting mainly food producers' organizations. The workshops, funded by FAO, aimed to increase capacities of civil society and farmers' organizations from Europe and Central Asia. The first workshop took place in Rome, which allowed the participants to organize a public event in FAO, and the second one in Brussels, which allowed the participants to organize a public event in the European Economic and social Committee. The main planned outcomes were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of (ca.) CSO representatives, with balanced representation from EU and non-EU countries ensured in both Workshops • Successfully-trained CSO representatives on land tenure issues and on the application and implementation of the VGGT • Established dialogue between CSOs and FAO Regional Office in Europe and Central Asia on the implementation strategies of the VGGT • Dialogue initiated between CSOs and policy makers on land tenure issues in the Region • Development of common methodology for organising similar workshops at national level • Sharing common actions at European level as the Petition to the EP was declared admissible recently:

	<p>http://www.accesstoland.eu/IMG/pdf/ep_petition_land_vf_24feb2015_en.pdf</p> <p>Country of origin of the participating organisations: Serbia, Kirgizstan, Georgia, Georgia, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Russia, Hungary, Austria, Italia, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Romania, Germany, Sweden, Netherlands</p> <p>Constituencies represented by the different organizations: Small-scale Farmers, NGOs, Pastoralist, Workers, Indigenous</p>
Location	Rome – Bruxelles
Geographical coverage	Europe and Central Asia
Main actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECVC • Food producers organizations and CSOs from Europe
Main activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series of training workshops on the VGGT targeting mainly food producer organizations, with focus on analyzing the land tenure situation in Europe and Central Asia in light of the VGGT and developing strategies to advance their implementation in the region. • Developing a common action plan at regional level to advance VGGT implementation in the region
Timeframe	From the end of 2014 until April 2015
Results obtained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of (ca.) CSO representatives, with balanced representation from EU and non-EU countries ensured in both Workshops • Successfully-trained CSO representatives on land tenure issues and on the application and implementation of the VGGT • Established dialogue between CSOs and FAO Regional Office in Europe and Central Asia on the implementation strategies of the VGGT • Dialogue initiated between CSOs and policy makers on land tenure issues in the Region • Development of common methodology for organising similar workshops at national level • Sharing common actions at European level as the Petition to the EP was declared admissible recently: http://www.accesstoland.eu/IMG/pdf/ep_petition_land_vf_24feb2015_en.pdf • Regional action plan level to advance VGGT implementation in the region • The organizations' presentations at the Workshops brought the discussion on VGGT to a national level, developing different activities and institutional actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ecoruralis in Romania published a study on land concentration and land tenure in Romania, proposing

	<p>the implementation of the VGGT as a concrete institutional action: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_x-9XeYoYkWUWstVFNRZGZadlU/view</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Spain, a coalition of organizations is working together to see how to tackle problems related to land tenure at local, national and European level ○ In the EU, different organizations are in contact with EU institutions to push them towards some concrete institutional actions. A petition has been sent to the EP and was declared admissible recently: http://www.accesstoland.eu/IMG/pdf/ep_petition_land_vf_24feb2015_en.pdf ○ The EESC of the European Parliament published an opinion document on land grabbing: http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.nat-opinions.32593 ○ The EP has already held different hearings on land grabbing in the EU and it commissioned a study: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/540369/IPOL_STU(2015)540369_EN.pdf
<p>Key catalysts and factors that influenced the results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to work together on critical issues such as land tenure in Europe and Central Asia and long-standing work (research and advocacy) of CSOs to address burning land issues in the region. • The need to communicate with regional institutions such as EU and FAO-REU, on problems encountered by food producer organizations and the need to push for policy actions.
<p>Constraints and challenges that were faced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The difficulty for some organizations to understand the technical language of the VGGT and how they can be an opportunity to address burning land issues faced by food producers. • The difficulty of discussing policy changes that may require many years to achieve, and in the meantime, the situation on the ground for family farmers and agro-ecological farmers was getting worse.
<p>Good practices that helped to make the experience successful</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The methodology group comprised of organizations active in the CSM that had been actively participating in the negotiations of the VGGT, as well as many participating organizations that were new to the VGGT. • The conviction of the participants on the need to work together and to share their struggles to improve tenure of land, fisheries and forests, as well as their experiences • Good geographical and constituency balance • Good preparatory work and selection of participants

<p>Quantitative aspects where available - estimate of the number of people, households and communities that have been positively affected by the successful experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 participants from 26 organizations, with a good geographical balance (Europe and Central Asia). • 2 public events for a total of approximately 100 participants, including representatives of international and regional institutions • Different national workshops organized at national level on this issue • Different actions at EU-level taking place at different levels (EP, EESC, etc.)
<p>Link to additional information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.eurovia.org/spip.php?article1215 • http://www.eurovia.org/spip.php?article1239