

# Landscape Aspects in Land Consolidation Procedures in Poland

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## ABSTRACT

The paper presents the changing approach to the land consolidation procedure, considering the necessity of preserving the landscape and protecting environmental components. So far, the improvement of spatial structure of farms has the priority in consolidation procedure. Despite the Polish long tradition of land consolidation, the problem is usually limited to designing a new road network and new shapes of arable land plots convenient for modern farming. The paper displays that presently valid land consolidation criteria in Poland are outdated and too narrow to fit landscape-protection-oriented transformation of the Polish countryside. The basic land consolidation criteria, such as:

- Value of a new farm cannot exceed more than  $\pm 3\%$  of the value of an old one
- New area of a farm should not differ more than 20% from the old area, a farm should be composed of the smallest possible number of plots
- The plots should be of rectangular or trapezoid shapes,
- The plots should be located as close as possible to the habitation place.

are regardless landscape and environment protection. Extraordinarily large volume of land consolidation projects necessary in Poland calls for carefully prepared procedures to preserve the landscape as a cultural heritage and to create countryside recreation space. The paper considers a set of additional criteria appropriate for landscape-preserving-oriented procedures of land consolidation adjusted to the specific circumstances of the Polish countryside.

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