

Invite

100 year land consolidation in the Netherlands and Western Europe

GLOBAL PROGRAM

PROGRAM DAY 1: June 5th
Relation between geographical circumstances, landscape and land consolidation

PROGRAM DAY 2: June 6th
A century of land consolidation & legislation

PROGRAM DAY 3: June 7th
Multi-purpose land consolidation challenges and opportunities

The exact program will follow as soon as possible

Global challenges: threats and/or opportunities?

Location: Middelburg, The Netherlands

Date: June 5, 6 & 7 2024

Registration link: [Click to register](#)

Attendees: A maximum of 100 people can participate in the congress. In case of oversubscription, the order of registration will determine participation.

Land exchange has been a tool for adapting land to the challenges that our ancestors faced. What significance does this tool hold for the challenges we face today?

Over a hundred years ago, land exchange was practiced voluntarily in Europe. In 1923, Poland adopted its first Land Consolidation Law, followed by Denmark and the Netherlands in 1924. Shortly after, Estonia implemented its own legislation on land consolidation. Most projects were decided by majority vote.

Now it's time to commemorate this centenary and draw lessons from the challenges of that era in comparison to today's challenges.

Global issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and water quality affect us all. We aim to give nature space to recover and strengthen, improve water and soil quality, and intensify efforts to combat climate change. The state of food security and quality necessitates a transformation of our agricultural and food systems. This demands a holistic approach, emphasizing cross-sectoral and cross-curricular perspectives, international collaboration, and human-centricity. By sharing regional strengths and knowledge, we can collectively address these challenges. Collaboration, data, and knowledge exchange with neighbouring countries like Belgium and Germany are essential.

We invite you to join us in exploring whether land consolidation could be the solution to the crises we face. How do we tackle these challenges? What opportunities and threats lie ahead? Which cultural, social, and environmental factors should be considered? What are the critical success factors for collaboration? What legal instruments are available?

We are eager to share our knowledge and learn from your experiences and ideas.

THREATS OR OPPORTUNITIES?

The impacts of climate change, such as the threat of flooding, are evident around us. What lessons can we draw from history? For example; in 1944, a significant portion of the province of Zeeland was submerged under saltwater deliberately by the allies to ensure safe passage for ships to the port of Antwerp, resulting in the loss of fertile agricultural land, critical for the liberation of Western Europe. Subsequently, in 1953, a severe storm surge led to extensive flooding in the South West of the Netherlands, North West Belgium, England, and Scotland, overwhelming most sea dikes. The delta landscape had to be redesigned, creating an entirely new landscape. The experiences from that period serve as a significant source of inspiration as we once again transform rural areas due to global challenges.