

Unit 10. Policies

Policy: Galician Law 11/2021 for recovery of agricultural land



Description

In the last three decades, Galicia lost more than 150.000 hectares of agricultural land due to abandon, afforestation or urbanization. Proof of the interest in accessing new land, for agricultural, livestock or forestry purposes, are the more than a thousand projects submitted to the Rural Environment initiative to apply for Next Generation funds aimed at mobilizing abandoned land.

The Law 11/2021 is devoted to recover agricultural land in a situation of abandonment or underuse and to agree between the owners and those interested in putting it into production. The Law develop instruments to connect land supply and demand, guaranteeing both the legal security of the investments and the rights of the owners, through the intermediation and technical support of the public authorities.

According to the Law, within the framework of the land mobilization projects, all those surfaces that are of unknown owner will carry a property investigation process. As long as no owner appears, the Galician Government will be empowered to lease the land for 10 years. If, after this period, there is no claim on its ownership the Galician Agency for Rural Development will be declared as legal owner.

Goals

The Galician parliament passed the Law 11/2021 with the objective of putting abandoned land into production and providing a sufficient territorial base for the farms

that need it.

Activities

The Law`s main objective is to put in place instruments to mobilize the land. Those with more impact in forest management are:

- Agroforestry polygons. Public or private initiatives can promote them with the aim of recovering abandoned land. It is necessary to have a majority agreement of the owners, representing a minimum of 70% of the land included in the polygon.
- Agricultural or forestry joint management groups. Non-profit associations, cooperatives, civil societies, agricultural societies (SATs), companies or societies of for forestry promotion (Sofor) can constitute these groups. The objective is to facilitate the joint use of the plots, without altering the property. In order to launch the project at least 70% of the land rights included has to be accredited.
- Model villages. Municipalities interested in declaring a model village in their municipal area must submit an application accompanied by a proposal for the perimeter and supporting documentation that they have the agreement of 70% of the owners of the considered perimeter. The objective is to boost agricultural activity around population centers, so that these lands act as firebreaks in the event of a wildfire.



Model Village of Parada de Montes - A Pobra de Brollón - Lugo showing perimeter (red) and firebreak área (yellow)

Impact

- Improve land management
- New models of associations of owners

Social Media



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