Draft report: analysing combined results from case studies
The overall aim of VOLANTE is to inform European policy and land management about the bandwidth of critical pathways for multifunctional and sustainable land use. Work package 1 in the VOLANTE project will specifically examine the decision making processes of land users.

This report is one of the Deliverables of Task P-1.3: “Supplementary data gathering and analysis”. The main purpose of the task is to investigate the range of land use decisions resulting as a response to specific driving forces considered individually and/or in combination (e.g. EU directives, agricultural policy, rural development program, physical planning, natural and market conditions, climate change). More specifically, the research undertaken as part of this task examined land owners reaction to exogenous and endogenous drivers and the motives behind land use decisions in six case studies. The general results of the six case studies are documented in Deliverable D1.2. This report adopts a thematic and cross-cutting approach to further analyse these findings. The 5 themes investigated are categorised in two main research areas: Landscape related decision making (Themes 1-2) and production related decision making (Themes 3-5):

1. Patterns and drivers of on-farm land use change: Which changes occur where and how big are they? What were the motives and reasons for land owners to undertake land use changes? (Chapter 2)
2. Link with policies and subsidies: which land owner types use subsidies, for what reasons and for which purpose? (Chapter 3)
3. Multifunctionality: which type of agricultural and non-agricultural economic activities take place on properties? (Chapter 4)
4. How do different factors influence landowner’s ecosystem service provision? (Chapter 5)
5. Patterns of intensification and extensification of production. (Chapter 6)

Methodology

WP1 partners carried out questionnaire surveys in the case areas to investigate these issues and to collect data which could be used in other VOLANTE modules which investigate land use issues at other spatial levels.

The questionnaire

Each team undertook the questionnaire survey in February-March 2012. The Questionnaire was designed to collect information within each theme. Data was mainly quantitative, with a few exceptions. The questions dealing with land owner motives and preferences used a Likert-scale to assess land owner level of agreement with a number of qualitative statements (see Deliverable 1.2 for more details).

The survey

The survey methodology implemented for each study was adapted to local conditions and data availability which varied considerably (In Denmark, easy access to cadastral information and IACS register information. In Greece, a more pro-active effort was required to identify respondents, including use of “snowballing methods” where one land owner would help identify neighbours). Survey samples also varied considerably (from 25 in Portofino to 109 in Romania), reflecting differences in the size of study areas and local land ownership patterns. In general, respondents were selected which were representative for the areas in terms of production systems and geographic variation in each area. A total of 437 landowners in the 6 case areas participated in the survey.
This report analyses the 5 themes in five chapters, each written by a WP1 partner. Together they contribute with important findings which illustrate the dynamics of land use, production and landscape decision making in the six VOLANTE WP1 case areas:

1. Roskilde Municipality (30 km from Copenhagen, Denmark): An intensive crop producing municipality undergoing rapid transformation due to its peri-urban location. Responsible partner: UCPH.
2. Reichraming municipality in LTSER platform Eisenwurzen, Alpine Region in Austria: A rural municipality with a large forest cover undergoing simultaneous land abandonment and agricultural intensification. Responsible partner: UNIKLU.
3. Stâncuţa and Râteşti municipality, located in the Inner Danube Delta wetland area in Southern Romania. This area has experienced massive transformation since 1990 as a result of post-socialist land use change processes. Responsible partner: UNIBUC.
4. Aegean Islands, Greece, focusing on the Southeastern part of the island of Lesvos, which is strongly affected by especially tourism and the associated functions and lifestyles. Responsible partner: Aegean.
5. West Mediterranean agricultural landscape. Portofino regional park (30 km from Genova, Italy). A case of a valuable landscape undergoing transformation as a result of abandonment of traditional agriculture, forestry and tourism development. Responsible partner: ALTERRA.
6. Heerde Municipality, IJssel Valley (NL). Agricultural landscape under urban pressure. Responsible partner: ALTERRA.