

# Briefing Materials – Goal 3 Subcommittee Meeting #2

## Case study: A European Land Observatory – What's In Sight?

<https://www.arc2020.eu/a-european-land-observatory-whats-in-sight/>

## Details and Considerations on the Land Market & Monitoring Program (LMMP) from Advisory Committee

**Reference article:** The case for a land observatory by Adam Calo, Task Force Advisory Committee Member

### **Input on Questions from Goal 3 Subcommittee meeting 1**

**Purpose of LMMP:** The data about ownership is largely available. It is public. But to aggregate it, make it legible and direct it towards land equity and sustainability, there needs to be a dedicated team and resources. Some additional reporting burdens and mandates to the assessor's offices will allow for this analysis. In sum, the LMMP could conduct extensive land ownership analysis in a consistent and reproducible way all while accountable to the goal of land equity.

**Governance:** This could include who decides what data to collect and how to represent the data, if LMMP just collects and cleans data or goes beyond to recommend interventions, produce reports, and respond to certain research questions.

**Pre- versus post-sale data reporting:** Reflecting concerns about administrative burdens, leaning towards a default of requiring **post-sale reporting** is recommended. The reporting responsibility would be placed not necessarily on the buyer or seller but perhaps on the tax assessor offices. For example, if tax assessors must add a column to their data that says "ag land" then that will streamline things. Also, a key problem when one tries to interpret the existing data is that tax assessor ID and owner are not always aligned and need data science to link up. These could be the tasks of the LMMP. LMMP may even develop a new protocol for managing land ownership info, that streamlines the ability to understand and act on trends.

If calling for **pre-sale reporting**, consider targeting land of certain sizes or lands zoned as agriculturally important. In those cases, where a land sale will likely have large consequences for neighbors, and the state's interest, there could be place a new pre-sale reporting burden on the seller. These new reports would then improve any analysis based on the tax assessor data. Consider if the burden of pre-sale reporting would provoke a legal or other challenge to privacy.

**Considerations for reporting:** The LMMP could produce a yearly (or twice per year) summary of major trends in the land market and potential implications of the agricultural and environmental sector. The LMMP could also be responsive to CA stakeholders that can ask questions about land market trends and the LMMP can respond through bespoke analysis. For example, who bought that piece of land? How much ag land has been purchased by out of state?