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Forest advisors' capacity building network: integration of research results and experience sharing

Teppo Hujala¹, Sari Pynnönen², Marko Mäki-Hakola², Riikka Paloniemi³, Salla Rantala³, Anna Salomaa⁴, Annika Harlio⁴, Mikko Kurttila¹, Leena Lehtomaa⁵, Kaisa Lindell⁶

¹ Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)

² The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK), Finland

³ Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)

⁴ University of Helsinki, Finland

⁵ ELY-Centre, Finland

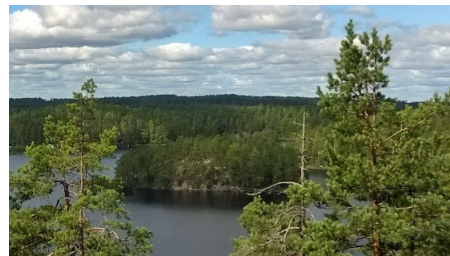
⁶ Forest Centre, Finland



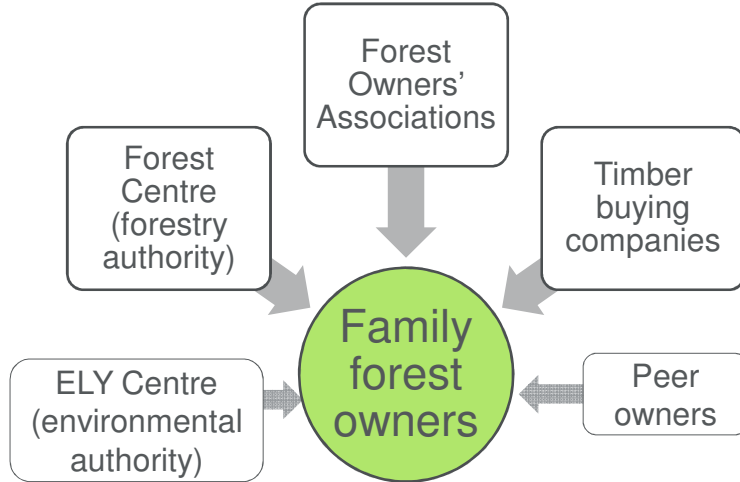
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Basics of the forest advisory system in Finland



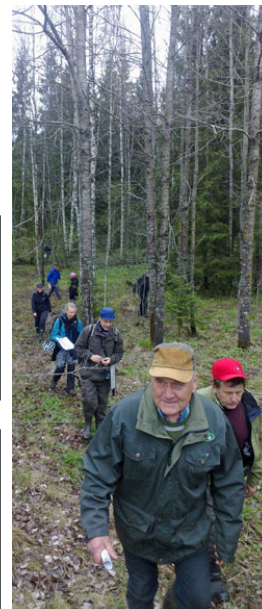
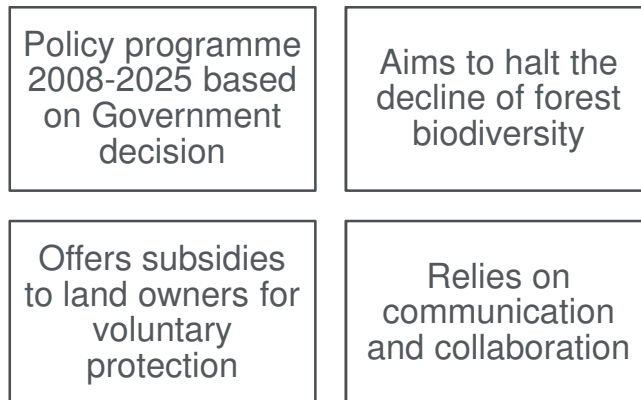
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Forest biodiversity action programme METSO – voluntary protection instrument



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Forest advisor's profession in change

- New forest legislation in 2010s
 - More freedom for land owners to choose between management regimes (e.g. continuous cover forestry)
 - Deregulation of forestry organizations and budget cuts
 - *State-funded services* (regulation, subsidies, general extension) and *market services* (forest planning, timber sales, forestry operations) clearly separated
 - Discontinuing obligatory forest management fee: free market for different service providers
- Forest owners' increasingly diverse and evolving demands
 - Multi-objective ownership, more urbanizing lifestyles
 - From state-subordinates to quality-pursuant consumers

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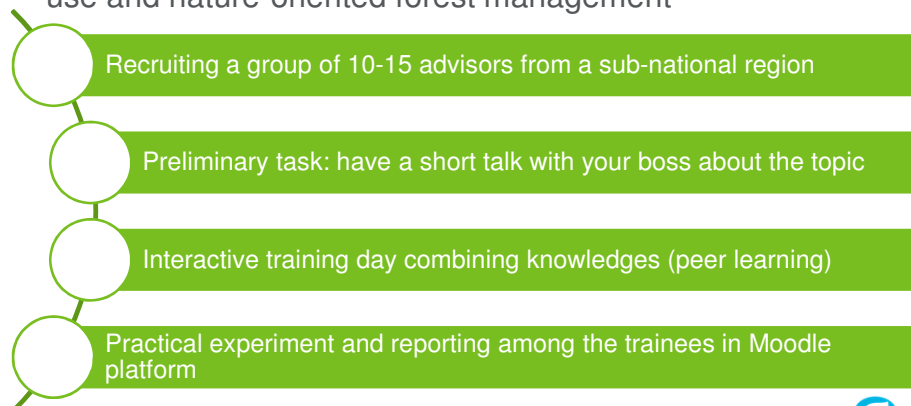
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Facilitating peer network of advisors

Transferable country-wide training model for forest advisors run by forest owners' associations;

- Objective: How to enhance the services related to multiple-use and nature-oriented forest management



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Programme of a training day



- 9:00 – 9:30 Introduction and motivation
- 9:30 – 12:00 Contemplation of three themes (50 min each)
 - Theme I: *Forest professionals: time to score!*
 - Theme II: *Knowledge production, sharing and use*
 - Theme III: *From talk to concrete practical action!*
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 – 15:00 Field trip to a near-by forest
 - i) One participant presents the challenge
 - ii) Action suggestions are discussed (preferably the owner is present as well)
 - iii) Wrap-up and reflection over coffee

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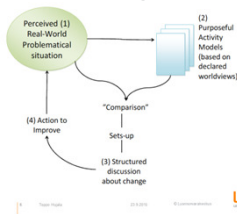
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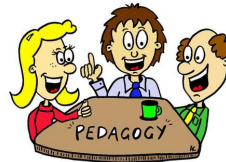


Example of exchanging knowledge

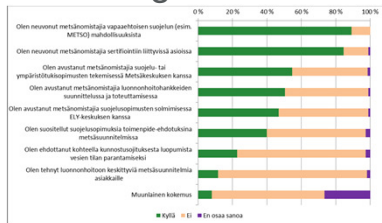
1. Introducing the issue



3. Small-group discussion



2. Presenting research results



4. Sharing and envisioning



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Continuing the advisors' peer community

- Sharing the experiences of small experiments
 - For example: advising neighbour owners concurrently towards cross-boundary forest protection
- Opportunity to pick good practices and discuss those further
 - Mentor facilitation: encouraging messages in Moodle?
 - Possibly follow-up meetings e.g. twice a year?
- Matters to solve:
 - Incorporating the land owners' views
 - Post-project role of researchers and state officials
 - Widening to an interorganizational network

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Promises and challenges

+ A way to combine research and practical experiences	+ An attempt to reach leader's support	+ Applies experimental model of work development
+ Appreciates advisors' expertise and experiences	+ Has a continuation perspective	? Requirment of trainees and trainers is a critical phase
? Facilitation makes a difference	? Mentors needed for boosting the peer community	? Overcoming the institutional hinders (e.g. ICT, rush, work culture)

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