

## CONSORTIUM FOR FINNISH LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY/LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY OF FINLAND

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2016)

#### 1. Object

This Memorandum of Understanding concerns the establishment of a Consortium for the creation of a Landscape Observatory in Finland in co-operation between different Finnish governmental and academic institution and other interested organisations.

#### 2. Background for Consortium

In this Memorandum *landscape* is defined according to the European Landscape Convention (Florence 2000) as "-- an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". Similarly, *landscape policy* means "for a specific landscape, the formulation by the competent public authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings". Landscape quality objectives for their part mean "for a specific landscape, the formulation by the competent public authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings".

In addition, the Cultural Environment Strategy of Finland 2014-2020, developed as a joint effort by three Finnish ministries to frame common policy goals on cultural environments, defines *cultural environment* as a whole formed by human activity, an interaction between humans and the natural environment that includes different kinds of elements of different age.

The concept of *Landscape Observatory* is based on the European Landscape Convention, ratified by Finland in December 2005 and entered into force in April 2006. The purpose of Landscape Observatories is specified in the recommendation of the EN Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec (2008)3. Landscape Observatories in the latter are defined as instruments for the implementation of Landscape Policies as defined in the Landscape Convention.

According to this background information, the Landscape Observatory of Finland would be created as a consortium for supporting the implementation of the European Convention in Finland. It would be integrated by different governmental, academic and civic institutions and its objectives and functions would be inspired by those included in the European Landscape Convention.

The Appendix 1 of the Recommendation explains the goals and functions of Landscape Observatories as follows:

- describe the condition of landscapes at a given time;
- exchange information on policies and experience concerning protection, management and planning, public participation and implementation at different levels;
- use and, if necessary, compile historical documents on landscapes which could be useful for knowing how the landscapes concerned have developed (archives, text, photographs, etc.);
- draw up quantitative and qualitative indicators to assess the effectiveness of landscape policies;
- furnish data leading to an understanding of trends and to forecasts or forward-looking scenarios.

The development of those functions and the fulfilment of those goals would generate positive synergies and collaborations with other highly related national or regional strategies like the Cultural Environment Strategy of Finland 2014-2020 and would facilitate the cooperation and exchange of knowledge on

Landscape planning, protection and management at the international level and in the European network of Landscape Observatories.

### **3. Consortium Partners**

The Partners of the Consortium would be (prospective list):

- Ministry of the Environment
- National Board of Antiquities
- Finnish Environment Institute
- Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
- Aalto University Foundation sr.
- University of Helsinki
- University of Jyväskylä
- University of Turku
- Society for Cultural Environment Studies (Kulttuuriympäristötutkimuksen seura ry.)
- Finnish Association of Landscape Architects

Other public authorities, Finnish universities, research organisations, academic societies or civic societies active in the field of landscape or cultural environment research are eligible for joining the Consortium as Partners. The accepting of new Partners is decided by the Steering Group. Each new Partner will join the Consortium by a separate Memorandum of Understanding, signed on behalf of the Consortium by its Chair.

### **4. Goals and functions:**

The consortium will analyze and define the possible conditions for the establishment of the Finnish Landscape Observatory / Landscape Observatory of Finland according to the principles and goals of the European Landscape Convention, the Cultural Environment Strategy of Finland 2014-2020 and the recommendations of the EN Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec (2008) (see section 2).

### **5. Organisation of Consortium and Steering Group**

The Consortium is led by a Chair and a Steering Group. The members of the Steering Group are nominated by the Partners of the Consortium. Each member of the Steering Group acts as a liaison to her/his respective organisation.

Each Partner will nominate a representative and a substitute for the Steering Group. The Chair is elected by the Steering Group from among its members.

The Steering Group will, amongst other things, 1) decide about the activities of the Landscape Observatory and its yearly Action Plan, 2) formulate its possible projects, 3) acknowledge new Partners to the Consortium, 4) approve withdrawals of the Partners from the Consortium, 5) approve internal documents and 6) approve internal proposals. The Steering Group will be responsible for reporting its activities to the Partners.

The decisions of the Steering Group are made unanimously. Each representative shall have one vote. The internal guidance or regulations of the organisations may prevent the steering committee members to act

on behalf of the organisations or Partners, and therefore, any binding decision will have to be processed through the respective official channels.

## **6. Responsibilities of Partners**

Each Partner of the Consortium is committed to analysing and defining the possible conditions for the establishment of the Finnish Landscape Observatory / Landscape Observatory of Finland in order to promote the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Finland in its specific field of operation. The work of each Partner will be developed in a voluntary way with no legal and direct financial obligations to the other Partners.

## **7. Forms of co-operation**

Co-operation will be based in voluntary collaboration from each Partner and will be organised and planned by the Steering Group.

## **8. Ownership of immaterial rights & Confidentiality**

The proposals for the creation of the Landscape Observatory of Finland produced by the Consortium and its Partners as part of their common and joint activities, will remain as internal documents until their release is approved by the Steering Group. Any document or information produced as part of the activity of the Consortium will have to be cited as a document of the Consortium listing also the authors who collaborated in its elaboration.

## **9. Settlement of disputes and applicable law**

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed and governed by the laws of Finland. Any disputes which cannot be resolved through negotiation will be submitted to District Court of Helsinki for resolution unless otherwise agreed.

## **10. Validity and term of the Memorandum of Understanding**

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon its signature by the Partners and will remain in force until further notice.

The Memorandum of Understanding may only be changed and/or amended in writing and by unanimous decision by all Consortium Partners and by signatures of the duly authorized representatives of the Partners. Changes in this Memorandum of Understanding require a unanimous decision by all Consortium Partners. The changes shall become effective as of the beginning of the ensuing calendar year.

A Partner may resign from the Consortium by submitting a resignation to the Steering Group that will then approve the withdrawal.

*Hannele Pokka*

**Hannele Pokka**

Permanent Secretary

**Ministry of the Environment**

*Helsinki* (Place) *19.12.2016* (date dd/mm/yy)



**Lea Kauppi**

Director General

Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)

Helsinki (Place) 16/12/16 (date dd/mm/yy)



**Mikko Härö**

Director of Department, Cultural Environment Services  
National Board of Antiquities Finland

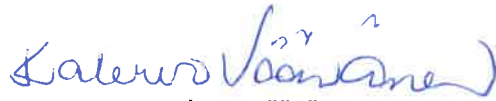
Helsinki, 15.12.2016

*Mari Walls*

**Mari Walls**  
President and CEO  
Natural Resources Institute Finland



Helsinki, 15/12/16



**Kalervo Väänänen**

Rector

University of Turku

Turku (Place) 23.12.2014 (date dd/mm/yy)





**Tuija Pulkkinen**  
Vice President Research and innovation  
Aalto University Foundation sr

Espoo (Place) 12.12.2016 (date dd/mm/yy)



**Jari Niemelä**  
Dean Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences  
University of Helsinki

Helsinki, 15/12/2016



**Minna-Riitta Luukka**

Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
University of Jyväskylä

Jyväskylä (Place) 15.12.2016 (date dd/mm/yy)



**Emilia Weckman**  
President  
Finnish Association of Landscape Architects (MARK)

Helsinki, 20.12.2016



**Hannu Linkola**

Chair

Kulttuuriympäristötutkimuksen seura ry

Helsinki (Place) 20.12.2016 (date dd/mm/yy)

**Consortium for the Finnish Landscape Observatory/Landscape Observatory of Finland  
Memorandum of Understanding (22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2016)**

**ACCESSION**

*Viherympäristöliitto ry – Association of The Landscape Industries* is willing to join the Consortium for the Landscape Observatory of Finland after being fully informed of the contents of its Memorandum of Understanding (22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2016).

*Viherympäristöliitto ry – Association of The Landscape Industries* agrees to the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding as of the date of the signature of this document.



Name and signature: Sauli Rouhinen

Position: President

Institution: *Viherympäristöliitto ry – Association of The Landscape Industries*

Place and date: Helsinki, 14.06.2018

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The Steering group of the Consortium has approved the new partner in the meeting that took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2018.

On behalf of Chair of Landscape Observatory of Finland:



Name and signature: Tuija Pulkkinen (Vice President, Research and innovation, Aalto University)

Place and date: *Espoo 18.6.2018*

**Consortium for the Finnish Landscape Observatory/Landscape Observatory of Finland  
Memorandum of Understanding (22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2016)**

**ACCESSION**

*The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK) is willing to join the Consortium for the Landscape Observatory of Finland after being fully informed of the contents of its Memorandum of Understanding (22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2016).*

*The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK) agrees to the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding as of the date of the signature of this document.*

Name and signature: *Antti Sahi*  
Position: *Secretary General*  
Institution: *The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK)*

Place and date:  
*Helsinki 21.12.2018*

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Steering group of the consortium has approved the new partner in its meeting.

On behalf of Landscape Observatory of Finland:

Name and signature: *Ossi Naukkarinen* (Vice President, Research, Aalto University)

Place and date:  
*Espoo 17.1.2019*