

# LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY OF FINLAND



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

## Landscape Observatory of Finland 2017

- *Ministry of the Environment*
- *National Board of Antiquities*
- *Finnish Environment Centre (SYKE)*
- *Natural Resource Centre of Finland (LUKE)*
- *University of Helsinki*
- *University of Jyväskylä*
- *University of Turku*
- *Aalto University*
- *Professional Association of Landscape Architects (MARK)*
- *Finnish Society for Cultural Environment Studies*

Contact: Juanjo Galan ([juanjo.galan@aalto.fi](mailto:juanjo.galan@aalto.fi))

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# 1. SUMMARY



## **2017: FIRST YEAR OF THE LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY OF FINLAND**

***After its official constitution in December 2016, the landscape Observatory of Finland has been operating in diverse ways to support the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Finland.***

***The Observatory promotes research, discussion, participation and actions on landscape issues. A central principle is that any Finnish territory, rural or urban, local or regional, whether outstanding, ordinary or damaged, has an associated landscape that deserves study, management and planning. Furthermore, those landscapes can become assets for future sustainable development and wellbeing.***

Following the monthly meetings of the Steering Group of the Observatory, a diagnosis of the current level of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Finland was conducted. This comprehensive document will be released in January 2018 and includes some crucial conclusions that will guide the work of the Observatory in the coming years.

In particular, the diagnosis showed that there are already excellent initiatives in Finland regarding valuable rural landscapes as well as a promising collage of academic, governmental and social organizations working complementarily in this issue. However, the same diagnosis hinted at a potential for positive contributions in other geographical scopes like urban, periurban, industrial or highly mixed areas. Besides, the diagnosis detected a gap in the development of landscape policies and landscape quality objectives that could support more integrative ways of working in land use, spatial or sectoral planning.

In addition, the report indicated that landscape is still understood by big groups of the society as an aesthetic and rural quality and that the increasing lack of confidence in planning, especially amongst some social and political sectors, might affect negatively the implementation of sustainable landscape policies and practices. As a consequence, the dissemination of a more open and holistic understanding of the landscape concept in Finland and the definition of new frameworks and referents the landscape observatory was established as a key objective. The aim is to show the benefits that proactive landscape planning and management can generate for all social groups and stakeholders.

In its final part, the diagnosis identified the most relevant topics for futures studies and projects, as well as some potential new members that could extend the social base of the Observatory. The identified topics were in many cases connected with urgent issues affecting the evolution of Finnish landscapes: urbanization, climate change, depopulation of rural areas, intensified forestry, new systems of governance or the socio-cultural dimension of the landscape. Following the finalization of the diagnosis, the Observatory started its initial actions.

Firstly, the academic partners of the Observatory defined new ad-hoc Consortiums to develop research projects in some crucial issues, such as the definition of "Methodologies for landscape characterization and assessment in Finland" or the "Integration of participatory processes in the governance and management of valuable landscapes".

Secondly, the Observatory initiated its contact with other European Landscape Observatories and with UNISCAPE (Network of European Universities supporting the implementation of the European Landscape



Convention) in order to promote future endeavors and exchange knowledge. The national character of the Finnish Landscape Observatory raised big interest and opened a direct link with other countries working in the same direction (i.e. The Netherlands).

Thirdly, it was decided to develop a “Finland XXI Landscape Vision” as a document presenting to the Finnish society the principles, goals and potential benefits of a more open and transversal approach to the landscape in Finland. The document would be inspired by the European Landscape Convention but would advance in its implementation in Finland by considering its specific cultural, biophysical, social and historical characteristics as well as its current challenges. The preparation of the Vision would be based in a comprehensive participatory process and would include the co-definition of terms and objectives, as well as the search of synergies with other related frameworks like the Finnish Strategy for Cultural Environments or for Sustainable Development. This Vision should become, together with the European Landscape Convention, a conceptual and flexible base for the actions of the Landscape Observatory of Finland in the coming years and a referential document for both Finnish Society and administrations.

Finally, the Landscape Observatory understands that its-work cannot fulfil its potential if it is not shared and if it is not based in people’s concerns, opinions and expectations. Following this concern, an interactive webpage is now under construction.

*More information: Chair of the Landscape Observatory of Finland, Juanjo Galan (Aalto University), [Juanjo.galan@aalto.fi](mailto:Juanjo.galan@aalto.fi)*

## **MAISEMAOBSERVATORIO ALOITTANUT SUOMESSA**

***Maisemaobservatorion tarkoitus on edistää maisemiin kohdistuvaa tutkimusta, keskustelua, osallistumista ja kansalaistoimintaa. Suomen Maisemaobservatorio on ensimmäisenä toimintavuotenaan tarkastellut Eurooppalaisen maisemayleissopimuksen toteutumista Suomessa.***

*Suomen Maisemaobservatorioon kuuluu joukko yliopistoja, tutkimuslaitoksia, viranomaistahoja sekä kansalaisjärjestöjä(\*). Kansainvälisiä yhteistyötahoja ovat muut eurooppalaiset maisemaobservatoriot sekä UNISCAPE, Eurooppalaisen maisemayleissopimuksen yliopistoverkosto.*

*Eurooppalainen maisemayleissopimus on Euroopan neuvoston sopimus, johon kuuluu 38 maata. Sen tarkoitus on edistää maisemien hoitoa, suojelua ja suunnittelua. Maisemaobservatoriot ovat vapaamuotoisia hankkeita, jotka seuraavat ja tukevat maisemasopimuksen toimeenpanoa.*

*Suomen Maisemaobservatorio julkaisee tammikuussa 2018 selvityksensä Eurooppalaisen maisemayleissopimuksen toteutumisesta Suomessa. Selvitys ohjaa Maisemaobservatorion toimintaa tulevina vuosina.*

*Selvityksen mukaan yliopistoissa, hallinnossa ja järjestöissä on tehty merkittävää työtä arvokkaiden maaseutumaisemien hyväksi. Maisemakysymykset ovat tulossa ajankohtaisiksi myös kaupungeissa ja taajamissa sekä teollisuusympäristöissä. Maisema mielletään meillä kuitenkin yhä vain esteettiseksi ja*



*maaseutuun kuuluvaksi asiaksi. Kun maankäytön suunnittelujärjestelmiäkään ei tunneta tarpeeksi, maisemien kestävän suunnittelun kehittäminen on vaikeaa.*

*Maisemaobservatorion tavoitteena on nykyistä avoimempi ja kokonaisvaltaisempi käsitys maisemasta. Tätä varten observatorio tukee kaikkien sidosryhmien ja yhteistyötahojen osallistumista maisemien suunnitteluun ja hoitoon. Maankäytön ja aluesuunnittelun kehittämiseksi tarvitaan myös erityistä maisemapolitiikkaa, jonka määrittelyn tulee olla valtioneuvoston vastuulla.*

*Maisemaobservatoriossa valmistellaan tutkimusaiheita, joissa maisemanäkökulma tuodaan mukaan kaupungistumisen, ilmastonmuutoksen, maaseudun autioitumisen, metsätalouden ja yhteiskunnan kehittymisen tutkimukseen. Valmisteltavia tutkimuksia ovat muun muassa Suomen eri alueille tunnusomaisten maisemapiirteiden arviointi sekä osallistumisen mekanismien tarkastelu.*

*Observatorio laatii myös "Suomen maisemavision", joka avaa maisemakäsitettä ja ottaa kantaa suomalaisen maiseman erityispiirteisiin sekä tulevaisuuden haasteisiin. Vision tuottamiseen voivat kansalaiset osallistua laajasti.*

*\*) Suomen Maisemaobservatorioon kuuluvat: Aalto-yliopisto, Helsingin yliopisto, Jyväskylän yliopisto, Turun yliopisto, Luonnonvarakeskus, Suomen ympäristökeskus, Museovirasto, ympäristöministeriö, Kulttuuriympäristötutkimuksen seura ja Suomen Maisema-arkkitehtiiliitto.*

2. DIAGNOSIS OF THE  
LEVEL OF  
IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE EUROPEAN  
LANDSCAPE  
CONVENTION IN  
FINLAND (2017)









DEPT of MEDIA:

- Research on Digital Cultural Heritage (Systems of Representation), Culture Kick - co-created narratives and mash-ups in museum
- LUKE: Research on:
  - Landscape perception and Landscape dynamics
  - Landscape assessment (preferences and simulations)
  - Landscape value (willingness to pay)
  - Landscape identity
  - Ecosystem services (cultural services, landscape and economic relevance)
  - Cultural sustainability
  - Landscape integration (wind energy)
- UTU\_ Degree Programme of Cultural Production and Landscape Studies:
  - Interdisciplinary, phenomenon-based: cultural signification and interaction with environment
  - Interfaces with arts and cultural studies, environmental history, archaeology, human geography, tourism studies
- UTU\_ Landscape Geography at UTU.
  - Research with integrated landscape approach:
  - Landscape Phenomenology and non-representational theory
  - Landscape ecology and land change studies
  - Participation and participatory mapping of landscape practices and values
  - Ecosystem services/landscape services/development and planning issues/landscape characterization
  - Geospatial methods, remote sensing, GIS, PGIS etc.
  - A holistic geography degree programmes (BSc. Msc, PhD) addressing different types of landscapes (rural, agricultural, urban, sub-arctic) from different points of view (ecological, societal and economic) in a proactive way (management and planning).
  - 4-5 senior researchers and several doctoral students
- UTU\_Biology
  - landscape ecology, biodiversity, traditional rural biotopes, meadows
  - Degree programme (MSc) with specialization into biogeography
- UTU\_Archeology
  - pre-historic and archeological landscape research
  - mapping and visualization methods
- UHELSINKI
  - several doctoral programmes deal with landscape issues from cultural/aesthetics to environmental/ecological sciences
- UHELSINKI, Geology & geography
  - cultural and landscape geography
  - physical geography, e.g. effects of climate change
  - arctic research
  - Urban Academy (urban geography) in collaboration with Fac of Social Sciences and Biological & Environmental Sciences + Aalto University



- U HELSINKI, Faculty of Humanities
  - indigenous people research
  - research project: Luonto taiteessa, kulttuurissa ja historiassa. Maiseman kerrostuneisuus ja luonnon moninaisuus (Nature in art, culture and history. Hierarchies of the landscape and diversity of nature)
  - Helsinki Digital Humanities (several faculties in UH, Aalto, and other partners)
  - archeology
- U HELSINKI, Faculty of Social Sciences
  - Environmental history
  - Urban Academy (urban studies, sociology) in collaboration with Fac of Humanities and Biological & Environmental Sciences + Aalto University
- U HELSINKI, Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences
  - Urban ecology and ecosystems research includes issues of urban landscapes, green infrastructure, planning etc.
  - green roofs research
  - landscape ecology
  - Urban Academy in collaboration with Fac of Humanities and Social Sciences + Aalto University
- U HELSINKI, Swedish Scholl of Social Science
  - Forum research network focuses on rural development and archipelagos
- U HELSINKI, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry
  - forest ecology and landscape (e.g. disturbance dynamics, forestry)
  - agricultural ecology, agroecosystems
  - Ruralia institute has several projects related to rural landscapes
- UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ:
- UNIVERSITY OF OULU:
  - Architecture: research on changing arctic cultural environments, history of architecture, restoration, urban design and planning
  - Humanistic Sciences: research on history and archaeology with focus on nordic past, environment and cultural processes, northern archaeological cultural heritage, Lappish mining history, cultural and environmental interaction, arctic and northern phenomena.
  - Natural Sciences: research on regional studies and politics with focus on rural areas, geoinformatics, cultural, political and tourism geography, biogeography with focus on environmental change.
- UNIVERSITY OF LAPLAND:
  - Research on sustainable development, social and environmental justice, northern cultures and natural resources with focus on Sami culture and societies, nature education, environmental and cultural impact assessment, northern wellbeing, education and work, responsible tourism, cultural service design with focus on tourism and social services.
  - Research on Arts: northern art and culture with focus on Sami culture, communal art education, applied art in northern environment, environmental art in tourist resorts.
  - Research in Arctic Centre: interdisciplinary research on arctic people, culture and environment.
  - Research in Institute for Northern Culture: northern and arctic cultures.





- Specific issues that would require EU and national policy orientations and that are also important for the NBA: Underwater landscape/seascape, Forests, Post war environments, City/townscapes, World heritage sites and issues.
- Societal issues: Initiatives, societal discussion, visibility of landscape issues
- UNIVERSITIES (in general): Tangible, visible and academically sounded Research
- UTU:
  - Joint research projects. Open discussion arena for evidence-based policymaking.
  - Development of disciplinary and academic research
  - Define our topics and goals (show the best examples created in Europe after the ELC)
  - Assessment on Landscape Research in Finland
  - Integration of basic and applied research
  - networking with landscape research and experts, finding partners for research funding
  - possibility to make policy/political impacts in Finland on landscape issues and approaches
  - Blue Landscape: maritime and others
- UH\_Environment: Nature-based solutions, climate change, biodiversity. UH: extend
- SYKE: No evident expectations.
- AALTO: A common forum for discussion and for developing socially useful and academically relevant research in Landscape Planning. A tool to promote strong and sustainable bonds between people and land
- LUKE: Define a Research Plan for the future based in solid argumentations and evidence. This would be essential to establish a durable research line and team in LUKE (now only part time researchers)
- MARK: Reinforce practice based and planning oriented research
- GENERAL: Produce a VISION / MANIFESTO (Strategy) to prove in our institutions and externally the benefits that the ELC and landscape research & planning can bring to Finland. Show the alignment of the Vision/ Manifesto (Strategy) with the respective agendas of the government and partner institutions. POSSIBLE APPROACH: a Finnish “Landscape Convention“ inspired by the ELC and based in the Finnish specificities. OBJECTIVE: present the MANIFESTO in December 2017

### **2.3. Main problems that your institution is facing to advance in landscape studies, research or professional works:**

- Develop our landscape expertise accepting our limited resources and maximizing the potential of the Observatory network
- Identify key researchers and facilitate their activity and interaction
- Lack of students interested in landscape planning, especially in the middle and big scale
- Descriptive approach to the landscape and lack of proactive intentions



- Difficulties to integrate clearly the ecological, cultural and economic dimensions of the landscape
- It is rather difficult to find suitable funding instruments for holistic landscape research initiatives in Finland (since most of the funding is often sectorial)
- Lack of critical mass
- Low political interest
- Maisema is mainly understood as a visual concept by many Finnish people

#### **2.4. Human, economic and material resources for the basic functioning of the Landscape Observatory of Finland (special projects not included). Please consider the whole scope of your Institution:**

- UTU: participate in the steering group and provide research expertise and research staff as needed
- NBA: Participation in the steering group, manifold expertise on cultural environments (built, archaeological, underwater etc.), our information and data services (incl. intergovernmental aspects). A possible but modest permanent annual or occasional project based financial input
- AALTO:
  - Human resources: a small group of researchers but they have to find the specific links of Landscape Planning with their own fields of expertise. Their participation depends on the availability of external funding.
  - Economic resources: Modest budget from the personal budget of the involved professors.
  - Material resources: Aalto University and the School of ARTS offer logistic support for the Observatory (premises and minor domestic expenses)

#### **3.1. Strategic partners that we are missing in the Landscape Observatory:**

- Other social or civics groups (Proagria, Finnish Local Heritage Federation, representatives of National Valuable Landscapes Areas, etc.).
- SITRA does not fund research but can be a strategic partner
- Ministry of Agriculture
- A national agency-institution in charge of major infrastructures
- NGOs interested in the cultural and natural environment
- It would be interesting to host in the Observatory a network of Cities or Municipalities supporting the ELC
- The renewal of territorial administration (maakuntaudistus) might also bring new partners, as the role of ELY-centres changes.
- UNISCAPE (European network of Universities for the implementation of the ELC): UTU and Aalto are already members
- CIVILSCAPE (Network of civil society organizations for the implementation of the ELC): FÖSS (National Association of Finnish Islands); Suomen Kotiseutuliitto (The Finnish Local Heritage Federation) and MARK (Finnish Association of Landscape Architects)
- Metsähallitus (should be asked to join the network)



- Geographical Society of Finland
- IALE Europe
- PecsRL network
- LUCAS survey Europe (Eurostat)
- European Universities, who are active in landscape research issues (eg. Ghent, Stockholm, Copenhagen...)
- Finnish Association for Nature conservation (they are already members of CIVILSCAPE)
- Finnish Transport Agency (Liikennevirasto)
- League of Finnish Municipalities
- The possible new partners will be invited to join the CONSORTIUM for the LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY OF FINLAND in December 2017 (some of the proposed ones were invited to join the Consortium in 2016 but no answer was received).
- Sampo ruoppila UTU
- Viherympäristöliitto (VYL) Association of Finnish Landscape Industries

### 3.2. Possible joint funded project:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS	IMPORTANCE	URGENCY
<p><b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTERIZATION in/of FINLAND (Final result):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include the new insights, objectives and proactive approach proposed by the ELC</li> <li>• Integrate relevant national agencies that are now disconnected from landscape issues (traffic, forestry, etc.)</li> <li>• Address urgent and crucial issues: climate change, sustainable development, public participation, link between landscape and the political agenda, cultural environments, etc.</li> <li>• The project prepared by UTU could readapted and resubmitted as part of the Landscape Observatory activity. A methodological discussion might be needed.</li> <li>• The new landscape map of Finland might bridge our Action Plan and Research Plan. It can integrate the work of researchers and practitioners.</li> <li>• Funding programme, partners and deadlines?? (Aalto University will explore it)</li> </ul>		
<p><b>2. DIDACTIC MATERIALS ABOUT FINNISH LANDSCAPES (Final result):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set of materials for primary and secondary School?</li> <li>• Monographic work or include as part of the new landscape characterization of Finland?</li> </ul>		
<p><b>3. LANDSCAPE INDICATORS AND MONITORING (Tool):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implication of the civil society and a participative approach would be crucial.</li> <li>• Landscape indicators have been quite important for the activity of some key landscape Observatories</li> <li>• Evidence and indicators are essential to have some real impact and influence. Landscape Observatories should work on that</li> <li>• This work can be linked to the new Landscape Characterization of Finland and with the definition of Landscape Quality Objectives</li> <li>• Funding programme, partners and deadlines??</li> </ul>		
<p><b>4. LANDSCAPE QUALITY OBJECTIVES (Tool):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This work can be linked to the new Landscape Characterization of Finland and with the landscape Indicators</li> <li>• They can be defined at different scales (national, regional, local)</li> <li>• Funding programme, partners and deadlines??</li> </ul>		





	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	SECTORAL ADMINISTRATION	PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE	RESEARCH & TEACHING
LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY OF FINLAND				
Ministry of Environment (responsible of the ELC in Finland)				
Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry				
National Board of Antiquities				
National Traffic Agency				
SYKE				
LUKE				
Forestry Board				
MARK				
Society for Cultural Environment Studies				
University of Turku (Program Cultural Production and Landscape Studies)				
University of Turku (Landscape Geography)				
University of Jyväskylä (Department of Art and Culture Studies)				
University of Helsinki (Faculty of Geography, School of Environmental Sciences)				
Aalto University (				

## 3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS