

Conference on Regional Forest Innovation

13 November 2019

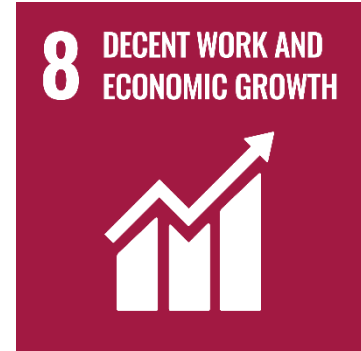
European Committee of the Regions

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Finnish Presidency of the EU Council

- > EU as a global leader in climate action
- > Transition to the bioeconomy and circular economy
- > Promotion of sustainable use of natural resources
 - > Substitution potential of forest-based raw materials for sustainable future





Active forest management means benefits for the whole society

Forest roads enable the **access to forests** for all, e.g. for recreation (not only for forest owners)

Healthy and well-growing forests are more **resilient to threats and changes**

Sustainable forest management takes into account **water resources and biodiversity**

Management, harvesting and bioenergy production create local and regional **employment**

Good **knowledge and guidance** leads to sustainable management practices

Healthy and well-growing forests **sequester more carbon**

Governments' role - enabling innovation work in the forest sector

- > Ensuring a reliable and good quality working environment
- > Enabling the implementation of the targets from the global and EU strategies
 - > The regional operators have a crucial role
- > Allocating budget resources to different projects, pilots, research, aid schemes etc
- > Supporting the transition from research and innovations to new products and services

- > National Forest Programmes provide a platform for different stakeholders to balance the economical, ecological, social and cultural roles of forests.

National Forest Strategy of Finland 2025

- > Aims for growth of overall welfare in Finnish society
- > The basis for Finnish Forest Policy which takes into account the EU and international policies
- > Researchers have an important role in developing the strategy
 - > Creates the basis for the reliability of the aims and targets
- > Implemented by regional forest programmes and regional stakeholders
 - > Small and medium size entrepreneurs have a crucial role in rural areas
- > National Forest Strategy includes the strategic project portfolio which ensures the balanced approach to the principles of sustainability in forests and forestry sector
 - > Portfolio describes the prioritation of potential innovation areas and guides the funding for innovative projects

Open forest data

- > The government finances the forest open data system called Metsään.fi (*into the forest*) e-service
- > This e-service is based on the forest data collection done by the Finnish Forest Centre
- > The forest owners can utilize the data via the e-service portal
- > Also the service providers and operators can access this data and utilize it in their own data systems
 - > Available for all entrepreneurs and service providers, from start-ups to the biggest companies
- > The whole sector benefits from the open forest data and it has succeeded in meeting the demands of the forest owners and the companies

I wish you all
a successful and innovative conference!

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