

Regional development and sustainability impact assessment in Northern Periphery Focus on use of forest resources



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Innovatively investing
in Europe's Northern
Periphery for a sustainable
and prosperous future



European Union
European Regional Development Fund



Sustainable development

The concept was defined through the work of the World Commission on Environment and Development 1987

Common goal for human development, 1992 Rio de Janeiro

A goal in international, national, regional and local politics



The Lisbon Strategy

EU Member States in 2000, relaunched 2005

A major EU priority: higher economic growth, job creation, greater competitiveness

A better standard of living in environmentally and socially sustainable way



The Changing Paradigm of Regional Policy (from mid-1980s onwards)

Criteria	Classical	Modern
POLICY CHARACTERISTICS		
Aim(s)	Equity or efficiency	Equity and efficiency
Objectives	Employment creation Increased investment	Increased competitiveness
Sphere of action	Narrow (economic / industrial)	Broad (multi-sectoral)

Bachtler and Yuill, 2001



The Changing Paradigm of Regional Policy (from mid-1980s onwards)

Criteria	Classical	Modern
POLICY STRUCTURE		
Analytical base	Designation indicators Regional exporting	Regional SWOT analysis
Key instrument	Incentive scheme	Development programme

Bachtler and Yuill, 2001



The Changing Paradigm of Regional Policy (from mid-1980s onwards)

Criteria	Classical	Modern
ORGANISATION		
Policy development	Top down / centralised	Collective / negotiated
Lead organisation	Central government	Regional authorities
Partners	None	Local government Voluntary sector, Social partners
Administration	Simple / rational	Complex / bureaucratic

Bachtler and Yuill, 2001



The Changing Paradigm of Regional Policy (from mid-1980s onwards)

Policies of Scotland and Nordic countries contain elements of both (classic and modern)

Programme management has been decentralised - payment responsibility is still a central government function

Sustainable development is one of "horizontal priorities"



National regional development strategies

Country	Strategies	Level
Finland	Strategic regional plans / programmes	Regions
	Objective 1 & 2 programmes	Regions
Norway	Regional development plans	County
Scotland	National economic development framework	National
	Local area strategies	County
	Objective 1 & 2 programmes	Regions
Sweden	Regional growth agreements	County
	Objective 1 & 2 programmes	Regions

Bachtler and Yuill, 2001



Forest Policy actions towards Sustainable Forest Management

Global / transnational; the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forestry in Europe (MCPFE)

National; National Forest Programme (NFP)

Local / individual tenure; Forest Certification: forest (PFCC, FSC), timber (ISO standards)

Ollonqvist 2006



National Forest Programme Outcomes

Country	NFP Policy Process	NFP Outcome
Finland	Formal	Substantive
Sweden	Informal	Substantive
Norway	Informal	Substantive
UK	Informal	Substantive

Finland – Classical

Sweden, Norway, UK – Equivalent

Rayner & Howlett 2004, Ollonqvist 2006



Regional development in Finland

National legislation; Regional Development Act, Forest Act

National Strategies; A Natural Resource Strategy for Finland

National guidelines (e.g. from ministries)



Regional development and forests

National Forestry Programme

Important tool for directing and promoting economically, ecologically and socially development in forest sector

Regional Forestry Programme (RFP)

Its role in overall regional development is fairly prominent



Sustainability impact assessment in RFP

The key organizations in the region are involved in the drafting the RFP

The key organizations are represented on the Regional Forest Council (RFC)

RFC makes initiatives for developing sustainable forestry



Sustainability impact assessment in RFP

SWOT analysis

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are recognized and identified, but concrete measures are missing

Assessments by expert or working groups

Sometimes five step scale are used:

-- / - / 0 / + / ++

No suggestion about measures or responsibilities

Different aspects in separate groups



Sustainability impact assessment in RFP

Environmental impact assessment – main assessment

Economical impact assessment – related to wood production

Social impact assessment – weak, often only employment



Needs to develop SIA in RFP process in Finland

More balance between different sustainability aspects

More discussion among RFC and stakeholders about sustainability issues

Measures and responsibilities