



INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- EXAMPLES OF LOCAL AGENDA WORK AND NETWORKING IN SEVEN FINNISH MUNICIPALITIES



FINAL PUBLICATION OF PROJECT “Increasing environmental awareness and networking in local administration in Finland and Estonia’ (2002 – 2005)



City of Lahti
Technical and Environmental Affairs
Health Control and Environmental
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HÄMEEN
YMPÄRISTÖKESKUS



FOREWORD

Project ‘Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in Local Administration of Finland and Estonia’ was started in 2002 and it has been ongoing until the autumn of 2005. EU funding for the project included in Southern Finland’s coast area programme Interreg IIIA has been handled by the Regional Council of South-west Finland. National funding for the project has been received from the Häme Regional Environment Centre and the municipalities included in the project.

The project municipalities were Forssa, Lahti, Lohja, Hyvinkää, Salo, the Hämeenlinna region and the Kouvola region. The project has offered municipalities resources for their sustainable development work and enabled exchanging of experiences and networking with other municipalities in Southern Finland as well as the participating municipalities in Estonia. Good results were acquired during the project period in the municipalities and new issues were also learned from others.


Author of the joint parts of this publication and the texts for Lahti is Project Coordinator Juulia Tuominen. Project workers in the municipalities have, in co-operation with the environmental authorities, compiled the texts for the various municipalities and their photos. The Project Coordinator has edited the texts for this publication.

We wish to thank all the participants in the project.

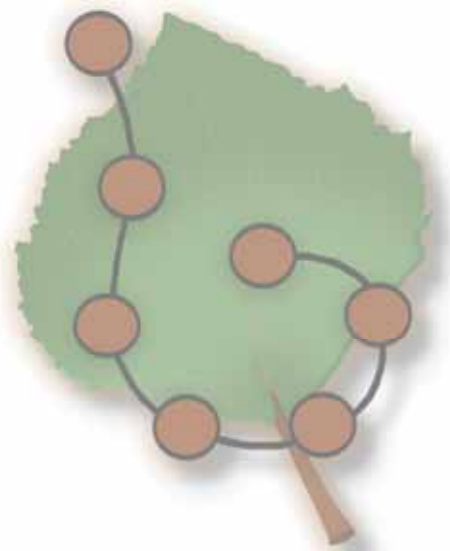
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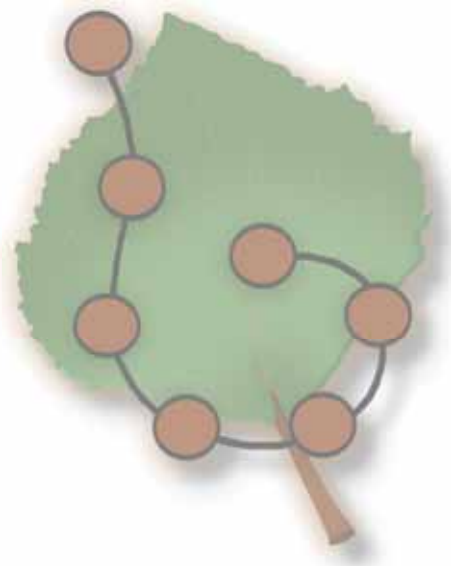


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1. INTRODUCTION

In all of the municipalities participating in project 'Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in Local Administration of Finland and Estonia', local agenda work or sustainable development work has been started already in the 1990s. Within this project, the work on sustainable development already conducted has been promoted, continued, utilized and complemented. In the project, differences between the municipalities and the actions conducted in them were taken into account and so the project themes for each municipality were chosen among issues important for the municipality in question. In this manner, resources for local agenda actions that continued, complemented and expanded the sustainable development work already conducted in the municipalities were acquired as needed and wanted.

Sustainable development refers to a municipality securing good possibilities for living for current and future inhabitants. In municipalities of sustainable development, financial activities are adjusted to the boundaries set by the environment in a manner that promotes influential possibilities of local inhabitants and social fairness. At the same time, the municipality strives to take into account the impacts of decisions made to other municipalities and world-wide threats to the environment.

The states that participated in the UN environmental and development conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 chose to promote sustainable development by compiling operations programmes called Agenda 21. The conference also recommended that all municipalities in the world compile a local operations programme. The sustainable development work in Finnish municipalities has been mostly realized by compiling local Agenda 21 programmes for the municipalities, i.e., sustainable development programmes for the municipalities, and by realizing them. According to information collected by the Federation of Finnish Municipalities, of the 448 municipalities in Finland ca. 300 have compiled or are in the process of compiling a local agenda.

A local agenda is a programme of operations for comprehensive development of co-operation in a municipality. It is a long-term strategy for one or several municipalities for realizing sustainable development. A local agenda is based on a view on sustainable development jointly defined in the municipal community. It is a question of much more than traditional protection of the environment. The programmes strive to

unite local views regarding ecology, economy, culture and society. A local agenda is not just a creation of authorities. Instead, it is a joint view and objective of the entire municipality. Inhabitants of the municipality, companies, organizations, etc. must participate in the work. The objective is an open and discussing method of operations to reach the jointly set objectives. Despite the fact that the main responsibility for realizing a local agenda programme lies with municipal authorities, the agenda is a challenge for all inhabitants and communities within the municipality.

Practical actions in a sustainable development programme of operations can include, e.g., ecological teams, compilation of a sustainable development curriculum, environmental programmes for companies, a promenade, an energy saving bee, promotion of public transportation, an environmental management system for the municipality, development of local livelihoods and new methods of participation. You cannot describe the only single correct way to create a local agenda. However, a local agenda should meet the following criteria (Federation of Finnish Municipalities 2004):

- Concept of sustainable development is understood roughly in same way
- Interested parties and inhabitants are able to participate in creation of local agenda
- In line with sustainable development principles, problems are handled as unities of economical, social and ecological issues
- Local agenda creates programme of operations including schedule, parties in charge and resources
- Realisation and impacts of programme of operations are evaluated and systematically monitored

The project 'Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in Local Administration of Finland and Estonia' has offered Finnish municipalities resources for their sustainable development work and enabled exchanging of experiences and networking with other municipalities in Southern Finland as well as the participating municipalities in Estonia. Active realization of the project has been limited to the Finnish municipalities because the corresponding project in Estonia was unable to find funding. Thus, resources for continuation of their local agenda processes were unavailable in terms of this project. In Finland, the project has enabled realization of practical actions in line with the municipalities' sustainable development programmes, such as environmental education, environmental reporting and 'Day without Cars' events.

This publication includes good examples from the Finnish project municipalities and practical experiences about local agenda work and networking between municipalities.

2. INCREASED ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS WITH JOINT PROJECT OF SEVEN MUNICIPALITIES (project presentation)

Increasing environmental awareness at the grass root level by utilizing concrete local themes is an important part of local sustainable development work. A large number of small actions lead to extensive impacts and networking offers power.

By keeping these facts in mind, seven municipalities in Southern Finland started in October 2002 an Interreg IIIA co-operation project in order to develop their local agenda work and increase networking of municipalities. Lahti designed and collected the project and took primary responsibility for the project from the get-go. Each municipality chose their project themes from local problem points regarding sustainable development and local training, advisory events and materials, information and co-operation events have been organized based on these themes.

The project's official name is 'Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in Local Administration of Finland and Estonia' and it will continue until the autumn of 2005. The project is a part of programme Interreg IIIA for the coastal areas in Southern Finland which means that the main financier of the project is the European Union and that the project has been compiled in line with the Interreg instructions. As comes to the Finnish municipalities, the Regional Council of Southwest Finland is in charge of the EU funding and the national funding is provided by the Häme Regional Environment Centre and the participating municipalities. The participating municipalities are Forssa, Lahti, Lohja, Hyvinkää, Salo, the Hämeenlinna region federation of municipalities (Hattula, Hauho, Hämeenlinna, Kalvola and Renko) as well as the Kouvola region federation of municipalities (Kouvola, Iitti, Anjalankoski, Elimäki, Jaala, Kuusankoski and Valkeala). Included as Appendix 1 is a list of the contact persons and their contact information for all the municipalities.

The co-operation parties in Estonia are Märjamaa, Narva, Kuressaare, Tallinn, Viljandi and the Association of

Estonian Cities (ELL). The project of the Estonian co-operation parties did not receive the Phare funding they applied for. Thus, there were no resources for continuing their local agenda processes at the same time with the Finnish project. Co-operation between the project municipalities and exchanging of ideas, however, has been possible in co-operation meetings, for example.



Figure 1. In a meeting of the project municipalities in Lohja on 4 May 2004, a visit to the Tytyri Mine Museum was arranged. Persons included (on the left) Christa Valkama, Jaana Lehtonen, Juulia Tuominen, Minna Sulander; Heli Kanto, Sanna Salminen (in the back), Riitta Leviäkangas (in front), Marjukka Välimaa, Susanna Kiijärvi, a representative of the Tytyri personnel and Virpi Sahi.

The manager for the Finnish municipalities was the Lahti Health Control and Environment Protection Centre / Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum (BLA21F). BLA21F is a network of local agendas in the Baltic Sea area. Its centre of operations is in Lahti. The control group for the project included representatives from all of the project municipalities and a supervisor from the Häme Regional Environment Centre (please see Guidance group, Appendix 2). The Project Coordinator Ms. Juulia Tuominen operates in the Lahti Health Control and Environment Protection Centre and has also realized the Lahti subproject. Further, a part-time management secretary for the project, Ms. Tuija Aarnikoivu, works in Lahti. In the municipalities, the local environmental authorities have been in charge of the project. In addition, a part-time project worker for the years 2003 – 2004 was hired for all the municipalities. The municipal project workers were: In Forssa Ms. Heli Kanto, in Hämeenlinna Ms. Susanna Kiijärvi, in Kouvola Ms. Riitta Leviäkangas (until August 2003, Ms. Anna-Maija Nisula), in Lohja Ms. Virpi Sahi, in Hyvinkää Ms. Mari Karjalainen (temporary substitute from September 2003 to September 2004 Ms. Marjukka Välimaa) and in Salo, Ms. Reija Kiviluoto (until June 2004, Ms. Sanna Salminen). The project workers operated as the contact persons both within their municipalities and between the municipalities, with organizations of citizens, educational establishments and the coordinator.



Figure 2. Project personnel the Interreg IIIA project in Hyvinkää on 25 November 2004. In the photo (from the left): Heli Kanto (Forssa), Reija Kiviluoto (Salo), Mari Karjalainen (Hyvinkää), Susanna Kijärvi (Hämeenlinna), Virpi Sahi (Lohja), Juulia Tuominen (Lahti) and Riitta Leviäkangas (Kouvola).

The project objectives have been both concrete and operational. Also, the objective has been to strive to develop attitudes and decision-making in the future. The project has strived to increase activity of authorities and support their work in sustainable development. An additional objective of the project has been supporting networking and development of expertise of local parties in the five provinces included; Kanta-Häme (Tavastia Proper), Päijät-Häme (Tavastia Lake Region), Kymenlaakso (River Kymijoki Region), Uusimaa (Southern Finland) and Varsinais-Suomi (Southwest Finland). Another objective has been expanding and increasing Finnish-Estonian co-operation in the local level. Functional co-operation, communication of information and training motivate in investing in sustainable development and tried and found operations models operate as an aid especially during the project period but also after the project has ended. It is more meaningful to tackle environmental problems and continuous shortage of resources knowing that in the long term a cleaner, healthier and safer environment will be created if we now make solutions that are sustainable for the environment.

Local training, advisory, information and co-operation events have been organized in all of the Finnish project municipalities based on the locally notable sustainable development problem points. In the project, differences between the municipalities and the actions conducted in them were taken into account and so the project themes for each municipality were chosen among issues important for the municipality in question. In this manner, resources for local agenda actions that continued, complemented and expanded the sustainable development work already conducted in the municipalities were acquired as needed and wanted. Further, forums for citizens have been arranged in the municipalities where communication

of information between the decision-makers and local inhabitants has been activated and possibilities of the inhabitants to influence decision-making have been increased. Joint transnational meetings have been arranged in order to offer concrete connections to the Estonian partners and present operations models from another country in a lucid and up-to-date manner.



Figure 3. A total of 35 representatives from the Finnish project municipalities participated in an international project meeting in Kuressaari, Estonia on 13 – 15 June 2004 (castle Piispanlinna in the background).



Figure 4. In the Kuressaari local agenda seminar on 14 June 2004, speakers spoke about the town's local agenda process and ecological tourism. Also, networking between environmental decision-makers in the municipalities occurred.

This publication includes good examples from the Finnish project municipalities and practical experiences about local agenda work and networking between municipalities. In some of the municipalities, indicators for sustainable development have been developed during the project period, and the indicators themselves as well as their creation process are presented. The publication also offers experiences about, for example, working of forums, environmental reporting, utilization of geographical information systems and development of environmental co-operation between schools. A list of the publications created in the municipalities during the project period is included as Appendix 3.

3. REVIEW OF PROJECT MUNICIPALITIES AND THEIR PROCESSES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3.1. LAHTI

3.1.1. City on shore of lake Vesijärvi

The city of Lahti with ca. 100 000 inhabitants is located in southern Finland in the province of Päijät-Häme within a little over an hours' drive from Helsinki and Tampere. Lahti is an administrative, commercial and service centre for an economic region created by the municipalities in Päijät-Häme.

The scenery of Lahti is dominated by the Salpausselkä ridges with their forests travelling through the city. The ridges hold within them the largest and best groundwater reservoirs in Finland. The basic scenery formations were created in the end of the last ice age, ca. 11.000 years ago. Then the edge of the ice pulling back to the north reached the Lahti region. A couple of colder periods stopped the withdrawal of the ice and during these periods, the Salpausselkä ridges were created from glacial till gathered by the ice as well as sand and rocks travelling with the melting waters. Lake Vesijärvi became an independent lake 9.000 years ago and lake Päijänne a thousand years after that. At its highest, the surface of lake Vesijärvi was about five meters higher than now. The Salpausselkä ridges and lake Vesijärvi imprint the life in Lahti and most of the local place names depict the scenery.



Figure 5. The city of Lahti is located on the shore of lake Vesijärvi (photo by Juha Alahuukas).

By nature, Lahti is a boundary area between the two national Finnish scenery types. On the south side of the first Salpausselkä ridge open the southern loam areas and the Finnish lake region begins at their north

side. In addition, the Hollola grove area extends all the way to Lahti. Despite its fairly small surface area (154.5 km²), Lahti holds within an abundance of nature types. About half of the city's land area is forest land. The city owns ca. 4.800 hectares of forests. They are mainly treated as refreshment areas and pleasant living areas. There are 8 nature conservation areas protected by law on the lands owned by the city whose joint surface area is ca. 350 hectares. The nationally valuable Ritämäki grove area (12 ha) was placed under protection as early as in 1962. Ritämäki has many of the traits of old forests that are very rare in entire southern Finland. The nature conservation areas of swamp Linnaistensuo and hill Pesäkallio are national Natura 2000 conservation programme targets. In Lahti, 244 targets increasing versatility of city nature (LUMO) have been mapped.



Figure 6. Nature conservation area of bay Kilpiäistenpohja.

Construction of the Riihimäki – St. Petersburg railroad (1870) and the Vesijärvi canal leading to lake Päijänne (1871) transformed the old village of Lahti to a lively station village, and industrial plants started to rise in its surroundings. Already when Lahti was still a village, it became the centre of handicraft in its region. When the village was made a township in 1878, 12 of the handicraftsmen operating in the area bought plots of land for themselves. Lahti was a lively commerce centre when it received its town rights in 1905 as czar Nikolay the II of Russia signed a charter of foundation.

Until the 1920s, the industry in Lahti was dominated by the metal industry as well as the sawmill and roll industry in the region. In the 1930s, share of furniture and clothes manufacturing started to grow. It was not until the 1960s that furniture industry became the most important employer in the town. Financial development of Lahti has depended on development of industry. The number of persons employed by factories grew rapidly. When in the beginning of the 1910s there were ca. 350 persons employed by factories, in the year 1970 more than 20.000 people or almost half

of the town's working age population worked in factories. The structure of industry in the area is well depicted by the fact that the 25 largest companies have usually employed ca. 70% of the entire personnel in industry, the percentage has been even higher in the past few years.

Key figures for Lahti (2003):

- Inhabitants	98 253
- Surface area, km ²	154.5
- Land area, km ²	134.9

3.1.2. Sustainable development inspired by conference in Rio

The Lahti City Health Control and Environmental Centre was established to develop and monitor protection of the environment and healthiness of the environment, safety and pleasantness in Lahti. The Centre is divided into two areas of responsibility: protection of the environment and health control. Operations of the centre are controlled by the Environmental and Building Board with 11 members.

In Lahti, local agenda work was started right after the Rio de Janeiro sustainable development conference in 1992. A concrete channel for realization has been the Lahti Environment Forum established in 1993 whose operations have been controlled by the Health Control and Environmental Centre thus committing as many parties in the city as possible to working towards sustainable development. The most notable projects started by the Environment Forum have been an ecological team campaign for households, the Lahti Environmental School and the Patina Centre for Sustainable Development. In addition, the Environment Forum has been a notable background power in development of companies and environmental issues of large spectator events, for example.

The Lahti Environment Forum has actively worked in order to realize the Lahti Agenda 21 Sustainable Development Operations Programme approved by the city council in 1996. Objectives of the sustainable development vision presented in the operations programme (for the year 2010) include, for example, a reduction in amount of waste, deductions in private car usage and a reduction in emissions of green house gases.

The members of the Environment Forum task force have also offered feedback in various stages of compilation of the Lahti City Environmental Policy and Programme. The Lahti city council renewed the environmental policy in line with the city strategy in 2002 (25 February 2002 §39). The policy takes a stand as comes to groundwater protection and the state of lake Vesijärvi, for example. The city conglomerate environmental policy guides operations of the city's administrative bodies, commercial enterprises and companies in environmental issues. Realisation of the environmental policy is being monitored and reports are being made to the inhabitants of Lahti, the city board and council and various interested groups.

The Lahti environmental system follows the logic of the EU's EMAS regulation. It includes both parts joint for the conglomerate and solutions for various administrative bodies. In most administrative bodies, placement of environmental objectives, their realization as well as monitoring and following operations have advanced well. In 2001, energy company Lahti Energia Oy received an ISO 14001 environmental certificate and water company LV Lahti Vesi Oy has published an annual environmental report. Waste management company Päijät-Hämeen Jätehuolto Oy has developed regional waste management operating as a nation-wide example.



Figure 8. Logos have been made for the Lahti local agenda operations (the Environmental Forum) and the annual Environment Week.



Figure 7. In the 1990s, the operations of the Lahti Environment Forum also included ecological team operations, a framework concentrating on sustainable choices of households.

An objective of the Environment Forum has been monitoring of development of environmental issues. In order to enable monitoring, certain indicators of sustainable development were chosen. The data is being updated every five years. The first report for the indicators was made in 1995 and updated based on the data of 2000 – 2001 in 2002. The report shows that environmental issues have been given rise in many sectors in the past years and concrete actions have been taken in various sectors. Therefore, sustainable development has advanced in Lahti.

Operations of the Lahti Environment Forum were officially concluded in the end of 2001 but the impacts of the work done can still be seen – in various sustainable development projects, as work of inhabitants of the area and other parties and in everyday choices made. Successful operations of the Environment Forum has also given rise to an idea to develop traffic issues into a more sustainable direction via a voluntary Traffic Forum based on discussion.

3.2. FORSSA

3.2.1. General information about Forssa

Forssa is located in southwestern inland Finland about an hours' drive from Helsinki, Turku and Tampere. Forssa is an administrative, commercial and service centre for an economic region created by the municipalities in southwestern province of Häme (Forssa, Humppila, Jokioinen, Tammela and Ypäjä).

In 1847, Axel Wilhelm Wahren who is renown as the founder of Forssa built a cotton spinning mill along river Loimijoki. After the mill was built, industrialization took rise and the town grew and developed with the factory. In addition to the textile mill Wahren built, for example, housing, a hospital, a library, a store and a school. The township of Forssa was founded in 1923 and Forssa became a town in 1964. The highways to Turku, Pori and Helsinki that were finished at that time actively promoted development of the town.

The most notable employers in the town were the textile and construction industry until the end of the 1970s. Nowadays, the town of Forssa and the foodstuff industry are the most notable employers. There are also plenty of environmental technology companies in Forssa and one of Finland's largest concentrations of environmental know-how is located here. In the so-called Forssa Envitech Area, several companies spe-

cializing in waste treatment and recycling operate, of which one is waste treatment company Loimi-Häme Jätehuolto Oy jointly owned by 21 municipalities.

The most notable nature sights in Forssa are the valuable bird lakes Loimalampi and Koijärvi of which the latter is also renown for environmental protection disputes. Lake Koijärvi is the only target in Forssa that is included in the nature conservation programme and the Natura 2000 network. The Salmistonmäki pasture hill is a traditional landscape of national significance that has been taken care of by mowing, clearing and allowing cows graze there.

Key figures for Forssa (2002):

- Inhabitants	18 331
- Surface area, km ²	254.7
- Land area, km ²	249.4



Figure 9. Forssa that grew around textile industry is a lively small town with a little over 18.000 inhabitants.

3.2.2. Sustainable development during ten years

The body in charge of environmental issues of the town is the Environmental Office. In addition to protection of the environment, the office is in charge of building inspection supervision. In Forssa, one official is in charge of environmental protection.

Sustainable development was included in the municipal decision-making of Forssa in 1994 when the Forssa city council approved the joint document for sustainable development for European cities (the so-called Aalborg document) to be followed as a guideline in town planning and decision-making.

Work under the headline of sustainable development in Forssa has mainly included various projects financed by the EU. The Forssa sustainable development operations programme containing concrete actions and objectives to promote sustainable development was finished by project financing in 1997. The programme

was compiled in co-operation with various administrative bodies of the town and the content was heavily based on environmental issues. The Forssa sustainable development operations programme was updated in 2002 and the first monitoring report about realization of the programme objectives was finished in 2004.

In 2001 – 2002, Forssa and four other municipalities compiled a sustainable development programme for southwestern Häme. Contents of the programme were designed by themed groups consisting of inhabitants of the municipality that came together every five to six weeks to discuss actions promoting sustainable development in line with their theme. The southwestern Häme sustainable development programme was sent to a joint regional council of five municipalities. Based on a suggestion of the regional council, a monitoring group was established for the programme consisting of environmental officers of each of the municipalities.

3.3. HYVINKÄÄ

3.3.1. General information about Hyvinkää

Hyvinkää is a medium-sized town with ca. 43.000 inhabitants in the county of Southern Finland, a little over 50 kilometres to the north from Helsinki. Establishment, building and development of Hyvinkää have been essentially influenced by the transport paths running through the town. The first railroad in Finland from Helsinki to Hämeenlinna has, in its part, defined the location of the town's current centre. Further, there was an ancient road from Helsinki to Häme travelling through Hyvinkää. When the railroad to Hanko was finished, Hyvinkää became a crossroads station which speeded up development of the town. However, it was not until the breakthrough in wool industry in the turn of the century that Hyvinkää really began to grow.



Figure 10. An aerial photo of downtown Hyvinkää (photo by Hyvinkää Zoning Office).

The Salpausselkä ridge formation with its several side ridges travels through the Hyvinkää region from the southwest to the northeast. The heaths with pine forests and deep depressions imprint the town as a whole. The Swiss ridge on which downtown Hyvinkää is located is a part of the first Salpausselkä ridge. Due to this special characteristics, Hyvinkää also became a tourist attraction in the 1880s. Hyvinkää's healthy climate and a modern sanatorium lured patients all the way from Russia to recuperate from various illnesses. Nowadays, park Sveitsinpuisto in Hyvinkää is a popular place to practice sports and spend one's free time. The area is included in a national ridge protection programme and ca. 100 hectares have been preserved as a nature conservation area.



Figure 11. Hyvinkää still holds several large forest areas.

Hyvinkää also has several large, representative areas of swamps, rocks, groves and forests. Of these areas, 8 are included in the Natura programme, 13 in national nature conservation programmes, 14 have been signed as provincially valuable and 34 as locally notable targets.

In Hyvinkää, construction is concentrated in a population centre close to the transport connections. There is a wilderness area with several small lakes and ponds on the west side of the town. The east side of the town is characteristically country-side scenery.

Hyvinkää key figures (2004):

- Inhabitants	43 489
- Surface area, km ²	336.66
- Land area, km ²	323.18



Figure 12. There is a wilderness area with several small lakes and ponds on the west side of the town.

3.3.2. Hyvinkää local agenda work

Hyvinkää was one of the first towns to begin local agenda work in 1993. The work that started slowly was reactivated in a seminar held in the spring of 2000. In the seminar, six themed groups of voluntary inhabitants of the municipality were created to ponder about objectives of sustainable development from their viewpoints. The themed groups were: sustainable agriculture and forestry, land use and transportation, natural environment, healthy and pleasant living, business life as well as environmental education.

A control group was created to co-ordinate the local agenda work. The group consisted of one representative from each themed group, two representatives from the city council, the mayor (the chairperson), the environmental sector manager and a sustainable development project manager (the secretary). Tasks of the control group included making agreements about realization of the project, monitoring advancement of the project and operating as a communications channel between various groups.

The groups finished their suggestions in February 2002; the suggestions were delivered to the appropriate authorities and important parties for comments. Since the themed groups consisted mainly of voluntary inhabitants of the municipality, sustainable development projects for the entire town organization were separately mapped.

Based on conversations between the officials and the themed groups, a suggestion for a Hyvinkää Sustainable Development Operations Programme for the years 2003 – 2006 was made. The operations programme period was defined as four years in order to offer the next town council the opportunity to participate in defining the sustainable development objectives. The programme was further fine-

tuned based on statements issued by town boards. The Hyvinkää town council approved the operations programme in its meeting in the end of 2003.

Compilation of the Sustainable Development Operations Programme was a lengthy process which is why the period chosen for the programme should have been longer. Now, plenty of work has been done but new objectives must be defined fairly soon. However, the realization method chosen enabled participation of inhabitants of the municipality and other parties in compilation of the programme. It has not been decided as of yet how the objectives will be renewed.

3.3.3. Management of environmental issues in town organisation

Together with the local agenda work, an internal environmental system for the town has been compiled in Hyvinkää. Compilation of the environmental system is based on a decision made by the town council in 1999.

The environmental system work was started by arranging training with participants from all of the town's administrative bodies. First, each unit strived to identify environmental viewpoints of their own and compile environmental programmes for themselves. The work advanced in a couple of units but most of the work was left unfinished. The units required more support from the above mainly in the form of an environmental policy and programme for the entire town. This is why the sustainable development policy that was included in the Sustainable Development Programme was written in such a manner that it complies with the environmental system standard requirements and thus operates as an environmental policy to guide the town's environmental system.

An environmental team was compiled of the employees who participated in the training. The team prepared the Hyvinkää environmental objectives for 2004 – 2012. The town control group approved these objectives in the spring of 2004 and the town council confirmed them in the summer of 2004. In addition, the town council decided to establish an officially named environmental control task force to replace the environmental team.

When establishing the Hyvinkää environmental objectives, the aim has been to identify the most nota-

ble environmental viewpoints and impacts which the town of Hyvinkää could influence. Some of these are direct impacts connected with actions (construction, use of energy), some indirect (land use planning, materials purchasing and environmental education). For most of the notable environmental viewpoints of the town, operations methods have already been established, either because required by law or otherwise.

The Hyvinkää Environmental Programme includes four of the town's environmental objectives to which the town strives to impact during validity period of the program, 2004 – 2006. The Environmental Programme includes more accurate actions to promote these objectives with the parties in charge and implementing parties included. After the year 2006, new environmental objectives can be chosen or new actions for the current ones can be established.

3.4. HÄMEENLINNA REGION

3.4.1. General information about Hämeenlinna

The town of Hämeenlinna is located in the lake Vanajavesi valley surrounded by a versatile cultural and natural scenery. Hämeenlinna is the capital of the county of Southern Finland with a thousand years of traditions as a centre of commerce and administration as well as a central land and water traffic point. The most notable landmarks in Hämeenlinna are the medieval castle Hämeen linna and park Aulangon puisto.



Figure 13. The medieval castle is the most notable landmark of the town (photo by Marjukka Välimaa).

Hämeenlinna is a unique combination of a historical cultural environment, rugged scenery elements and a versatile natural environment. The Vanajavesi valley has been classified as a nationally valuable scenery area. The area is rugged due to its ridges and waterways. The valley's favourable microclimate has dur-

ing the course of the centuries created preconditions for rich agriculture.

Hämeenlinna is a growing town which poses challenges to combining construction with the cultural and natural environment. The town's appeal is increased by its excellent location, and population here increases by ca. 270 persons a year. Annual net migration rate has been increasing in the 21st century. The town's business structure is largely based on the service industry. In 2002, more than 70% of jobs were in the realm of social services and a fifth in industry. Other employers include construction and commerce.

Key figures for Hämeenlinna (2003):

- Inhabitants 46 909
- Surface area, km² 185.1
- Land area, km² 166.6

3.4.2. Environment Sector of Federation of Municipalities as leader of local agenda work

The Environment Sector of the Hämeenlinna Region National Health Work Federation of Municipalities takes care of all tasks set by law as comes to environmental protection, environmental health care and animal medication services in the municipalities of Hämeenlinna, Hattula, Hauho, Kalvola and Renko. The Environment Sector supervises maintenance and promotion of health of the population and individuals and strives to promote, reduce and eliminate such factors in the living environment that may cause detrimental impacts to the environment or health of humans. The Environment Sector promotes preservation of an ecologically sound environment as well as versatility and pleasantness of nature and the constructed environment.

The Environment Sector has operated as the driving force for the Hämeenlinna region local agenda work from the very beginning. In its service commitment, the Environment Sector promises to realize and promote objectives and projects included in sustainable development operations programmes. The Hämeenlinna local agenda process has been ongoing for ten years. The sustainable development operations policy that has undergone a political decision-making process dates back to the year 1998.

Milestones of Hämeenlinna local agenda work:

- 1994 Mayor named task force of Hämeenlinna sustainable development work whose task was to be in charge of town's sustainable development to elected officials and inhabitants.
- 1996 Compilation of local environmental and health programme was started by Federation of Municipalities. Programme was dubbed 'Environmental Programme' and later on, this process was dubbed as Hämeenlinna Local Agenda 21.
- 1996 Preliminary Hämeenlinna Sustainable Development Operations Programme sketch finished by task forces.
- 1997 Sustainable development control group established to develop operations programme and monitor its realization.
- 12 June 1998 Hämeenlinna town council approved sustainable development operations policy.
- 1999 Town of Hämeenlinna signed Aalborg treaty.
- 1999 Hämeenlinna received honorary mention in European-wide sustainable development competition for towns.
- 2000 Hämeenlinna signed treaty for implementation of joint European sustainable development indicators.
- 2000 Environmental Sector started several projects financed by EU in which local level sustainable development is promoted as comes to, for example, environmental education, monitoring of sustainable development, research of soiled land areas, repairing and co-operation with companies.
- 2003 Hämeenlinna joined ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) and Finnish network of cycling municipalities.
- 11 June 2004 As first town in Finland, Hämeenlinna signed Aalborg Commitments.

Advancement of sustainable development in the Hämeenlinna region is monitored and evaluated by the control group of the Hämeenlinna Sustainable Development Operations Programme. The control group will also revise the objectives set for sustainable development, when necessary. The control group includes representatives of the town's administrative bodies and the Environmental Sector, inhabitants, representatives of local educational establishments

as well as representatives of companies and organizations of citizens. The control group evaluated in the autumn of 2004 the state of the Hämeenlinna sustainable development process by using Local Evaluation 21 forms (LASALA) that are meant for self-evaluation for local management.

In the ten years, the local sustainable development work has advanced at a variable speed. The work with the actual Sustainable Development Programme has been left to the background and focus of the work has been transferred to realization of concrete actions. Since the year 2000, the Environmental Sector has controlled various projects financed by the EU where the objectives included in the Sustainable Development Operations Programme have been promoted. At the moment, ongoing projects include Hämeenlinna Region Good Future project developing monitoring and evaluation of sustainable development, Nature School Aulanko project aiming at increasing training of professional educators, environmental education and education of citizens and Lakes of Häme Proper for Sustainable Development project aiming at a reduction in the pollution to water systems and repairing of lakes.

The Aalborg Commitments are the latest guideline for realization of sustainable development work. The essential content of the commitments is setting of concrete qualitative and quantitative objectives for sustainable development operations in the town. It is a well-known fact that the resources available from local agenda work in municipalities are meagre. At the moment, promotion of sustainable development in Hämeenlinna is mainly supported by the EU Objective 2 programme. In the future, the question as to how the sustainable development principle can be integrated as a part of operations of the town as outside financing decreases must be solved.

3.5. KOUVOLA REGION

3.5.1. More than 10 years of municipal co-operation in Kouvola region

The Kouvola region is located in northern province of Kymenlaakso and it includes the municipalities of Anjalankoski, Elimäki, Iitti, Jaala, Kouvola, Kuusankoski and Valkeala. Based on voluntary decisions made in these municipalities, the Kouvola Region Federation of Municipalities was established in 1994. Tasks of the federation include monitoring of

regional interests, business policy, regional general land use planning, professional and apprenticeship training and regional waste management. Operations idea of the Federation of Municipalities is: “To create a joint and competitive Kouvola region where broad municipal co-operation for the benefit of citizens exists taking into account the needs of various interested parties.”

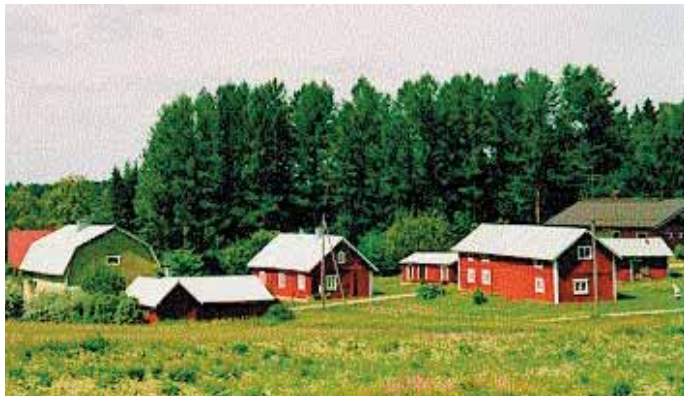


Figure 14. Country-side scenery in Iitti – Takala in Koskenniska (photo by Ismo Häkkinen, 1997).

Key figures for municipalities in the Kouvola region (Federation of Finnish Municipalities 2004):

Anjalankoski

- Inhabitants	17 106
- Surface area, km ²	753
- Land area, km ²	726

Elimäki

- Inhabitants	8 516
- Surface area, km ²	392
- Land area, km ²	383

Iitti

- Inhabitants	7 321
- Surface area, km ²	685
- Land area, km ²	588

Jaala

- Inhabitants	1 906
- Surface area, km ²	563
- Land area, km ²	433

Kouvola

- Inhabitants	31 339
- Surface area, km ²	45
- Land area, km ²	44

Kuusankoski

- Inhabitants	20 392
- Surface area, km ²	129
- Land area, km ²	114

Valkeala

- Inhabitants	11 238
- Surface area, km ²	1 004
- Land area, km ²	861

Entire region

- Inhabitants	97 818
- Surface area, km ²	3 571
- Land area, km ²	3 149

The most notable areas of expertise in the region are the woodworking and paper industry, logistics and know-how connected with Russia. High-class training and expertise is valued as well. In the Kouvola Centre for Higher Education, education is offered by the Kymenlaakso Polytechnic, the Kymenlaakso Summer University and the Helsinki University Department of Translation Studies as well as the Palmenia Centre for Continuing Education. The Lappeenranta University of Technology is also included as a research partner.

The federation of seven municipalities creates a region versatile in cultural history and nature where the living countryside and lively life of towns complement each other. The region includes preserved examples of prehistoric rock paintings, traditional peasant culture, old 19th century factory milieus, manor culture and military areas with their barracks from the Russian times.

3.5.2. Life from prehistoric times to today

Prehistoric rock paintings have been found in several locations inside the region in Valkeala, Jaala, Anjalankoski and Kuusankoski. The Valkeala paintings can be admired in wilderness surroundings unique to southern Finland in the Repovesi National park where lakes and ponds dot the rugged forest scenery. The national park is unique due to its rough red granite rocks, ridge formations, the Salpausselkä ridge and various longitudinal ridges and hills. One of the largest garrisons in Finland, Vekaranjärvi, is located in Valkeala as well as the traditional Utti garrison.



Figure 15. The Verla Factory Museum is located in the Kouvola region, in Jaala (photo by the Kouvola Region Federation of Municipalities, Land Use Sector).

Jaala, Iitti and Elimäki are lively countryside municipalities. In the summertime, thousands of holiday dwellers increase the population of Jaala and Iitti. The Iitti parish village was chosen as the most beautiful village in Finland in 1990. It has retained the traditional peasant culture in its milieu and buildings.

The Verla Factory Museum and Iron Works Village in Jaala was approved in the Unesco World Heritage list in 1996. One can study the manor and tenant farmer tradition that was started in the Elimäki area in the 17th century in, for example, the Moisio Manor that used to belong to the Wrede family. In a traditional forest park established in the beginning of the last century, Arboretum Mustila, there are rare plants that cannot be found in anywhere else in Finland.

River Kymijoki that flows through the region has brought inhabitants and wealth to the region throughout history – the river has also created the preconditions for the local industry. Of the municipalities included in the federation of seven municipalities, Anjalankoski and Kuusankoski are successful paper industry towns where the construction of the first factories begun as early as in between 1870 and 1890. In the Ankkapurha Factory Museum and Anjala Manor in Anjalankoski, one can study the life of the past. Further, both in Kuusankoski and in Anjalankoski, other industrial and business activities hold a notable position and a little less than 10% of the inhabitants of Anjalankoski receive their income from agriculture. Kuusankoski is a versatile cultural and sports town. There is a golf course along river Kymijoki, for example, and Kuusankoski is the host for an annual Theatre Event for Children.



Figure 16. The Anjalankoski Ankkapurha (photo by the Kouvola Region Federation of Municipalities, Land Use Sector).

Global woodworking and paper industry that settled in the region in the end of the 19th century required railroads for their transportation. The Helsinki – St. Petersburg railroad and the Savonia railroad

were built. The Kouvola railroad station was built in the crossroads of the railroads in 1875. One can still sense the atmosphere of the old Kouvola in the Kaunisnurmi museum quarter. Today, Kouvola is the transportation, commercial, administrative, judicial and educational centre of the entire region with its 100 000 inhabitants.

3.5.3. Local agenda work started 1996

The municipalities of the Kouvola region started compilation of a joint Sustainable Development Operations Programme in 1996 by agreeing on the main lines of the process and the work to be done in each municipality.

Actual agenda work began in 1997 when a Regional Environment Forum with its themed task forces was established. In the group work of the Environment Forum, interested parties from all the municipalities – for example, inhabitants, organizations of citizens, companies, authorities and educational establishments – had an opportunity to be heard. Five task forces including experts from various fields and inhabitants were used to search for the most important issues promoting and hindering sustainable development in the region.

The joint Regional Sustainable Development Operations Programme produced by the Environment Forum, the Kouvola Region Agenda 21, was approved in the Council of the Kouvola Region Federation of Municipalities on 27 September 1999. The programme is connected to the Kouvola Region Federation of Municipalities' development strategy where one of the principles approved is promotion of sustainable development in all operations of the municipalities and the federation. Main objectives of the programme are regional thinking, self-analysis and development of the municipalities' operations and getting the citizens involved in co-operation.



Figure 17. Promenade Manski in Kouvola is pleasant even in the winter-time.

The Kouvola Region Agenda 21 Programme operations are controlled by a programme control group. The programme control group comprises of various representatives of municipal bodies and two representatives from each of the municipalities of the region. The group meets about four times a year and decides about, for example, programme change needs and focus points of the programme operations.

The sustainable development work in the municipalities and the Federation of Municipalities has been project-natured. Further, development of operations within the framework or normal management operations has occurred. The work promoting sustainable development in the Kouvola region municipalities is a precondition for success of the entire region's Agenda 21. The objective is to follow principles of sustainable development in all municipal sectors.

Promotion of sustainable development in the municipalities is a continuing process requiring monitoring and evaluation. 21 monitoring indicators, that is indicators that can be used to evaluate realization of sustainable development in the Kouvola region were chosen to be used as aids in evaluation. The indicators were prepared and published as a part of the joint project presented in this report.

3.6. LOHJA

3.6.1. Valuable nature and industry

Town of Lohja is a town of ca. 37 000 inhabitants in western province of Uusimaa on the shore of lake Lohjanjärvi. The town's scenery and social structure are especially influenced by the Salpausselkä ridge edge formation and lake Lohjanjärvi with its multitude of islands on the north side of the ridge. Settled areas and industrial areas are located in a string-like formation close to the lake and extending to a distance of ca. 20 kilometres. Due to the natural conditions and history of the region, Lohja has four separate local centers in addition to downtown Lohja: Ventelä, Routio, Tynninharju and Virkkala. The Muijala area is also developing into a separate centre.

Key figures for Lohja (2003):

- Inhabitants	36 004
- Surface area, km ²	356.2
- Land area, km ²	278.3

Lohja is renown for its versatile and rich nature as well as woodworking, mining and currently also electronics industry. Lohja includes several rare and demanding nature types and species due to the region's favourable climate, bedrock and soil with plenty of lime, variable surface topography and waterways. As an industrial area, Lohja started to develop as early as in the 16th century when the Ojamo iron mine began its operations. The next stage was establishment of a steam-powered sawmill and a lime factory in Virkkala in the mid 19th century. In the area of the current city centre, industrialization begun in the turn of the century when the Tytyri lime mine and the Pitkäniemi pulp factory started their operations. The industrial plants have heavily strained the environment during the 20th century. In the past few decades, the industrial effluents to the waterways and the air have been clearly reduced, however, due to advanced technology and development of permission and supervision methods. In addition, the economical depression in the 1990s, in its part, reduced production and effluents. At the same time, relations between effluents have also changed. As the industrial effluents have been reduced, the share of diffuse pollution as a polluter of the waterways has increased.

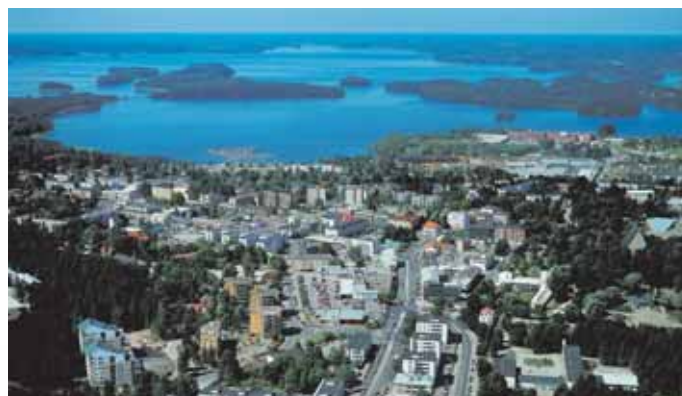


Figure 18. An aerial picture of the Lohja region (Photo by Lentokuva Vallas Oy)

There are plenty of waterways in the Lohja region, of which the most notable is the largest lake in the province of Uusimaa, lake Lohjanjärvi that is a part of the river Karjaanjoki water system. The second largest lake in the province of Uusimaa, lake Hiidenvesi, is also partially located in the Lohja region. Extensive refreshment use of the waterways together with industry and agriculture pollute the waterways. The state of the waterways is also influenced by natural properties of the water system and its catchment area, construction in the water system, regulation and pollution from community waste. The waterways in Lohja are polluted by all the above-mentioned processes. Nowadays, the focus in reduction of pollution to the water

system is being transferred from reduction of point load to reducing diffuse pollution. In Lohja, especial attention in protecting the water system has been paid in the form of various projects, the most notable ones being project Karjaanjoki-Life and restoration project of lake Hiidenvesi.

Ridge Lohjanharju is one of the most notable groundwater areas in Uusimaa and also in entire Finland. The area has plenty of water of good quality for industrial use. The town of Lohja has 9 groundwater pumping plants in the ridge Lohjanharju area. Water from seven of the pumping plants is being used as drinking water as such without any treatment. In addition, groundwater forming in the old mining area of the Tytyri lime plant is being pumped to be used for industrial use.

There are plenty of operations ongoing in the ridge Lohjanharju area that cause risks for the groundwater system. Highway 25 and the railroad between Hanko and Hyvinkää travel in the entire length of the ridge in actual groundwater formation areas and a new highway between Helsinki and Turku is being built in the ridge area. When protecting groundwater, preventive actions are of utmost importance. Adequately much land area should be offered for the industry outside of groundwater areas.



Figure 19. The rich nature in Lohja includes toothwort, for example (photo by Toni Hägg).

There are a total of 56 natural conservation areas in the Lohja region, that is a total of 201.91 hectares of which 11.6 hectares are water areas. There are 14 protected nature types (16.6 ha), 5 protected growing places of plants (2.05 ha) and 21 natural monuments.

Valuable nature targets:

- groves: 87 targets
- rocks: 85 targets
- grass field greens and meadows: 56 targets
- valuable vegetation targets: 185 targets
- growing places of endangered plant and mushroom

species: ca. 690 targets

- number of vascular plants in Lohja: 815 species (in 1992)

A good example of the nature targets in Lohja is cape Pähkinäniemi, a highly valuable natural conservation area and landscape. It is one of the targets included in the national Finnish grove protection programme. Surface area of the grove area is ca. 4.5 hectares and it includes plenty of plants that are endangered in entire Finland. The cape has been dubbed Pähkinäniemi ('Nut Grove') due to hazelnut bushes growing on the cape that make the entire area lush. Pähkinäniemi is valuable not only because of its plentiful occurrence of hazelnut bushes but also due to its unique plant and mushroom species. Moisture and lime content of the soil as well as lime dust that has floated to the area offer many endangered and rare vascular plants, mosses and mushrooms suitable growing places. Ashes, a couple of wych elms and several ornamental plants have been planted in the area by man.



Figure 20. Pähkinäniemi is one of the targets included in the national Finnish grove protection programme (photo by Toni Hägg).

3.6.2. Local agenda work via environment cluster

In Lohja, the environmental administration organization was renewed when municipalities were joined. When the municipality and the town were combined into one unity, no major changes were made in the practical work of the Lohja town environmental protection, because already before the amalgamation, the environmental protection office and its officers were joint for the municipality and the town. In connection with the amalgamation, environmental health care was transferred as a part of the Environment Centre when the Lohja Region Municipal Health Service Federation was closed down and since the beginning of 2004, environmental protection and environmental health care have been parts of the same unit.

In the town of Lohja, local agenda work has been conducted mainly via an Environment Cluster that was started in the spring of 1999. The cluster includes companies from Lohja. The project was financed by the Ministry of Labour, but the financing from the ministry was cut off in the summer of 2002. Co-operation still continues, financed by the companies and the town. Also, the Lohja environmental protection programmes that were approved in 1995 are small-scale local agendas.

The Lohja Environment Cluster project was a piloting project of national significance where co-operation to take care of environmental issues from the starting points of companies was started. The Ministry of Labour chose the project as one of the National Development Projects for Working Life. The operations were financed by the Ministry of Labour, the thirteen companies participating in the project, the town of Lohja and the Lohja partnership project.

Objectives of the Lohja Environment Cluster were:

- Realizing projects improving state of environment in Lohja.
- Reducing environmental impacts due to acquiring raw materials, use of energy, manufacturing of products, transportation and distribution, recycling and disposal
- Creating new kind of co-operation culture between society, authorities, companies and inhabitants. Creating model for open, participating and interactive co-operation.
- Improving communication of information with new practices.
- Effective utilization and increasing of environmental expertise of cluster members by networking.
- Exchanging experiences and learning from tried and found operations methods.
- Increasing ecological competitiveness and number of jobs.

3.7. SALO

3.7.1. General presentation of town of Salo

Salo is located in the county of Western Finland, in the province of Varsinais-Suomi. Surface forms of Salo and the countryside surrounding it are versatile. Rocky hills typical for the region rise in Salo up to 100 – 120 meters above sea level. In addition, there are extensive clay lands in Salo. Rising of the land that begun the end of the ice age, 10 000 years ago, has a strong impact on development of the region's

land area. At present, the land in the Salo region rises ca. 40 – 50 cm in a hundred years.

The history of population in Salo also extends far back – it is known that the region was inhabited 7 000 years ago. Plenty of signs of population in the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age have been found in Salo. More than 20 handsome burial heaps, crowns, have been found in Salo. The most spectacular are the crowns of Viita and Tampalta. In addition to the numerous archaeological findings, jewellery of immeasurable value from the 1100s have been found in the area of the town. Salo is also an ancient place of commerce. Excellent transportation connections offered good preconditions for business: there was a harbour in the bottom of bay Halikonlahti and the so-called King's Road (Kuninkaan tie) travelled through the town. The Salo commerce place became a township in 1887 and a town in 1960.



Figure 21. A view from bay Halikonlahti, island Vuohensaari – Salo

Nowadays, Salo could be characterized as a town of rugged rocky hills, unique river banks, high-tech and functional transportation connections. Salo is the centre for the Salo region that is formed by the town itself and its ten neighbouring municipalities, and it serves the ca. 65 000 inhabitants in the region. Surface area of Salo is ca. 144 km² and the town has a little less than 25 000 inhabitants. The number of inhabitants in Salo is continuously growing. New inhabitants move into the town from all over Finland and due to the electronics industry, also from all over the world. Every other person here is likely to be originally from somewhere else.



Figure 22. The market place is the heart of Salo.

Key figures for Salo (2003):

- Inhabitants 24 794
- Surface area, km² 143.9
- Land area, km² 143.5

3.7.2. Salo environmental sector

Handling of environmental issues as a part of the municipal officials' work was made mandatory based on the Finnish Environmental Protection Act in 1986. The same year the town of Salo established an Environmental Board with the office secretary of the Technical Office operating as the presenter. The next year, 1987, the office of Environmental Secretary was established. The Environmental Secretary was the first officer in Salo concentrating solely on environmental work. In 1991, another environmental sector office was established: the Environmental Protection Inspector. The official name of the Environmental Secretary was changed into Manager of the Environmental Sector in 1999 and the official name of the Environmental Protection Inspector was changed into the Environmental Engineer in 2003. A full-time Environmental Sector Chancery Officer was hired in 2002.

In the early years, the tasks were concentrated on waste management and protection of the waterways. Practical tasks connected with waste management have later on been transferred to be taken care of by the local waste management company Rouskis Oy, but the environmental officers have a role as the authority supervising waste management.

Protection of the waterways is a part of the work of the environmental sector authorities and the state of waterways is being regularly monitored. At the moment, the most notable challenge is development of waste water systems in real estates not included in the local sewage network. A notable future challenge will be reduction of efflu-

ents from agriculture that pollute the water system.

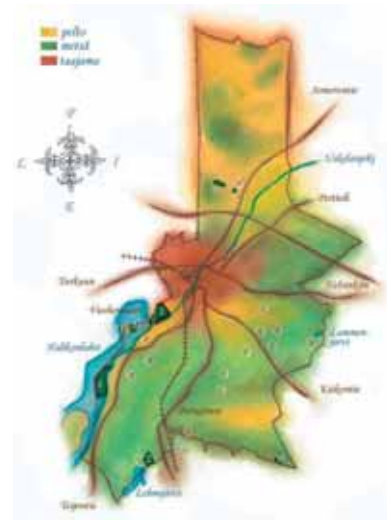


Figure 23. Salo could be characterized as a town of rugged rocky hills, unique river banks, high-tech and functional transportation connections. There are several natural and cultural environmental targets in the Salo region.

In addition to protection of the waterways, protection of the nature and the air, chemicals supervision, noise issues and participating in zoning as well as monitoring of the state of the environment are included in the tasks of the environmental sector. Further, an environmental permission procedure for companies aiming at regulating environmental impacts of companies is one of the sectors of which the environmental authorities take care. The tasks of the environmental sector also include mapping of environmental data and monitoring quality of the environment. General environmental protection tasks are as important as permission and supervision tasks.

According to a study made by the Environmental Ministry, 'Resources of Municipal Environmental Protection Authorities', legislation connected with the special tasks of municipal environmental protection authorities has increased eightfold from 1986 to 2003. Nowadays, the tasks of environmental sector authorities are targeted to more comprehensive town planning where the objectives of sustainable development have priority. In addition, environmental officers operate as presenters in the municipal Construction and Environmental Board.

3.7.3. History of local sustainable development work

The Salo Region Municipalities' Local Agenda 21 is a joint local agenda programme for all the eleven municipalities in the Salo region that was finished in 1998. The local agenda includes an operations programme focusing on special characteristics common

to the region, such as waterways and groundwater, versatility of nature, waste management, increasing environmental awareness and controlled, versatile utilization of the nature. Salo joined the Varsinais-Suomi Agenda Operations Programme 2002 – 2006 in the beginning of the year 2002. The programme includes 27 municipalities from Varsinais-Suomi in addition to Salo. The operations programme concentrates on six main themes: protection of water, environmental education, environmental awareness, social structure, social responsibility and energy. Advancement of the Varsinais-Suomi Agenda 21 Operations Programme is being monitored by annual monitoring reports.

In Salo and the Salo region, various programmes and strategies have been compiled to define operations methods and set objectives and goals for promotion of development positive for the environment. The most notable being: the Salo Region Environmental Programme (2004), the Salo Energy and Effluent Balance (2002), report 'State of the Environment in Salo 2002' for general zoning work, the Salo Environmental Protection Objective and Action Programme (1993 – 1996), a waste management policy programme for Salon seudun jätehuolto Oy and municipalities of the region (2002) and the Salo Region Environmental Health Programme (2001).

In the summer of 2001, the town of Salo started a local sustainable development project called Green Valley (Vihreä laakso). The Green Valley project has been used to create ideas and realize operations supporting sustainable development in the Salo region. In addition to financing from the town, Green Valley has received support from several EU sources. The project's operations idea was dual from the very beginning: on one hand, to make and plan long-term decisions and solutions and on the other hand, to realize less extensive concrete issues. In the project Green Valley, an environmental programme for the Salo region has been compiled and an agreement has been made according to which the town of Salo has committed to purchasing 10% of the electricity needed in the town as electricity generated by windmills from a wind park to be built in Högsåra. Ecologically effective solutions have been designed in a residential area to be built in Viitanummi, such as local energy and environmental regulations and a two-water system. The project has also included taking care of the local cultural environment and promotion of environmental technology. In addition, a regional environmental map system (www.vihrealaakso.fi/ymparistokartasto) and an environmental data portal for cit-

izens (www.vihrealaakso.fi) have been created during the project period. Further, the project has realized a Salo Region Nature and Cultural Environment Instructions Booklet that is available free of charge in libraries and the Environmental Protection Office, for example. Also, the first Agent for Light Traffic in Finland has operated in the Salo region in 2003 – 2004.

To support the Green Valley project, an organization of citizens, Pro Vihreä Laakso ry, has been established. The organization is open for all citizens and communities. In the years 2003 – 2004, the organization realized a project 'Green Valley TV and Radio Series and Production of Educational Material'. In the project, 36 television and radio programmes about the environment were broadcast in the local television network and radio channel Radio 88.2. The television programmes were transferred into videos to be used by libraries and schools as educational material.

4. EXAMPLES OF LOCAL AGENDA WORK PRACTICES IN MUNICIPALITIES AND MEANS FOR INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

4.1. IN LAHTI, planning traffic in terms of people, not cars

In the past years, local agenda operations have been developed in Lahti by various EU projects and the project 'Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in Local Administration in Finland and Estonia' has strived to do the same. Development of traffic culture into a more sustainable form is a sector that has not usually been taken into account in sustainable development work, and therefore this was chosen as the main theme in Lahti. The operations were started by establishing a discussion forum on traffic issues open for anyone: the Lahti Traffic Forum. The idea for establishment of a traffic forum was created based on successful operations of the Lahti Environment Forum in order to promote sustainable development in the previous years. Therefore, one can state that this project utilises and in its part complements the local agenda work previously conducted in Lahti.

4.1.1. Discussion and participating planning

Operations of the Lahti Traffic Forum were started by a traffic seminar arranged in the summer of 2003. The seminar was very popular and many rel-

evant parties were invited. The seminar concentrated on four themes: 1) traffic and pleasant living, 2) mass transportation and development thereof, 3) private cars and ecological driving and 4) light traffic. National experts spoke in the seminar, for example, from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Finnish Nature Preservation Organisation. Further, local expertise was offered by the road administration authorities of Häme, providers of transportation services and the Lahti City Technical Planning Sector. There were lectures in the morning and then the seminar was continued as participating group work in accordance with the themes presented. There was also an international extension to the fifth work group because visitors from St. Petersburg participated in this group. The seminar started operations of the Lahti Traffic Forum whose objective was to develop the traffic culture in Lahti in line with sustainable development. In practice, this means improving possibilities for using light traffic and mass transportation vehicles in Lahti.



Figure 24. More than 90 persons interested in traffic issues participated in the Lahti Traffic Seminar that started the operations of the Lahti Traffic Forum.

The Traffic Forum has a good representation of the organizations of inhabitants in the Lahti region and of other organizations interested in traffic, pleasant living and protection of the nature. Authorities are represented by the Health Control and Environmental Protection Centre of the Lahti City Technical Sector as well as the Sector of Municipal Engineering and the Land Use Sector. Further, participants from the City Council, the Technical Board and the Environmental Board have been included in the forum. After establishment of the Traffic Forum, meetings have been arranged every two months where traffic themes have been discussed and planned. Versatile representation of various parties has offered the forum credibility when presenting ideas for development of the traffic culture and it has been an excellent forum for interactive planning.

Based on conversations conducted, the Traffic Fo-

rum has compiled a plan of operations in order to develop traffic in Lahti into a more sustainable direction. The plan of action includes, for example, support of the city for improving profitability of mass transportation in the Lahti region, improvement of the state and safety of cycling routes, separation of light traffic lanes from each other and covered parking areas for bicycles. The plan of action was handled in the autumn of 2003 by the Lahti City Environmental Board and Technical Board and some of the suggestions have already been realized.



Figure 25. A meeting of the Traffic Forum on 29 October 2003.

The Traffic Forum also wishes to develop the monthly Lahti Fairs into events operating more in the terms of light traffic and thus a suggestion was made to the Technical Board to close the city's main street, Aleksanterinkatu, during fair days in the summer of 2004 (June, July and August). At first, various parties seemed to be opposed to the idea, so after having reviewed the issue, the Technical Board approved the suggestion only as comes to the fair in June. Closing of the street in June was effective: most vehicles were kept away from the street and the noise created by the fair was notably reduced. Based on the good experiences in June, traffic planners, traffickers and the Market Place Host were all in favour of the main street being closed during the fair, so the action was realized also in July and August. The project was financed by the Technical Sector and the Lahti Region Business Center Ltd and the issue was well represented in media. After the summer of 2004, the Traffic Forum's suggestion has 'started a life of its own' and the Aleksanterinkatu will be closed at least for the fair days in the summer of 2005 – possibly also for the fair days in the spring and autumn! Opposition against a promenade in the city centre is diminishing as experiences are acquired and people are getting used to the idea.

Experts have spoke in the meetings of the Traffic Forum as a basis for conversation. Traffic has been handled, for example, from the viewpoint of cots and

energy savings by experts from Motiva, the University of Technology and the Finnish Nature Protection Association. Presentations of a cycling municipality network and the project JALOIN have stressed the theme of light traffic. The objective is to handle sustainable traffic from various viewpoints and acquire ideas about good practices from elsewhere as well. Issues of present interest in traffic planning of Lahti have been studied (such as a vision for the city centre, a travel centre) when traffic planners of Lahti have visited the forum. The Traffic Forum has studied the possibilities of participating planning (e.g., based on a seminar Traffic in Federation of Municipalities) and practices in Lahti have also been studied. The meetings of the Traffic Forum enable realization of interactive planning in practice when traffic planners meet with citizens and other parties to discuss issues. Traffic and transportation are issues that interest the citizens, and therefore, the Traffic Forum and also traffic issues in Lahti have received visibility in the media stressing the possibilities of light traffic. This has increased communication of information about traffic issues.

4.1.2. 'Day without Cars' events in Lahti

The Traffic Forum got an idea about extending the Lahti city 'Day without Cars' on 22 September 2003 into a more extensive event than ever before. The idea was realized. The 'Day without Cars' is an international event that is being held in most European cities and that had been held in Lahti three times before. The Traffic Forum was used to offer visibility for the event and to reach the citizens in Lahti. The main street, Aleksanterinkatu, was closed at noon and the mayor Tarmo Pipatti declared the event opened on a stage on the street. When the event was declared opened, there was a discussion about the future of Aleksanterinkatu without cars. The participants in the discussion in addition to the mayor were Managing

Director of Mall Trio, Managing Director of the Lahti Region Business Center Ltd and the Environmental Manager of the city of Lahti. The discussion was sent live via radio and a large number of people listened to the discussion on the street. After this, the programme of the day was continued by offering bulletins and entertaining program until six o'clock in the evening.

In addition to the program on the stage, the 'Day without Cars' included plenty of other programmes as well, such as presentation points for organizations and other parties (e.g., traffic planning), music and driving in a horse carriage on street Aleksanterinkatu. The objective was to make Aleksanterinkatu a promenade for all for a while.

After the success of the event in 2003, the Traffic Forum gathered to hold a feedback meeting. Based on experiences acquired, the event in 2004 was to become even larger and more spectacular and also more successfully realized. The 'Day without Cars' in 2004 was celebrated in Lahti on Wednesday 22 September based on the plans made by the Traffic Forum, the theme was 'Children and Safe Streets'. The focus point of the event was, in the same way as the previous year, in front of mall Sokos on street Aleksanterinkatu and for the day the street was closed from personal cars as comes to the city blocks along the market square and mall Sokos. Closing of the main street was utilized better than the previous year: now, the event stage, a paddle car race track and presentation points of the participating organizations were located on the closed street. Results of a traffic query made in local elementary schools were published and a discussion about light traffic in downtown Lahti and safety of the streets from the viewpoint of various parties was discussed in line with the theme 'Children and Safe Streets'.



Figure 26. The opening discussion for the 'Day without Cars' 2003 gathered powerful participants, including the mayor Tarmo Pipatti (photo by Juulia Tuominen).



Figure 27. Bicycle auction of the local police department gathered plenty of exited people on the 'Day without Cars' 2004 (photo by Juulia Tuominen).

People had the opportunity to try driving a paddle car (moving with the power of one's muscles) and cheer the decision-makers and persons running for the City Council in a paddle car race. One of the most popular events was the police bicycle auction where about a dozen bicycles found a new owner. Presentation points of organizations were erected on street Aleksanterinkatu offering information about traffic planning in Lahti, quality of the air and environmental issues. The local bus trafficker, Koiviston Autot Oy, also participated in the event with a service point in a low-floor bus and project Fall Fitness Weeks participated in the event in front of mall Sokos (the Finnish Association for Healthy Lifestyles and the Häme Unit of the Finnish Sports Federation). Thanks to the auxiliary programme, versatile activities were offered during the day so that factual programme and sports-based programme was presented in turn on the stage. More than 300 answers were received in a raffle query about traffic issues realized during the event. In addition to offering good tips for traffic planners as comes to development of the city centre and improvement of mass transportation, the answers to the query also enabled mapping of age distribution among visitors of the event and success of advertising for the event. At the end of the event, a couple of dozen prizes from the co-operation partners of the event were drawn by lot. The prizes were donated, for example, by Koiviston Auto Oy and the stores along street Aleksanterinkatu.

The 'Day without Cars' event was successful and gathered plenty of spectators during the day. Most spectators were gathered by the event's opening speech and the opening discussion as well as the police bicycle auction. All in all, there were more spectators than the year before, and there were not very many minutes when no programme was offered. The success also shows in commitment of the various parties in realization of the event. Especially much attention to planning and realization of the event were offered in addition to the Health Control and Environmental Protection Centre by the City Planning and Land Use Sector of the Lahti Technical Sector, the Police Department of Lahti and the Association of Healthy Lifestyles. Calculation of traffic during the day on street Aleksanterinkatu (in comparison to two calculations realized previously) showed that the closing of the street was more effective than the previous year. The number of passenger cars was reduced by more than 90% compared to traffic on a normal day. This was mostly likely due to effective communication of information about the event and closing of street on the summer fair days. The level of background noise was notably

reduced and safety and pleasantness of the street were improved. This was a clear advantage for the event.

The Lahti 'Day without Cars' events and closing of the main street thereof have also, in their part, influenced attitudes towards a promenade in downtown Lahti. The objective of the event has been to offer plenty to see and experience to lure people into coming by foot. Thus, some people may also have been lured from the large shops further away to use the services of downtown Lahti and thus their traffic behaviour has been made more sustainable. In addition, planning of the 'Day without Cars' events (2003 and 2004) has been actual participating planning, because in meetings of the Traffic Forum, the event has been planned in co-operation with all the parties included. The Traffic Forum has extended the Lahti city 'Day without Cars' into a larger event than ever before.



Figure 28. Guided fitness exercise during the Fall Fitness Weeks also interested people during the 'Day without Cars' event 2004 (photo by Julia Tuominen).

4.1.3. Change in attitudes for changing traffic culture has been started

Several officials/employees of the Health Control and Environmental Protection Centre have participated in the work of the Traffic Forum. When the Traffic Forum's position has been established, participants from the technical sector have increased and co-operation in, for example, arranging the 'Day without Cars' has been increased. Also, attitudes towards environmental issues in connection with traffic have become a little more open. Therefore, the Manager of the Municipal Engineering Sector has stated that the best results can be acquired by interaction and discussions because in traffic issues, there is no single correct course of action. In addition, the significance of the 'Day without Cars' as an image and an educational factor has been noted. Therefore, arranging of the event in Lahti is important and the Municipal Engineering Sector, for example, wishes to support its or-

ganization also in the future.

Number of participants in the Traffic Forum has been established as ca. ten persons – a couple of dozen active members which also shows that there has been a need for a discussion forum about traffic issues. During the project, environmental awareness connected with traffic has been increased, not only among those participating in the forum, but hopefully also among the public at large. The ‘Day without Cars’ events and visibility in the media can be considered as communication of information to the public. The Traffic Forum has promoted increased support of the city in mass transportation tickets. This idea has finally been adopted and support of the city in prices of tickets was increased a little in the beginning of 2005. For consumers, the action meant cheaper monthly tickets for bus traffic. Further, closing of street Aleksanterinkatu during the fair days in the summer has been realized, after the good experiences acquired in the summer of 2004, by the Municipal Engineering Sector so that the same is planned for market days in the summer of 2005. Benefits of the action are shown to the public: when they visit the fair, they notice that noise has been reduced and safety and pleasantness have been increased.

The Lahti Traffic Forum has handled the most notable traffic plans of Lahti and good examples have been brought to Lahti from national projects. Notable improvements in the traffic in (downtown) Lahti have been suggested and some of them have been realized. The Traffic Forum meetings should be continued as long as there are issues to be handled and people interested in participating. Environmental awareness has been increased, a change in attitudes is on the way and co-operation between various parties should continue at least when arranging the ‘Day without Cars’ events.

4.2. IN FORSSA, main theme increasing environmental awareness with sustainable development indicators and environmental reporting

In Forssa, the project ‘Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in Local Administration of Finland and Estonia’ was started in March 2003. In Forssa, the project has been dubbed ‘Environmental Awareness Project’. When the work begun in Forssa, no specific objectives and goals had been set. In-

stead, realization of the project was started based on general themes. The themes of Forssa were continuation and development of local agenda work and co-operation between companies. More specific objectives were created as the project advanced and the main theme was set as increasing environmental awareness with the help of sustainable development indicators and environmental reporting. Co-operation with companies was not so extensive during the project because development company Agropolis Oy of Jokioinen started an environmental project targeted party to companies and the area of southwestern Häme at the same time as the Environmental Awareness Project was started.

4.2.1. Indicators showing direction of development

In 1999 – 2002, Forssa was included in projects managed by Hämeenlinna where suitable indicators to show advancement of sustainable development in the area were sought. The indicators were further developed during the Environmental Awareness Project and a report about the chosen ones was published mainly to be used by decision-makers and authorities in the spring of 2004. The report can also be viewed on the web page of the town of Forssa where the updated information for the indicators will be published in the future. An indicator of sustainable development chosen was the ecological footprint of a person living in Forssa of which a separate report on paper and in an electronic format was published.

When choosing the indicators, attention was paid to, for example, availability of information, attractiveness of the indicators and their connection to sustainable development at the local and global level.

In the report for indicators of sustainable development of Forssa, the indicators have been divided into four parts. The global level indicators show those environmental impacts of the town that are connected with global changes in the environment. The indicators for local state of the environment and quality of living show development of Forssa as comes to the natural environment and constructed environment. Indicators for versatility of the nature are used to monitor versatility of the nature and preservation of rare habitats in Forssa. Socioeconomic and cultural indicators show preconditions for wellbeing of the inhabitants and their development. Environmental responsibility indicators are used to acquire information about prevalence of actions promot-

ing sustainable development in the town of Forssa.

The report was distributed to elected officials and board members. The local newspaper also published an article about the indicator report and its contents.

Ecological footprint of an inhabitant in Forssa

An ecological footprint is a method of calculation used to measure the impacts of persons living in a certain area on the living nature. The footprint shows how much ecologically productive land is needed to sustain an individual or a group of people. The concept of an ecological footprint and the calculation model were originated in Canada. The Finnish calculation method has been developed by the Federation of Municipalities.

The ecological footprint shows, e.g., the extent of farming land needed to produce food, environmental impacts of various sources of energy and land use in a certain area. The ecological footprint of a municipality can be compared to the ecological capacity of the municipality, entire Finland or the world. The capacity means the biologically productive surface area that is left per person.

The ecological footprint of an inhabitant of Forssa was 3.297 hectares in 1999. On the same year, the ecological footprint of an average Finn was 3.502 hectares. The ecological capacity of Forssa was 1.216, of the entire Finland 4.643 and of the world 1.55 hectares per person. Therefore, the consumption in Forssa does not exceed Finland's ecological capacity. Instead, the municipality's capacity and the global capacity are not enough to sustain the current level of consumption in Forssa.



Figure 29. Ecological footprint of inhabitants of Forssa compared to the town's surface area.

4.2.2. First report on state of environment

A review of the state of the environment in Forssa was made during the project Environmental Awareness. The report is meant to be used by all inhabitants of the town. Maps of a geographical information system software were used when making the report. During the project, various environmental data was entered in the system. Most of the data collected for the publication originate from studies ordered by the town of Forssa and the Häme Regional Environment Centre. In addition, expertise of the Southwest Häme Natural Protection Association was used. The Review of the State of the Environment in Forssa was finished in November 2004 and distributed to schools and the local library, for example.

Research results about the state of the environment in Forssa had not been previously collected into one volume. The project Environmental Awareness offered resources for making and printing the report. By using the report, environmental awareness among inhabitants, municipal employees and elected officials can be increased in a clear and visual manner.



Figure 30. Noise values for the Forssa town area based on measurements taken in 1992.

4.2.3. Training and forums for inhabitants

Various events where information and training were offered were arranged for officials and elected officials in Forssa during the project period. In the spring of 2003, sustainable development projects of the town were presented and future actions were planned together with inhabitants, officials and decision-makers. In the autumn of the same year, an Energy Saving Week was arranged. At that time, officials and elected officials of five municipalities were trained in connection with energy savings agreements of the municipalities. The town of Forssa has not as of yet signed the Energy Savings Agreement of the Finnish Ministry of Commerce and Trade but in the end of 2004 the

town started an energy saving campaign of its own.

In the spring of 2004, the Environmental Awareness Project arranged together with the town of Forssa a sustainable development 'wake-up event' for chosen employees and elected officials of the town. In the event, journalist Hannu Taanila pondered joint responsibility and responsibility of the society and Communications Manager in Charge of the Church Services Organisation and former Campaign Manager of Greenpeace Sari Kuvaja spoke about extensions and responsibilities of sustainable development. The event was arranged in order to make the officials think about sustainable development as comes to their work. The speeches were interesting and though-provoking but the number of participants could have been higher, there were ca. 60 persons present.



Figure 31. About 60 employees and elected officials of the town arrived to listen to the speeches in the sustainable development wake-up event.

Operations of a Town District Forum were started together with a Viksberg Town District project in the spring of 2004. The events of the Viksberg Forum were open for all inhabitants, housing communities, organizations, entrepreneurs and officials interested in developing the area. The issues included in the events were issues of present interest that the inhabitants wished to discuss. There were discussions based on presentations of experts. The first Viksberg Forum dealt with problems between neighbours and



Figure 32. The Viksberg Forum event on protection of buildings gathered a large number of interested inhabitants.

solutions to these problems. The second event handled protection of buildings and fire safety. Especially the second forum gathered a large number of inhabitants and received praise for its interesting topic.

4.2.4. Other activities

Environmental awareness in Forssa has been increased also by newspaper articles, an exhibition and a themed week. A sustainable development hint was published in newspaper Forssan Lehti monthly offering readers information and practical advice in order to improve sustainable development. In the summer of 2003, exhibition Ecological Power was arranged in the Forssa city library where posters and concrete case studies shed light on the issue. In the autumn of the same year, Forssa participated in a national Energy Savings Week. The week was arranged with the Forssa Water Treatment Plant and waste management company Loimi-Hämeen Jätehuolto Oy by distributing information about energy and waste in local malls and by testing the expertise of inhabitants and employees of the town in a competition on energy knowl-



Figure 33. Exhibition Ecological Power offered the possibility to try the weight of ecological backpacks of various products.



Figure 34. Project Environmental Awareness distributed information about saving energy in malls in Forssa together with Loimi-Hämeen Jätehuolto Oy and the Forssa Water Treatment Plant.

edge.

Sustainable Development Hint: Car Pool Online (published in Forssan lehti on 30 September 2004)

Many persons use their cars only to go to work and back. Jobs, on their part, are concentrated in city centers and people travel to work sometimes from far away. In the mornings and afternoons highways are filled by cars travelling in the same direction, and in most of the cars the driver is alone. In addition to mass transportation, car pools are an excellent way to combine the trips of people travelling in the same direction and at the same time save costs in travelling.

If you cannot find a car pool friend from your office or among your friends, you can look for travel companions online. There are at least web pages www.kimppa.net and www.kimppakyyti.info that offer a channel free of charge for persons looking for a ride and those offering one. The person offering the ride and the person needing one can agree upon sharing the expenses (however, the Finnish law does not allow the person offering a ride to ask for a charge from the person being offered a ride). The simplest way is to drive in turn if all the car poolers have a car of their own and the workplaces are close to each other.

You can also try to find a ride for random trips on the same pages. This way, the pages strive to make traditional hitchhiking easier and safer because the contact information of at least one of the parties (the person offering or the person needing a ride) will be saved. However, each person always travels at one's own responsibility and the car pool internet services cannot be held responsible for dishonest persons.

Based on a study made by the Federation of Municipalities, opinions about utilization of car pools in travelling to work are divided into two. About half of the persons who answered were positive about the issue and about half indifferent or negative. When choosing a transportation method, the answerers considered pleasantness and safety as the most important factors. By clarifying the legislative position of car pools, by organizing them better and by investing in distribution of information, the researchers believe we could increase the popularity of car pools

in travelling to work. The persons included should feel that the car pool is an affordable, pleasant, fast, safe, ecological and socially rewarding way to travel.

Sources: Federation of Municipalities, www.kimppa.net and www.kimppakyyti.info

4.2.5. Success of Forssa subproject

The Environmental Awareness Project has offered issues of sustainable development visibility in Forssa and due to the project, local agenda work has advanced. Due to the project, environmental issues have been discussed within the town and in local media.

Impacts of the actions made during the project period will in part be seen with a slight delay. For example, the impacts of the sustainable development indicators and the training meetings arranged to operations of the town cannot be evaluated at this point. One must keep in mind that changing of operations of a town's organization and attitudes of people is slow and time-consuming work. However, preconditions for better taking into account sustainable development have been improved by producing information and distributing it.

The town of Forssa had not set specific objectives for the project, instead more accurate focal points were created as the project advanced. The fact that the objectives were not clear in the beginning slowed down starting up of the project and slightly reduced the benefits from the project. However, there is a need for projects of this kind in Forssa because sustainable development has not been properly included in everyday operations of the town.

4.3. IN HYVINKÄÄ, utilization of geographical information system for management of environmental information

In Hyvinkää, one of the objectives of project 'Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in Local Administration in Finland and Estonia' has been development of environmental management with the help of a geographical information system. The geographical information system offers a possibility to increase awareness of officials and other local parties as comes to environmental issues by improving availability and usability of environmental information. Access to correct and up-to-date information is the basic precondition for good co-operation between inhabitants, decision-makers and offi-

cial. Development of the geographical information system supports in addition to operations of the municipal authorities required by law, also other themes of the project and previously made work for sustainable development, realization of the sustainable development operations programme, development of the environmental system and co-operation with companies.

4.3.1. Most important environmental information converted into digital format

There is plenty of data available for the state of the environment in Hyvinkää, the natural conditions and changes therein. The data is acquired by continuous follow-up studies, studies and various registers. The geographical information system has been used to try to find a solution as to how to manage the large amount of various data from various sources.

The system can also be used to illustrate and analyse the data. Also, benefits in updating and transferring information are reached.

A unity of information from environmental data materials were collected in the geographical information system. In the system, actual targets are depicted by using location and essential characteris-

tic data. The geographical information system includes at the moment the most important environmental data for Hyvinkää in a digital format.

Some of the GIS data has been purchased from the Finnish Environment Institute, such as the data about the Natura areas, national protection programmes and groundwater areas. Other data has been collected from various literary sources, studies, register listings, archives of authorities, official protection programmes and notes of mappers. This data has been transferred into a digital format and entered in the system during the project period.

4.3.2. Geographical information system assisting work of authorities and decision-making

Clear benefits have been acquired by developing management of environmental information. The GIS has made data more quickly accessible. What is most important, the system speeds up routine operations and it can be used to make sure that all data is available when making decisions. With the help of the system, the data is more versatile and materials can be flexibly combined. Collection, combining, and illustration of various environmental data has become easier. In addition, benefits in defining an overall picture of the environmental data of Hyvinkää and transfer-

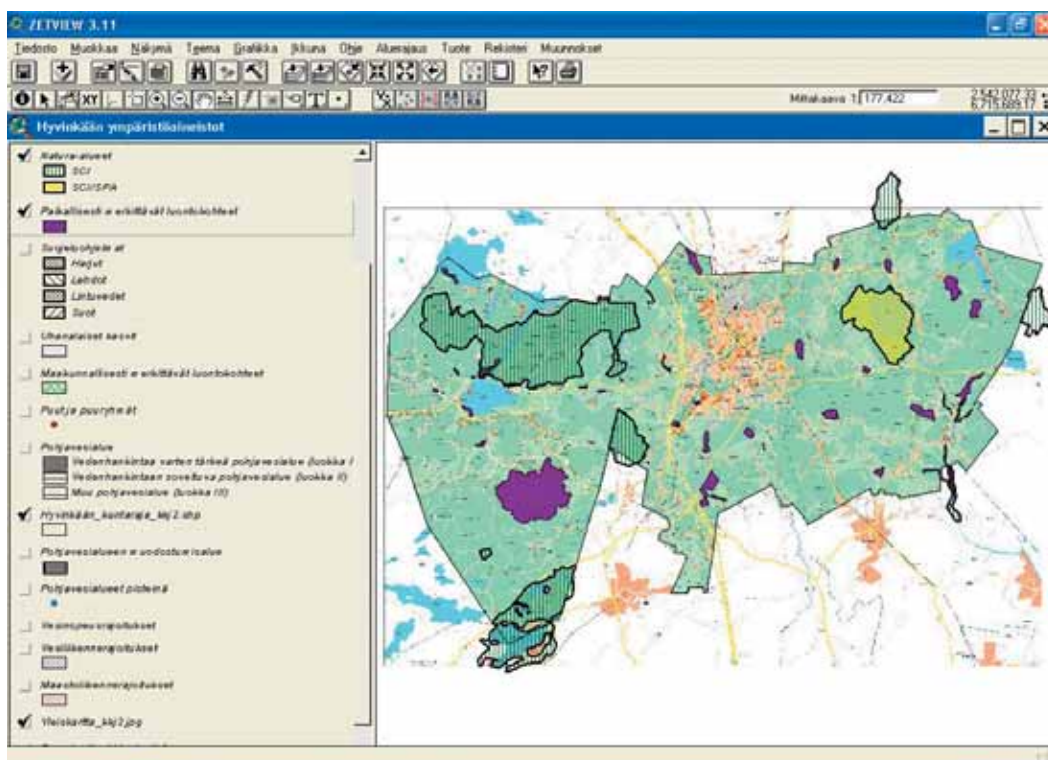


Figure 35. Hyvinkää geographical information data on a map.

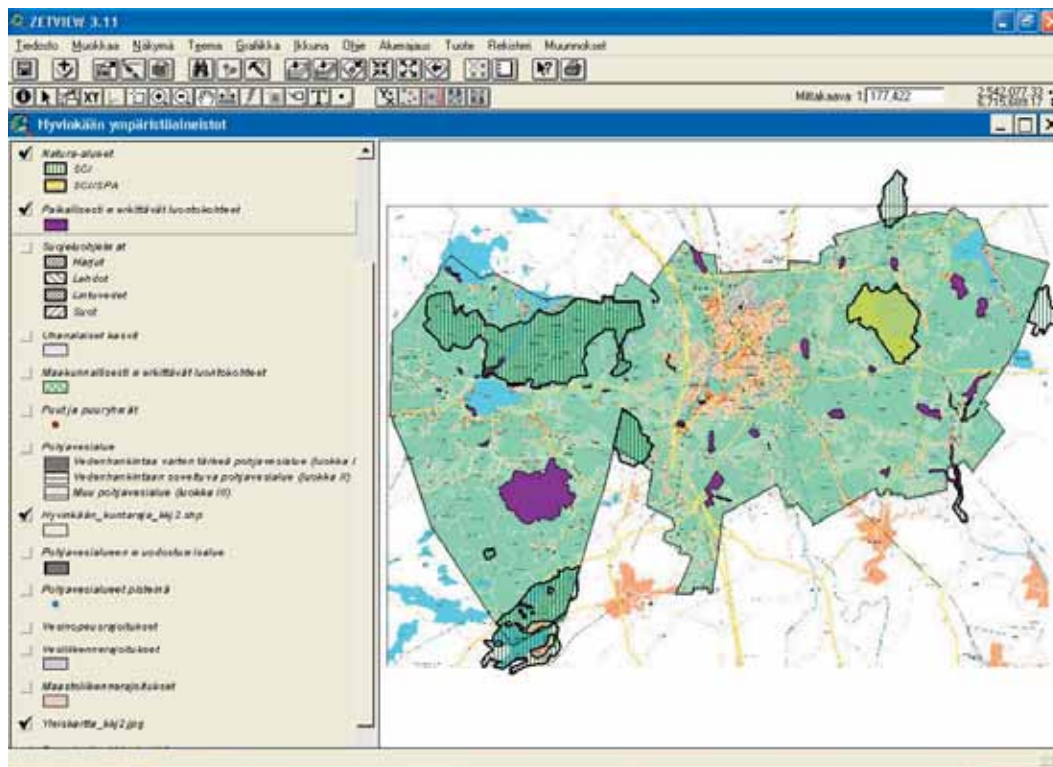


Figure 36. Location and characteristics data of a locally notable target in the geographical information system.

ring of data have been acquired.

Use of the environmental data in the geographical information system has been tested in operations of authorities in the local Environmental Protection Unit. In addition, the material and their use has been presented to, for example, the Environmental Board, rescue authorities, Environmental Health Management Unit, Zoning Unit and Municipal Engineering Unit. All the parties are convinced that the system is useful. However, more extensive utilization of the system requires activation, training and informing the employees. In the future when utilization of the system is increased and more data is added, new development and intensification needs of the system will arise.

Basic precondition for functionality of the geographical information system is functional updating of the data. At the end of the project period, the authorities will be in charge of updating the information and keeping them correct. Therefore, it is important that updating of the data becomes a routine process instead of a single project-natured event.

A web map server software has been acquired for the town of Hyvinkää where environmental data can be published on the internet and in the town's intranet. This offers the data to the use of as many parties as possible.

4.3.3. Other activities during project period

During the project period, various events and exhibitions have been arranged in Hyvinkää, connected with the Sustainable Development Operations Programme, environmental education and protection of groundwater, for example. An example is a training event arranged for persons in charge of environmental issues in local daycare centers on 10 June 2003 connected with the town's environmental system work and local meetings have been arranged considering oil containers and protection of groundwater. All employees of the town were given an office energy and waste management instruction booklet as a part of the environmental system work.

In 2004, a programmatic Cycling Week was realized in Hyvinkää as a part of the national Finnish Cycling Week 16 – 23 May 2004. In the opening event on 15 May 2004, various forms of cycling and various bicycles were presented, a cycling skills track was arranged for children and there was a bicycle flea market where people could buy, swap and sell bicycles and cycling accessories. During the week, various cycling tours were arranged and there were cycling events in schools. Also, a competition 'Cycle to Work' was arranged. In addition to municipal units, companies were invited to the competition. The Cycling Week was planned by the Hyvinkää Town Environmental Service, the Municipal Engineering Sector, the Centre of Culture and Leisure and the Educa-

tional Sector. Other co-operation partners were Hyvinkään Latu ry (the Hyvinkää Skiing Association), Hyvinkään pyöräilijät ry (the Hyvinkää Cycling Association), Hyvinkään ympäristönsuojeluyhdistys ry (the Hyvinkää Environmental Protection Association) and project Kunnossa Kaiken Ikää (Fit for Life).



Figure 37. Members of the Town Council, the Technical Board and officials were invited to attend the event 'Decision-Makers on Bikes' as a part of the Cycling Week opening event.

In 2004, the event 'Day without Cars' was also arranged in Hyvinkää on 22 September as a part of the Week for Exercise arranged that autumn. The event strived to promote realization of the objectives set for the town's Sustainable Development Operations Programme's land use and traffic part. The event was used to make the inhabitants of Hyvinkää ponder about their choice of travelling method from the viewpoint of sustainable development and offer information about noise issues, mass transportation and safety in traffic, for example. The event was realized by the Hyvinkää town Municipal Engineering Sector, the Sports Sector, the Environmental Healthcare Sector and the Environmental Services. In addition, co-operation partners included the Hyvinkäänkylä school, Hyvinkään ympäristönsuojeluyhdistys (the Hyvinkää Environmental Protection Association), both public transportation companies of the town, Hyvinkään Latu ry (the Hyvinkää Skiing Association) and the VR Group.

During the Exercise Week on 16 – 22 September, an exhibition was arranged in the Hyvinkää library. The theme was getting around in line with sustainable development. There was a small exhibition of its own in the children's department concentrating on the above-mentioned theme and safety in traffic for children.

4.4. IN HÄMEENLINNA REGION, operations with theme of 'Sustainable Home Environment'

In the Hämeenlinna region, the project 'Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in Local Administration of Finland and Estonia' was started in March 2003. In Hämeenlinna, the project has been dubbed as project 'Sustainable Home Environment'. As the project advanced, the two main themes were activating inhabitants in issues connected with sustainable development and development of reporting connected with the environment.

During the years, the interest of inhabitants in Hämeenlinna in promotion of sustainable development has been decreasing. In the end of the 1990s the inhabitants actively participated in creation of the local agenda but when the work has become more project-natured, only a few active inhabitants have continued to participate. Therefore, there was need to reactivate the inhabitants in participating in the sustainable development process and a new project offered a welcome chance to invest in increasing participation in local agenda work. The project thus aimed at utilization and complementing of the work on sustainable development already done in Hämeenlinna.

The other theme, environmental reporting, came up as the project advanced. During the year 2003, an Environmental Report of the Environmental Sector was compiled and its redevelopment possibilities were studied. In 2004, material for the report 'State of the Environment in Hämeenlinna' was gathered. Making of the reports had been delayed by several years due to inadequacy of resources. Environmental reports that clearly show environmental and sustainable development issues can, in their part, promote permanent rooting of sustainable development ideas in municipal administration systems.

4.4.1. Co-operation with inhabitants

The methodical starting point for the project Sustainable Home Environment was offering inhabitants information about sustainable development questions of interest to them starting from their home environment. The objective was to take sustainable development issues to the grass root level and translate the entire sustainable development jargon into normal Finnish.

In the beginning of the project a query was made inquiring sustainable development themes of interest to

the inhabitants. The most interesting subject matters listed were traffic, state of the water systems as well as town's development plans and services (Figure 38).

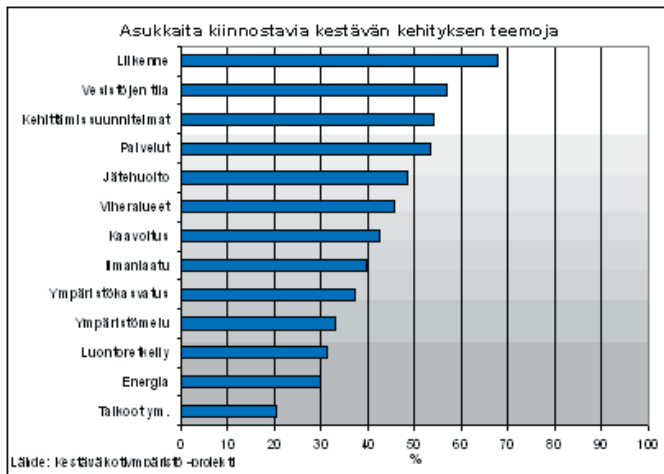


Figure 38. Sustainable development themes of interest to inhabitants of Hämeenlinna.

In the autumn of 2003, all inhabitant and parent associations in Hämeenlinna (36 associations) were contacted and the project planner visited 12 of the associations to discuss sustainable development issues of present interest. Direct contact with customers and discussions in meetings led to immediate positive feedback. Taking the issues into the home environment of inhabitants, that is handling the state of their local lake, for example, created plenty of profitable discussions.

However, further development of co-operation with inhabitants in the form of actions regarding their environment as well as co-operation between inhabitants and officials proved to be difficult. There are various reasons for this. First of all, development of the networking model was too extensive an objective compared to the resources of the project, especially resources connected with time. Secondly, the core group of many of the associations has remained the same for years. Thus, their connections with officials are established and there is no need for a new co-operation model. Thirdly, the associations also have limited time and personnel resources to start new kinds of operations.

4.4.2. Seminars, panel discussions and exhibitions

During the project Sustainable Home Environment, four open events and two exhibitions were arranged. The objective was to connect the events with regional

issues of present interest.

Seminar 'Ecological Partnership – Joint View of Companies and Environment' was arranged in March 2003. The main target groups of the event were representatives of local companies and officials. Objective of the seminar was to increase co-operation possibilities of companies and officials in protection of the water system from various viewpoints. The event was promoted by the worry of a corporate manager about the state of lake Vanajavesi that is an essential part of the town of Hämeenlinna. The state of the routed water network has notably improved compared to the situation in the 1970s because point load sources have been kept in check. Instead, difficult diffuse pollution from an extensive area makes lake Vanavesi eutropic. In order to decrease the diffuse pollution, all parties must co-operate.



Figure 39. Audience in seminar Ecological Partnership (photo by Marja Kokko).

The seminar gathered about 50 participants. The event was praised due to the fact that the issue was of present interest. The participants deemed presentation of views of various groups of interest as a good thing: the event included speakers from the viewpoint of officials, companies and inhabitants alike. At present, a so-called satellite project is being planned for the lake Vanajavesi catchment area. Several less extensive restoration, etc. projects could be included.

A panel discussion about burning waste was arranged in the Hämeenlinna Raatihuone in June 2003 on the World Environment Day. An idea of the event came into being by a heated discussion about a new waste burning plant to be built in the Hämeenlinna Vanaja power plant area. Inhabitants of the area were especially against building of the plant close to residential buildings.

The objective was to get experts of the field to discuss using waste as an energy source from various

viewpoints. The discussion included representatives of the local waste management company, an energy producer and an energy distributor, the Häme Regional Environment Centre, the town of Hämeenlinna, the Finnish Nature Conservation Association as well as experts on burning waste and health impacts of waste management. An information package was gathered for the panel discussion which could be read on the internet before the panel discussion.



Figure 40. Posters in the Sustainable Home Environment exhibition.

Ca. 50 persons attended the event, mainly inhabitants of the area. Each person in the panel gave a short introductory speech and then the discussion was led by the manager of the Häme Regional Environment Centre, Harri Kallio. The discussion about burning waste as a strategic alternative and the pros and cons of the proposed Hämeenlinna plant was quite lively. The discussion was originally planned to last for a couple of hours but the discussion took a longer time and had to be cut short.

The panel awoke plenty of interest both amongst the residents and the media. The issue was very topical in the spring of 2003 and the discussion continued until far into the autumn months. As planning of the waste burning plant advanced, the location for the new plant was changed from the power plant to the Karanoja waste treatment area and finally, the original competitive bidding was drawn away before a conclusion due to changed circumstances. At present, Kiertokapula Oy has started a new competitive bidding process for utilization of waste as an energy source with smaller amounts of waste than in the original plan.

A Green Week was held in Hämeenlinna in June of 2003 and 2004. On both occasions, project Sustainable Home Environment participated in arranging exhibitions held in Aulankokeskus. In 2003, the theme of the exhibition was “Choices for Sustainable Every-

day Life”. Six posters were created by the project handling protection of waterways, sustainable consumption methods, environmentally friendly traveling, saving of energy and moving in the nature from the viewpoint of inhabitants. Later on, the posters were exhibited for a month in the Hämeenlinna Main Library and they are still being used by the Environment Sector.



Figure 41. Group Kissankellot from the Ahvenisto daycare centre singing at the opening event of the Green Week on 3 June 2004 (photo by project Hämeenlinna for Children).

In 2004, a Hämeenlinna for Children project was realized in co-operation with Nature School Ilves. During the spring, opinions of children in daycare centers of Hämeenlinna about how they see and experience their living environment were collected. The objective was to gather thoughts, fairytales, drawings, paintings and photos of the children about Hämeenlinna and in particular the part of the town where they live their everyday life. The works by the children were presented during the Green Week as a part of an exhibition called “Hämeenlinna, Our Environment” where views of teenagers and adults about their environment were also presented.



Figure 42. 6-year-old Niko's work “Ahvenisto Ancient Forest” and 6-year-old Riikka's work “Aulanko Swan Pond” (photos by Hämeenlinna for Children project).

4.4.3. Environmental reporting

During the year 2004, the project created the first report of the state of the environment in Hämeenlinna. The publication, ‘Review of the State of the Envi-

ronment in Hämeenlinna' is meant especially for the local inhabitants and its objective is to offer up-to-date information about the state of the environment in Hämeenlinna and the factors influencing the environment.

The state of the environment in Hämeenlinna is discussed by using three basic elements – land, water and air. The review offers various viewpoints regarding, for example, protection of original nature types, development of the amount of waste, environmental impacts of landfills, state of the water system, pollution and restoration, changes in local outdoor air and amount of air pollution as well as significance of the greenhouse effect at the local level.

This kind of an environmental report has been needed for ten years but creation of a report has been postponed due to lack of resources. The report is available in PDF format on the Environmental Sector's web page at http://www.hameymos.fi/yo_julk.htm.

4.4.4. Summary of Hämeenlinna subproject

Project 'Increasing environmental awareness and networking in local administration in Finland and Estonia' brought new, welcome resources to promotion of sustainable development in the Hämeenlinna region. The most important achievements include successful events for local inhabitants grappling sustainable development issues of present interest and creation of publication 'Review of the State of the Environment in Hämeenlinna'. Good practices acquired include grappling issues that are discussed in public in which the inhabitants are genuinely interested as well as a customer-centred approach to all communication and distribution of information.

When thinking about a similar project in the future, planning and mapping of needs should be better realized. A clearer plan of action for the Hämeenlinna subproject would likely have enabled more effective utilization of the resources. Now, the first six months were mainly used in defining the project objectives and actions. On the other hand, the original idea was for the manager of the project to create more extensive instructions, so the improvement of planning would regard the entire project. Some sort of mapping of needs in advance, in its turn, would have assisted in directing the operations with inhabitants more in lines of communication of information where the

need was clearly larger than actual willingness to act.

The role of the project Sustainable Home Environment in the Hämeenlinna region has mainly been supporting of already existing sustainable development work where needs have appeared. Impacts of the Hämeenlinna project cannot be specified at this point. When talking about increasing of environmental awareness or changing of attitudes towards the environment, the results of the work are usually seen with a delay and they are difficult to evaluate.

4.5. IN KOUVOLA REGION, indicators for sustainable development and participation of inhabitants

Indicators for sustainable development for monitoring of the Local Agenda 21 were created in the Kouvola region as a part of the project 'Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in the Local Administration of Finland and Estonia'. The first report folder measuring the state of sustainable development was published in May 2004 and the first updating pages of the folder were finished in November 2004. Environmental reports that clearly show environmental and sustainable development issues can, in their part, promote permanent rooting of sustainable development ideas in municipal administration and decision-making systems.

Another objective of the project was to increase participation of inhabitants and organizations in the local agenda work. The project thus complemented and extended the work on sustainable development already done. Participation was developed by councils of inhabitants in Kouvola and Kuusankoski and networking between various parties was increased by increasing co-operation with the municipal environmental officers, environmental organizations and the Southeast Finland Regional Environment Centre.

Personnel resources of the project included a Kouvola Region Agenda 21 Coordinator and a project worker who worked half-time.

4.5.1. Kouvola region indicators for sustainable development

One objective of the work with the indicators was to increase interest and awareness of inhabitants and officials as comes to environmental issues. The indi-

cators were chosen in order to depict the objectives that were central in the region's Sustainable Development Operations Programme, and indicators that would awake discussion were included in purpose. The indicators measure the state of sustainable development as comes to versatile utilization of the nature, population, land use and traffic, consumption of natural resources, environmental awareness and vitality of the countryside. The objective was to present the indicators in a manner that is as illustrative as possible and also interesting for the decision-makers and the inhabitants. A decision was made to present some of the indicator data as regional and some as municipal data. In February 2003, collection of data for the

this point was still publication of the indicator report by the end of 2003. However, since the data collection process had to be started again, collecting of the data took longer than expected. A decision was made to publish the report in the spring of 2004 with partially defective data in the form of a folder in order to be able to easily update the data in the future.

Creation of the first indicator report was work in order to create a basis for future updates. During the first round of data collection, the definitions of the indicator data were defined in such a manner that the data was available from the municipalities (and other sources) easily and in the same format. At the same time, the indicators were made familiar to the contact persons of the municipalities and other parties offering information. When the next round of updating information comes around, the collector of the data will already have a ready-made operations model complete with contact persons, questions and databases.

Collection of the data was delayed in addition to the new project worker by the fact that this is a regional local agenda realized in seven municipalities. Seven municipalities and 21 indicators require a large number of contact persons, and finding of the correct contact persons from each municipality took some time.

The large number of co-operation partners delayed collection of the data in other ways as well: the municipalities included in the Kouvola Region Local Agenda vary in size and the same kind of data classified based on the same organizational structure cannot necessarily be found. In addition, prior to the collection stage, the data of the indicators chosen by task forces could not necessarily be acquired in the format or extent expected or free of charge. This is why the collection method and definition of the data had to be specified during the collection stage.

The statistic data for the sustainable development monitoring indicators were collected by the beginning of May and the report came out of the printing house in May 2004. The report could be printed so quickly because the visual outlook was designed and the makeup of the report was made at the same time when the data was collected. In the first report, 15 complete indicators and 4 partial indicators of the 21 Kouvola Region Local Agenda indicators were acquired.

The Indicator Report was published in a press conference on 28 May 2004. In addition to press release, information regarding the indicators was published on

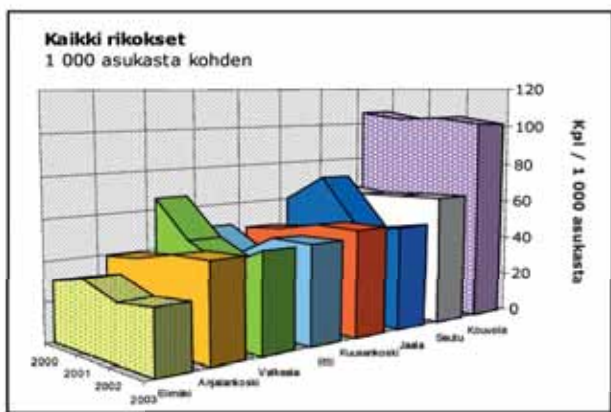
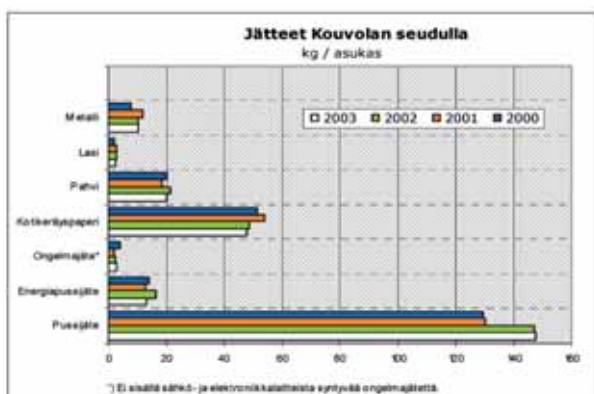


Figure 43. The population indicators show, for example, development of number of crimes in the area and the natural resource indicators measure, for example, the amount of waste created by the inhabitants of the region.

indicators, analysis of the data and planning of the presentation methods was started. The original objective was to publish the indicators during the year 2003 both online and as a printed book and a 'pocket book'. However, the project worker was replaced with a new one in the autumn of 2003. At that time, some of the indicator data for 2002 had been collected. Collection of the data was started on a new basis, because the programme group decided in the autumn that in addition to the statistics for 2002, data from the years 2000 and 2001 would also be collected in order to be able to view any prevalent trends. The objective at

the web page of the Kouvola Region Agenda 21 (www.kouvolaregion.fi/agenda21). The indicator folder was distributed to the municipalities, the Federation of Municipalities and other co-operation partners.



Figure 44. The Kouvola Region Agenda 21 Coordinator Sirkku Kallio (on the left) presents the finished report in the publication event on 28 May 2004. Environmental Secretary of the municipality of Elimäki Pekka Kantola, Superintendent of the Southeast Finland Regional Environment Centre Sirpa Vaittinen, Environmental Secretary of the municipality of Iitti Piritta Lehtonen and Environmental Engineer of the municipality of Kuusankoski Marleena Naukkarinen (on the right) are members of the programme group (photo by

Since collection of the indicator data is to be transferred to the municipalities after the project period ends, another updating round was started in the autumn. This way, experiences about how updating can be taken care of could be collected. This time, the data was fluently collected and the updated pages were published in the turn of November and December 2004.

Information about the sustainable development indicators was actively distributed in the autumn of 2004. A 'pocket-sized edition' (A5) of the Indicator Folder was published and distributed during a Town Indicator Day in Kouvola in October, for example. In addition, new Agenda 21 web pages were opened in December as a part of the Kouvola Region Federation of Municipalities' web pages. At the same time, a flier advertising the new web pages was distributed to libraries, the municipalities and schools.

During the autumn, some of the municipalities discussed the Indicator Report in their boards. The Social Managers of the municipalities have been highly committed to the indicator work and the objective is to get the other sectors' managers committed as well, especially those for the technical sectors. The programme group thus made a decision to communicate information about the indicators to all the boards in the future. In addition, the programme group made a decision to gather the indicator data collected from the municipalities within each municipality to be delivered to the Agenda Office for reporting. The Agenda Office, in its turn, will collect the data from other sources, compile the report and take care of its distribution.

Now that the indicator data has been collected, the objective is to evaluate descriptiveness and functionality

of the indicators together with the municipalities – that is, whether all the indicators are necessary, whether new ones should be added or the old ones changed. The objective is to start the evaluation in the spring of 2005 in a discussion and information event to be arranged for the municipalities of the Kouvola region and other co-operation partners. Thus, experiences will be studied and opinions about the indicators will be gathered.

As the work has advanced, interest towards the indicators has increased. In the future, the objective is to include the sustainable development indicators as a part of the monitoring indicators of the Kouvola region Local Programme. The objective is to create a package of indicators that monitors development of the region as a whole in hopes of increasing value of sustainable development monitoring and making it more interesting.

4.5.2. Participation of inhabitants and forums

Another objective of the project was to increase participation of inhabitants and organizations in the local agenda work. When the operations programme was created in the end of the last decade, representatives of various parties were actively included in the work. When the operations programme was finished, their activity decreased. It was hoped that the work with the indicators would increase interest in the issue. However, other activities were also needed.

There has not been any regularly meeting discussion group or forum about environmental issues in the Kouvola region in several years. Town district forums, Inhabitant Councils, were created as a part of the project to discuss pleasantness of their living environments and improvement of environmental issues. The Inhabitant Councils operated in Kouvola in the district of Lehtomäki and in Kuusankoski in the district of Rekola. The councils met during the entire project period on a regular basis every two weeks to one month. The participants were active, and the inhabitants also actively participated in arranging events. There were a total of ca. 45 council members in the two councils.

In Lehtomäki, Kouvola, the council met several times during the spring of 2003. The inhabitants suggested that the traffic and park areas of the town be improved. The Technical Board was in favour of the suggestion in their meeting on 18 February 2003



Figure 45. Inhabitant Councils of Lehtomäki and Rekola on a trip to Lappeenranta in the summer of 2004.

and actions were promised during the same year as well as financing suggestion for the budget for the next year. One of the objectives set for the Inhabitant Councils was reached when the Lehtomäki council was transformed into an Inhabitants' Association in the spring of 2004 – the inhabitants themselves carry the main responsibility for development of their area.

The members of the Rekola, Kuusankoski Inhabitant Council also talked about traffic issues, especially about prevention of driving through residential streets. The council members suggested to the manager in charge of street planning in June 2003 that three raised pedestrians' crossing be built in the area close to the local school. The street planner promised to build one raised crossing in the autumn which was more than had been expected. The high point for the spring of 2004 was choosing of Inhabitant of Rekola of the Year. The grounds for choosing a person were a positive attitude, friendliness and activeness. The Inhabitant of the Year was chosen and celebrated on 24 May with coffee, a cake and a diploma.

4.5.3. Other networking

An extensive regional participation forum for parties in the environmental sector was planned in the spring of 2003 together with environmental officials of the region, the Kymenlaakso Regional Office of the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, the Southeastern Finland Regional Office of the Finnish Nature Association Kaasu, the Southeast Finland Regional Environment Centre, Kouvola region waste management, the Martha Organization and the Workers' Educational Association's project Opastin. In co-operation with the above-mentioned parties, a Thrift Week exhibition was arranged in the exhibition hall of the Kouvola Provincial Library from 7 to 12 April 2003. The objective was also to arrange a panel discussion regarding the theme but this discussion could

not be arranged. However, the exhibition was very successful and created an excellent basis for future co-operation. Plenty of interested spectators visited the exhibition, including several school classes, for example.



Figure 46. Mayday buffet of the Spender (on the left) and the Thrift in the Thrift Week exhibition 2003.

On 13 August 2003, an event 'Officials on Promenade Manski' was arranged where various authorities of the region presented themselves in a more unofficial manner to the inhabitants of the region. Agenda 21 was also presented as a part of operations of the Kouvola Region Federation of Municipalities. On September 5th, as a part of a Harvesting Event, an environmental information booth was erected on promenade Manski in co-operation with environmental officers of the municipalities, waste management companies and the Southeast Finland Regional Environment Centre. In the booth biological waste and water issues were presented.



Figure 47. Inhabitants of Kouvola in the 'Officials on Promenade Manski' event 2003.

In August 2003, the local schools showed interest in arranging cleaning events. Therefore, in connection with the Thrift Week of 2003 a campaign for all the comprehensive schools of the area regarding reduction of consumption and waste was created. The first invitation letters were sent in the end of October. However, the project experienced a major disappoint-

ment when the schools did not join the campaign.

An exhibition of the Thrift Week was arranged in the Kuusankoski library on 19–25 April 2004. For the next week, the exhibition was moved to the library in Jaala. The participants were the environmental officers of the municipalities, the Southeast Finland Regional Environment Centre and the Kymenlaakso Regional Office of the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation.

No notable actions have been arranged in the Kouvolaa region on the ‘Days without Cars’. Planning of the ‘Day without Cars’ of 2004 was started in connection of planning of the Thrift Week and the objective was to acquire more co-operation partners. However, the ‘Day without Cars’ events could not be realized. The reason is non-functional mass transportation in the region and structural differences of the municipalities. A joint realization method for the ‘Day without Cars’ could not be found when use of a car of one’s own is mostly inevitable in this sparsely populated region.

In June (5 – 6 June 2004) the project participated in the Holiday Home Fair in Jaala. A small environmental guide for holiday home owners was created to be distributed at the fair. The guide is also being used by other holiday home associations in the region.

Due to arrangement of various environmental events and exhibitions, a tight and active network of participants has been created. The network includes representatives from the municipalities’ environmental sectors, the Southeast Finland Regional Environment Centre and nature conservation organizations. The exhibitions have also brought into the network active citizens interested in the environment who have brought in their ideas and works of art for presentation.

4.6. IN LOHJA; co-operation to develop environmental issues in schools

In Lohja, the chosen focus point for the planning stage of the project ‘Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in Local Administration of Finland and Estonia’ was activation of inhabitants and organizations as well as communication of information about the environmental work done in the Lohja Region Environment Cluster. The idea was to continue and expand the environmental co-operation with schools started by the Lohja Region Environment Cluster. In addition, the objective was to support im-

plementation of the Lohja Town Strategy and the Lohja town Environmental Protection Office co-operation model. In the further planning stages, the Lohja subproject was limited to environmental issues in schools and the name chosen was ‘Schools and Environment in Lohja’.

The Environmental Protection Office of the town of Lohja was in charge of realization and resources of the project. The coordinator of the project was the Western Uusimaa branch of the Helsinki University Palmenia Centre for Continuing Education (the Lohja project worker was acquired as a purchased service). Personnel from various organizations, such as the town’s school district, management of premises, the park office as well as food and cleaning services participated in the events organized by the project. In the spring of 2005 a final report of the project was published for the participating parties in the publication series of the Environmental Protection Office (for more accurate information about the publication, please see Appendix 3).

4.6.1. Starting work by compiling network

One of the main objectives in Lohja was starting systematic co-operation between officials of the town enabling environmental programme and environmental education work in the schools of Lohja. In addition, another objective was to offer local environmental knowledge for the use of schoolteachers and other employees of schools, students and citizens.

In order to start the project, the first tasks were compilation of a network of participants, concretisation of objectives and specifying the plan of operations with the participants. A guiding teacher in environmental education was of great assistance in writing the project plan of operations whose views were heard in two meetings in the compilation stage of the plan of operations.

Objectives of the project and the project contents were planned in co-operation with management of the town as well as managers of the Technical Sector and the Education Sector. The parties deemed the project necessary and the Technical Sector notified of their willingness to co-operate with the project in the following areas:

- saving of energy
- waste management (e.g., development of waste sorting)
- planning of premises and environment

possible projects for taking care of environment

When the 'strategic level' negotiations were finished, the contents were also specified in co-operation with teachers in the schools of Lohja (persons in charge of environmental issues) on 14 April 2003. About half of the schools of Lohja were represented in the event. Views of the participants on, for example, obstacles in sorting waste, arranging an energy savings competition, needs connected with nature education targets and use of the report on the state of the environment in Lohja were gathered.

4.6.2. Environmental school query and web pages

In the beginning of the autumn semester of 2003, an environmental query was realized in each school of the area. The purpose of the query was to gather extensive information about those environmental issues in the schools in Lohja that could be promoted during the project period. The query included questions regarding, for example, waste management in the school, energy savings measures, targets of school trips and usage of the Internet. The two-page query form was compiled in co-operation with the Technical and Educational Sector of town management and was sent to principals of the schools followed by a letter signed by the Educational Sector Manager. The recipients were asked to fill in the form together with the teachers in their school in a teachers' meeting before beginning of the school year, for example.

Almost all of the schools answered the query (29/30 schools). The query was quite successfully realized except for the timing which was a busy time for schools. The timing received some criticism. The results were published in an event called 'What Is New Environmental Co-Operation in Schools of Lohja' on 21 October 2003. Based on the query, further actions were sketched together with representatives from the Educational Sector, the schools, the Town Planning Centre and waste management company Rosk'n'Roll.

The results of the query showed that more than half of the schools had named a person in charge of environmental issues. Environmental projects of the schools varied in content from different kinds of themed years to co-operation projects. The most typical environmental actions in schools included trips to the great outdoors, cleaning bees as well as activities connected with waste and recycling. Most of the schools wanted to engage in co-operation with the Technical

Sector of the town of Lohja. The interesting co-operation areas listed included, for example, 1) schoolyard and environmental planning, improvement of sorting of waste and environmental care bees and 2) keeping classrooms clean and an energy saving competition.



Figure 48. Virpi Sahi presenting the results of the environmental query for schools in hall Metsola-sali in October 2003. The theme of the event was 'What Is New Environmental Co-Operation in Schools of Lohja'. (Photo by Juulia Tuominen).

In the beginning of the project, a decision to establish web pages for the project was made to distribute local environmental information required by the schools. Functionality of web pages as a communications channel was studied in connection with the environmental query made to the schools. The results were positive as comes to the web pages, since two thirds of the schools that answered stated that browsing the web in schools is easy. In a little less than half of the schools the Internet is normally being used to support teaching.

The objective was for the teachers and pupils to easily find all kinds of environmental information, such as waste sorting, energy saving and targets for school trips, from the same web pages. The Schools and Environment in Lohja web pages are included in the www menu of the Environmental Protection Office of the town of Lohja. The address is www.kaupunki.lohja.fi/Kaupunkisuunnittelukeskus/html/ymparistokeskus/koulut.htm.

The web pages were published in the 'What Is New Environmental Co-Operation in Schools of Lohja' event on 21 October 2003 by publishing the energy subsection. In a meeting held with the Lohja Premises Management Sector it had been noted that the project Schools and Environment in Lohja could assist the Premises Management by increasing awareness in schools regarding the energy saving competition and saving of energy in gener-

LOHJAN KOULUT JA YMPÄRISTÖ



Figure 49. Start page of the Schools and Environment in Lohja web pages. Photo and graphics by Toni Hägg.

al by producing web pages on energy, for example.

When the plan of action for the project was compiled, it was noted that the teachers wished to find information about environmental issues in Lohja and information about how issues work in Lohja as comes to the public water supply, for example. The water parts of the web pages were planned in the summer of 2004.

4.6.3. Waste instructions for schools and daycare centers as well as Schoolyard Forum

The management of the Lohja Technical Sector committed on 24 March 2003 to support the schools in developing sorting of waste. The issue was pondered on 4 June 2003 when an agreement was made to produce material on, for example, purchasing of waste bins to schools to be published on the web pages of the project Schools and Environment in Lohja.

Functionality of waste management in the schools from the viewpoint of the teachers was mapped in the school environment query in the autumn of 2003. The query included a question as to what kind of waste was sorted in schools and how the sorting had been arranged. The results showed that functionality of waste management varied a lot depending on the waste type. Biological waste was sorted in two out of three schools and sorting was mostly functional in those schools with a food preparing kitchen of their own. Paper was sorted in almost all of the schools but compared to the other waste types, most issues requiring development were included in the paper section. Half of the schools sorted glass, a little less than half sorted metal and only one school sorted plastics. Hazardous waste was



Kuva 53: Taitoajokilpailu vaatii hyvää ajoneuvon hallintaa. Koululaisten taitoajokilpailussa pyöräilypäivänä 21.5.2003.



Kuva 54. Salon kaupungin virkapyörät (kuva: SS).

sorted in almost all of the schools but most schools dubbed this as an area requiring development. Most of the schools stated that they needed more waste bins.

In the publication event of the environment query on 21 October 2003, development of waste management awoke plenty of discussion. At the same time it was noted that clear waste instructions for schools were needed. A waste instructions task force was established in the spring of 2004 to compile waste sorting instructions for schools and daycare centers. Active participants in the task force included, for example, the Premises Management Sector, the Environmental Protection Office, waste management company Rosk'n'Roll, a consultant for environmental projects of daycare centre Voudinpuisto and the main health-care centre as well as the Lohja Coordinator Virpi Sahi. The waste instructions task force fine-tuned the content of the instructions and the coordinator planned the structure of the web pages as well as edited the text to make it suitable for the web.

The ready-made waste instructions encourage the schools and daycare centers to reduce waste as well as to engage in material recovery and recycling. The instructions handle biological waste, coloured and white paper, corrugated board, recyclable cardboard, cardboard cans, plastics, glass and metal waste, hazardous waste, sawdust and bagged waste. The in-

structions especially clarify the rules of recycling. If the waste collection threshold required by the town's waste management regulations is met (e.g., for paper 40 kg per month), the real estate will receive a waste sorting bin of their own from the Town Planning Centre's Premises Services Sector. If the school or daycare centre wishes, they may arrange recycling for small amounts of waste on their own.

A Lohja School and Daycare Centre Waste Afternoon that concentrated on the waste theme was held on 5 October 2004 in the area of Puu-Anttila. In the event the participants had an opportunity to study the preliminary waste management instructions and comment them for further development. The waste instructions task force discussed the feedback received in their final meeting and the instructions already posted on the web were updated where necessary.



Figure 50. Schoolyard Forum around their semicircular table in April 2004 in the Puu-Anttila area. The Schoolyard Forum studied needs connected with developing old and new schoolyards and planning of new schoolyards. (Photo by Virpi Sahi)

Based on the environmental query made to the schools, the most interesting co-operation areas for schools and the Technical Sector were yard and environmental planning as well as environmental care bees (in addition to improving sorting of waste). As many as 25 out of the 30 schools wished co-operation regarding schoolyard and environmental planning and co-operation connected with environmental care bees was asked by 22 schools. The Technical Sector of the town had also in the spring shown interest in co-operation.

In order to develop the schoolyards, a Schoolyard Forum was arranged on 28 April 2004. The contents were planned together with the Lohja Town Planning Centre's Park Sector. In the Schoolyard Forum, principals and teachers from Lohja and representatives of the Town Planning Centre gathered to ponder the theme of schoolyard and environmental planning. The representatives of the Town Planning Centre present-

ed schoolyard and environment planning and the participants pondered how to develop it in co-operation with the centre and the schools. Experts gave speeches in the event and discussions were conducted based on the speeches. Plenty of development suggestions were presented.

4.6.4. Sustainable development in curricula and nature trails

Issues that the Finnish Ministry of Education used as the basis for their new curricula included entities that must be included in all subjects. One of the entities is 'Responsibility for the environment, wellbeing and a sustainable future' (in upper secondary schools 'sustainable development').

An event 'Sustainable Development in Curricula of Schools in Lohja' was held on 6 April 2004. The event was planned together with representatives from the town's Educational Sector and the purpose was to find a common view as to how sustainable development can be included in the curricula of the schools in Lohja. The objective was to find new means and power to planning of operations in the schools and to ponder what kind of division of labour and resources realization of sustainable development and environmental education requires from the schools and the Educational Sector. After speeches given by experts the event included working in groups. The groups were issued a task to ponder how environmental issues could be successfully added to the curricula of schools in Lohja and the everyday life of schools by the year 2010.

According to the results acquired by the environmental query to schools, the most popular nature-related school trip targets were ridge Lohjanharju, island Liessaari, cape Pähkinäniemi and various targets close to each school. When choosing a target for a school trip, location close by was important because lack of transportation allowances makes arranging of trips harder. In general, a nature school was deemed a good idea and plenty of wishes regarding the nature school were presented.

The Environmental Protection Office finished during the project period some nature trail projects that had been unfinished and published them in a flashy manner. The most notable was opening of cape Pähkinäniemi on 7 September 2004. Cape Pähkinäniemi is one of the most spectacular groves in Lohja and a popular trip target due to its location. The na-

ture trail consists of 16 information points in the terrain along a route of ca. 1.2 kilometres. Presentation texts and photos as well as a map are included on the web pages. Publication of the material on the web pages enables publication of more extensive presentation texts to be used for teaching, for example.

4.6.5. Summary of subject matters in concluding seminar

The project Schools and Environment in Lohja was concluded in a seminar held on 30 November 2004. Objective of the seminar was to communicate the results of the project to the participants and other parties interested, to evaluate the work done and to ponder together how environmental issues in schools should be developed further in the future.

After official opening speeches, Environmental Supervision Manager Jaana Lehtonen and Project Coordinator Virpi Sahi presented objectives, actions and results of the project. After this, the participants could communicate their experiences regarding the project. In a group work task, the participants were asked how environmental co-operation should be continued in 2005. Five groups were included and their themes were schoolyards, waste, nature, energy, water and sustainable development in curricula. To conclude the seminar, an outside expert told about their views regarding pitfalls in development of environmental issues in schools and offered recommendations for further work in Lohja.



Figure 51. Manager of the Town Planning Centre Antti Tuomainen spoke about the future co-operation needs of the City Planning Centre and the Education Centre. (Photo by Jaana Lehtonen)

Both sides were quite happy with the actions to increase co-operation between the Town Planning Centre Premise Management and the schools. However, bringing in sustainable development in the curricula was seen as problematic both by the leaders of the

project and by the participants. The difficulties were due to the extent and lack of concreteness of the objectives set by the Ministry of Education and by personnel changes made in management of Lohja's Educational and Teaching Sectors. Inexperience of the project leaders as comes to the school world may also have contributed to the difficulties. On the other hand, many teachers felt that the management of the town's Education Sector did not support the sustainable development work in the schools adequately or at all.

Several participants have stressed the fact that the project Schools and Environment in Lohja has been a good start but that more resources are needed in order to continue to develop the issues to the desired direction. A challenge is, for example, mediating information offered to the teachers about local environmental issues to the pupils. The Premise Management Sector and the users (schools) should continue to develop joint operations methods as comes to development of schoolyards and waste management, for example. The sustainable development curriculum must be brought closer to the Educational Sector of the town of Lohja and to single schools (school community / subjects). The matter should be approached from a practical viewpoint with commitment. Coordination of the network created and maintenance of contact information are of utmost importance.

4.7. IN SALO, focus on promoting light traffic and environmental education

In the beginning of the project "Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in Local Administration in Finland and Estonia", Salo had many objectives for the project period. When evaluating the project afterwards, concentration on one or two most essential objectives would have been needed. In practice this was done because with the help of one part-time project worker, the possibilities are quite limited. Concentration in promoting light traffic was a good choice in Salo since the issue has clearly needed development in Salo. Another strong focal point was environmental education. The project thus complemented and extended the work on sustainable development already done in Salo. The project also offered resources to more actively realize the themes and objectives of the Varsinais-

4.7.1. Environmental week for children and youth as well as cycling days

In line with the environmental education theme, in the autumn of 2003 an Environmental Week for Children and the Youth was arranged in Salo (10 – 16 November 2003). A large number of children and young people from the area participated in the events. The week was opened at Moisio school and the opening ceremony gathered ca. 500 schoolchildren. A parliament for the youth was arranged at Lauri school with the theme of ‘Should We Recycle?’. The parliament gathered ca. 200 pupils from upper classes of comprehensive schools and from upper secondary schools. Puppet show Waste Gang held a performance for ca. 570 children in the Salo region daycare centers. During the week 13 classes (ca. 400 pupils) got to know the operations of the local waste management company Rouskis. In addition, during an open day, the operations of Rouskis were presented to ca. 400 other interested persons. Exhibitions of the Environment Week showed works of at least 600 schoolchildren and daycare centre children. Due to the project, the first school in Salo has tried to obtain the Green Flag operations programme diploma for schools and daycare centers during the semester of 2003 – 2004 (Karjaskylä school).



Figure 52. In Salo, the environmental education theme was realized with the events on the Environmental Week for Children and the Youth, for example.

Most of the actions taken during the project (e.g., the Environmental Week) have in one way or another been realized in co-operation with the Varsinais-Suomi Agenda Office. Therefore, the objective of increasing this co-operation has been reached. The Agenda Office should also take Salo better into account when planning and arranging its oper-

ations, so the benefits will be long-term ones.

Light traffic was also promoted with various events. A Cycling Day was arranged on 21 May 2003. During the day, a seminar about topical cycling issues, a cycling skill contest for schoolchildren and a bicycle trip realized as photograph orientation were arranged. About a hundred participants cycled through the photograph orientation route. Five teams participated in the cycling skill contest and an audience of about a dozen persons participated in the seminar. Further, a



Figure 53. The cycling skill contest required a good management of one's vehicle. Schoolchildren participating in the contest on the Cycling Day 21 May 2003.



Figure 54. Official bicycles of Salo (photo by SS)

challenge biking event for companies was arranged as a part of the national cycling week. Further, in 2004 Salo celebrated the Cycling Week in a flashy manner including a ‘Cycle to Work’ challenge competition (on week 20), a cycling skill contest for schoolchildren and a bicycle orienteering event. The Week for Exercise (16 – 22 September) was celebrated in Salo in the autumn of 2004 by arranging a small-scale information and education campaign in the local libraries. A luminous tag was created to be distributed during the week with a picture of a swan on a bike with a helmet on his head (the swan is included in the coat of arms of Salo). In April 2004, a total of ten official bicycles were donated to the authorities of Salo. The official bicycles are used to promote the possibility of public servants

to take care of their job without a car. The official bicycles have offered Salo plenty of positive publicity.

With the events arranged during the project period, the town of Salo has received plenty of publicity in the media. Examples of this are the official bicycles, arranging of the Environmental Week in the autumn of 2003 and arranging of the national Agenda Day in Salo in 2003. Since the objectives of the project included increasing of environmental awareness and networking, it is great that the good practices also received plenty of attention. Thus, persons who were only indirectly dealing with the project could also receive information about the issues and events arranged.

4.7.2. First review of state of environment

The most notable issue produced by the project in Salo is the first Review of the State of the Environment in Salo (November 2004). The review concentrates on five main themes: natural environment, water, air, waste management and constructed environment. The report includes short general reviews of the main themes and especial reviews from the viewpoint of Salo. The review also includes issues about the future: what has planned to be done and what should be done in order to reduce pollution of the environment, increase purity and versatility of the nature and improve general pleasantness of our living environment. The report also includes hints on what each person can do by themselves to promote positive development. The objective is that this review will, in its part, wake up the readers to think about environmental issues and their possibilities to influence the state of their environment. Since the report is a four-colour publication available free of charge, it can also be used for teaching and as a source of information in the schools of Salo.

4.7.3. Evaluation of Salo subproject sustainable development work

In the organization of the town of Salo, employees have started to understand that the town of Salo really is a town favourable to bicycles. Here, the actions of the project and active communication of information have played a central role. Changing of the culture towards more favourable to light traffic, for example, requires – in addition to a functional infrastructure – years of active campaigning. At present, it seems that the fact that Salo region was awarded a national cycling award and the official bicycles are, in their part,



Figure 55. Salo is a town favourable to cycling (drawing Seppo Leinonen; the swan is included in the coat of arms of the town of Salo).

changing the attitudes to a positive direction.

The project as a whole has been an additional resource for the Environmental Protection Office whose resources are in practice used up by taking care of administrative work. Without the project and the work done by the project worker, several events, training days and campaigns would have not been realized. Co-operation with other municipalities will surely also be beneficial. The value of the co-operation will not be seen until years later, however.

The Varsinais-Suomi Agenda Office has praised the fact that there is a person in the municipality with whom to realize projects. There has been clear need for this, since after single events several parties have considered continuing similar operations on their own. For example, the regional waste management company Rouskis participated in the Environmental Week in the autumn of 2003 with an open day and with the Waste Gang puppets. The company has considered arranging similar activity or themed days in the future.

Further, the Salo Environmental Review 2004 will also have a significance even after the project period since the publication has been given to all upper level classes of comprehensive schools and senior secondary schools in Salo to be used in teaching.

In short, the most notable results of the project in Salo were:

- § Salo Environmental Review 2004
- § Environmental Week for Children and the Youth 2003
- § National Agenda Day in Salo 2003
- § 10 official bicycles for Salo
- § Several light traffic events in Salo 2003-2004

5. NETWORKING OF MUNICIPALITIES IN

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORK

5.1. General evaluation of networking

Functional co-operation between local parties, communication of information, training and functional networks motivate to invest in sustainable development and tried and found operations models in various municipalities. It is more meaningful to tackle environmental problems and continuous shortage of resources knowing that in the long term a cleaner, healthier and safer environment will be created if we now make solutions that are sustainable for the environment.

During the project 'Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in Local Administration of Finland and Estonia', several joint meetings of the participating municipalities have been arranged at regular intervals in line with the project plan. The control group of the project (a representative from all the municipalities) has met at least every six months. In addition, representatives from the other municipalities have always been welcome in the local events arranged, even though all the participants seemed to have too little time to make visits. Some so-called extra meetings have also been arranged between the project workers (e.g., in order to plan environmental reporting) and between representatives of the municipalities. These show that networking between municipalities, communication of information and development of expertise have been needed and also smaller municipal meetings have been arranged in order to reach these objectives.

The meetings of the project municipalities and the meetings of the control group have increased awareness about actions and operations in the other municipalities. The project has offered an excellent network for municipal environmental work enabling exchanging of information and ideas directly between the project partners. During the project, several good personal contacts were created both between the project workers and between officials of various municipalities. Thus, one of the project objectives, supporting networking and development of expertise of local parties in the five provinces included, has been realized quite well during the project period. Networking in environmental issues was most natural between municipalities of about the same size or be-

tween municipalities with similar tasks to be done.



Figure 56. A meeting of the project control group in Lahti 15 April 2003. Included in the photo (from the left) are Sirkku Kallio of the Kouvola region, Marja Kokko of the Hämeenlinna region, chairperson of the control group Kari Porra of Lahti and the project supervisor Mirja Lumiaho-Suomi of the Häme Regional Environment Centre.



Figure 57. The first meeting of the project personnel was held in Kouvola on 21 – 22 May 2003. Included in the photo (from the left) are Susanna Kijärvi, Juulia Tuominen, Mari Karjalainen, Sanna Salminen, Kuusankoski Environmental Engineer Marleena Naukkarinen, Kouvola Region Agenda 21 Coordinator Sirkku Kallio, Heli Kanto and Virpi Sahi.

However, networking with the Estonians has been more difficult because their corresponding project was not started after all. Thus, no project workers were available in Estonia to offer additional resources for the municipal environmental work and networking between municipalities as in Finland and thus it has not been profitable to arrange any international project worker meetings (the meetings have been arranged in Finland only). Had the similar project in Estonia been started, there would have been the possibility to realize similar actions simultaneously in both countries. This would have offered better pre-conditions for co-operation between environmental authorities. Contacts with Estonian officials have been made in international meetings of the project municipalities' representatives arranged by the Finnish project and interesting information about their environmental work has been heard. The environmental work in Estonia is partly at a different level

than in Finland but there are some similarities in increasing environmental awareness (e.g., ‘Day without Cars’ events in many municipalities). A positive issue about the co-operation with Estonia is the fact that two more Estonian co-operation municipalities were acquired during the project period, Kuressaare and Tallinn. Finns were able to visit Kuressaari during an international project seminar in June 2004.

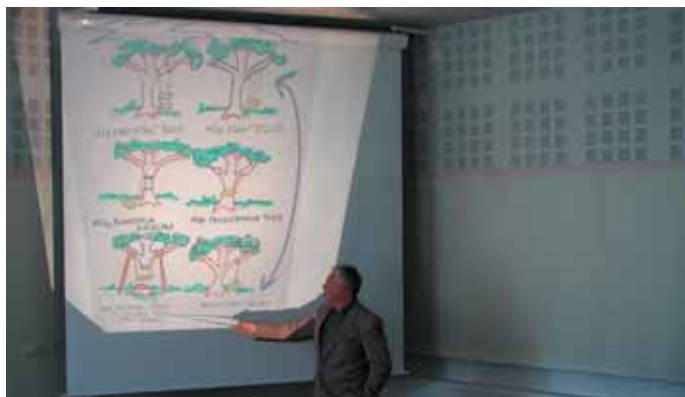


Figure 58. In the Kuressaari Local Agenda seminar on 14 June 2004 in Saaremaa, Kuressaari Agenda 21 Coordinator Kaljo Ellik spoke about the city's sustainable development process.

Web pages, <http://www.bla21f.net/ymptietoisuushanke/english>, were realised for the project in order to improve communication of information and networking between the municipalities and the Lahti Media Axis. The pages include a general presentation of the project and a presentation of each project municipality (presentation of their themes and actions). In addition, the pages include an event calendar for the project and a photo gallery, for example. The Finnish part of the web pages serve most of all co-operation between Finnish municipalities but the English part, the photo gallery of the events during the project and the feedback page (the so-called discussion part) also increase interaction and networking with the Estonian partners. Via the Internet, good examples and experiences of sustainable development of the municipalities are easily accessible to the other municipalities. In addition, the use of the web pages is not limited to the actual project municipalities. Instead, other municipalities both in Finland and in Estonia can use the themes and experiences to learn. For example, the Federation of Estonian Municipalities can advertise the pages to other municipalities in Estonia in order to spread the achievements of the project to a broader area.

An objective was also networking of authorities in environmental issues within the municipalities. This was realized by committing officials to various sustainable development events and by increasing their environmental awareness, for example. In many of

the project municipalities, sustainable development ideas have been included in municipal administration and strategies, but in order to turn the ideas into concrete actions persistent sustainable development work must be continued. The project has, in its part, assisted this work. The increase in environmental awareness, environmental and sustainable development indicators, geographical information systems and environmental reports that clearly show environmental and sustainable development issues can, in their part, promote permanent rooting of sustainable development ideas in municipal administration systems and decision-making.

5.2. Evaluations from participating municipalities

Lahti

Lahti has, as the coordinating municipality, been in contact with the other municipalities included in the project during the entire project period and this networking has been increased by visits of the Project Coordinator in all of the municipalities. This would have been more useful had there been the possibility to pay more visits but this was not possible due to lack of time. The fact that the Project Coordinator has operated as the person realizing the Lahti project (the so-called project worker) at the same time as being the coordinator has limited the coordinating tasks to the necessary management tasks only and also reduced the possibility for better planning and realization of networking. Joint meetings of the project municipalities have enabled networking and creation of personal relationships between all the municipalities. When proportioned to the fact that networking is one part of the project only and the fact that local actions have been realized in all of the municipalities, the number of joint meetings has been adequate. During the visits and in meetings of the project municipalities, good tips and new ideas for Lahti have been acquired from the operations of the other municipalities (e.g., the Cycling Week).

The project has enabled networking between environmental parties and Municipal Engineering Planners in Lahti. Operations of the Traffic Forum have also enabled more extensive networking between various interest groups in traffic issues and when arranging the ‘Day without Cars’ events.

Lahti had the most connections to the Estonian partners and thus networking of Lahti with Estonia has

been the most successful. Networking of all the municipalities with Estonia has been probably hindered the most by the fact that no corresponding project was started in Estonia and thus there have been no project workers and the situation has been different than that in Finland. International meetings of the project municipalities have offered the possibility to create personal relationships in the Estonian municipalities and exchange tried and found practices.

Forssa

Networking of municipalities during the project period showed to be fruitful. Joint meetings and getting to know the sustainable development work in the other municipalities offered new ideas and more faith in realization of the work in Forssa. Networking with municipalities realizing similar actions offered the most benefits. For example, Forssa received useful advice and thoughts regarding preparation of the sustainable development indicators and environmental reporting from the project workers of Hämeenlinna, Kouvola and Salo.

Even more advantages would have been received from networking had the actions realized in the municipalities been more alike. The co-operation would also have been facilitated had the networking municipalities been of approximately the same size because small municipalities have notably smaller resources for environmental work than larger municipal organizations. The connections to the Estonian partners remained very meagre and they offered no notable benefits for the work done in Forssa.



Figure 59. Environmental reporting planning meeting in Forssa together with the project workers of Salo and Hämeenlinna.

Hyvinkää

Prior to beginning of the project, Hyvinkää had been co-operating with the town of Lohja as comes

to collection of geographical information system data and as comes to oil containers. During the project period, this co-operation has been deepened.

Different kinds of people operating in various tasks have participated in the project: project workers, officials, promoters of sustainable development, inhabitants, entrepreneurs and the Estonian partners. Therefore, co-operation has occurred at various levels. Networking has been best achieved with the municipalities that have similar or the same themes as Hyvinkää. Networking has been natural with municipalities of the same type (location, size, population).

Some networking has occurred at all levels, the least probably being between the inhabitants and the Estonian partners. Networking between project workers and officials has been successful. Good examples and operations models from the other municipalities participating in the project have been further developed in Hyvinkää. The project has started many actions in the municipality: organization of a cycling week, work with oil containers, collection of an environmental team to develop environmental issues, etc. Advancement of these projects is now based on a sturdy foundation and they will continue after the project period. Further, the connections created to the other municipalities will surely be functional after the project period.

Hämeenlinna

A central theme of the project was increasing networking between the project municipalities and the Estonian partners. The Hämeenlinna subproject received the most benefits from networking at the stage when the environmental report was being written and in general issues about the project's subject matter.

As comes to networking, a theme that would be of interest to all was of utmost importance. Sustainable development includes in itself so many issues that communication of information on a general level is not very profitable. On the other hand, sustainable development work has been ongoing for quite some time in Finnish municipalities and thus, it is sometimes difficult to find themes that are new for all the participants. In the future in similar projects, a useful approach would be either using of corresponding pairs, that is at least two municipalities that work around the same theme. An even more effective approach would be limiting the entire content of

the project around a well prepared theme. Thus, the synergy benefits would likely be notably improved.

Networking with the Estonian partners did not offer any essential benefits to the Hämeenlinna region. The issues that have been stated about success of the national network also apply to the international networking. If the objectives of the municipalities differ in both content and level, communication of information will offer no concrete benefits.

Kouvola

The main focus of the Kouvola region project has been in development of regional networking. Networks of municipalities of the region, representatives of state government and parties in the environmental sector have been created. Some contacts with parties outside of the region have been created, co-operation with, for example, the Hämeenlinna National Health Federation of Municipalities' Environmental Department has been made. Good examples and operations models have been acquired from the other municipalities included that have been applied in realization of the Kouvola project. Regional networking has begun well and the objective is to reinforce it after ending of the project period by committing the municipalities in the region to the work with the indicators and by connecting the indicators for sustainable development as a part of monitoring of regional development and local wellbeing.

In this kind of a project with various municipalities and many parties included, the most functional operations method has proven to be rewarding and repaying voluntary participation. People cannot be obligated based on their official status to participate in various projects but success and rewarding co-operation may cause people to work and be motivated also in sustainable development projects. Interest and willingness to participate in networking was found during the project period both in the municipalities and in parties of the third sector. The events arranged close to the inhabitants were deemed especially important, such as the Thrift Week exhibition in April 2004 in Kuusankoski and Jaala.

The program group of the Kouvola region local agenda work also deems the project very important and is eagerly expecting the results of studying of the indicators in the local boards and results of the first evaluation round. This is the basis that will be used to compile the operations programme evaluation in 2005.

Lohja

The project has offered an unofficial forum for voluntary networking based on the situation of one's own. This method has been deemed successful. Municipal visits (i.e., arranging events in different locations) have offered new experiences and it has been beneficial for learning to follow the other subprojects. As the project had advanced, actual networking has occurred at least between the project workers: for example, exchanging materials and other useful issues. Objectives of Lohja's own for networking with the Finns have been gradually found.

As comes to networking, problems have occurred in the form of vagueness of content objectives or lack of an objective in networking – 'networking' as itself is not a motivating objective. The problem has been notable especially as comes to the relationships with the Estonians who have not started a similar project. Due to busy schedules, networking between the municipal environmental officials has been weaker than that between the project workers.

Salo

The practical value of networking cannot be exactly evaluated at this point: the benefits from networking will not be seen until after several years.

However, one can state as a preliminary assessment that the networking between the municipalities has been successful, especially with the Finnish partners. Assistance in, for example, compilation of the environmental report and creation of the environmental indicators has been received from the other municipalities.

At a personal level, getting to know the environmental officials of other municipalities also facilitates future co-operation. The strength of the project is that the partner municipalities are mainly of the same calibre. Thus, resources available for environmental protection are equally large and there are also often common problems. With the project, co-operation of the municipalities has been improved to benefit all the municipalities also after the project period.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The project 'Increasing Environmental Awareness and Networking in Local Administration of Finland

and Estonia' has offered Finnish municipalities resources for their sustainable development work. Generally, the situation in the municipalities is that the meagre resources for environmental protection only extend to realizing the obligatory official supervision and sustainable development work must be left aside. The environmental officials of the municipalities are fully employed which also hindered their participation in the realization of this project. Fortunately, the part-time project workers hired for the active project period, i.e., the years 2003 – 2004, were there to realize the project and offer additional resources in all the participating Finnish municipalities.

With this project, the municipalities were able to promote and continue their work for sustainable development that has been vigorously promoted since the 1990s. In the project, differences between the municipalities and the actions conducted in them were taken into account and so the project themes for each municipality were chosen among issues important for the municipality in question. In this manner, resources for local agenda actions that continued, complemented and expanded the sustainable development work already conducted in the municipalities were acquired as needed and wanted (e.g., in Lahti the focus was the traffic theme that in previous sustainable development work had been neglected). However, in some of the municipalities limiting the project theme to the most essential issues proved to be problematic in the beginning.

The project also offered an excellent network for municipal environmental work enabling exchanging of information and ideas directly between the project partners (good personal contacts between project workers and municipal officers). The meetings of the project municipalities and the meetings of the control group increased awareness about actions and operations in the other municipalities. Networking in environmental issues was most natural between municipalities of about the same size or between municipalities with similar tasks to be done. The co-operation with the Estonian municipalities could also have been easier had the similar project planned there been started. Thus, realization of similar actions simultaneously in both countries would have been possible. An objective was also networking of authorities in environmental issues within the municipalities. This was realized by committing officials to various sustainable development events and by increasing their environmental awareness, for example. In many of the project municipalities, sustainable development ideas have been included in municipal administration and strategies,

but in order to turn the ideas into concrete actions persistent sustainable development work must be continued. The project has, in its part, assisted this work.

With the assistance of the project workers, concrete advancements in local agenda work in the municipalities were reached and new sustainable development operations models were also created. In Lohja, for example, environmental co-operation in schools and environmental education were developed by networking various parties and getting these parties to actively plan and realize their objectives. In Lahti, the Traffic Forum operations were started creating an operations model that combines interested parties in developing traffic issues and in arranging the event 'Day without Cars'. More sustainable traffic refers to favouring walking, riding a bicycle and mass transportation instead of private cars. This should be taken into account in traffic planning and zoning. More good examples are available in the chapters for each municipality in this publication.

Only the slightest problems were seen in work of the project workers. The most notable problem was the fact that the workers worked part-time (i.e., lack of time) and this naturally caused limitations to the operations of the project workers. Full-time project workers would have enabled more effective utilization of the resources of each municipality. Another so-called problem was connected with the fact that the project workers entered the municipalities as new workers without any previous experience in project work. Therefore, some kind of an introduction to their work would have been necessary. In many of the municipalities the project workers felt that they were left alone to realize the project: better support from the municipal environmental officials in realizing the project would have been needed especially in the beginning of the project (e.g., limiting the project theme for each municipality). All in all, work of the project workers went well, however, and the workers were a necessary and welcome work force resource in all of the municipalities' local agenda 21 work, in increasing environmental awareness and in networking.

The general problem with the projects was their limited project period. The challenge after the project period is continuation of the sustainable development work and the already started good practices in the municipalities. The project staff were well aware of this and tried to anticipate the situation in advance. During the project, extensive groundbreaking work requiring extensive resources has been con-

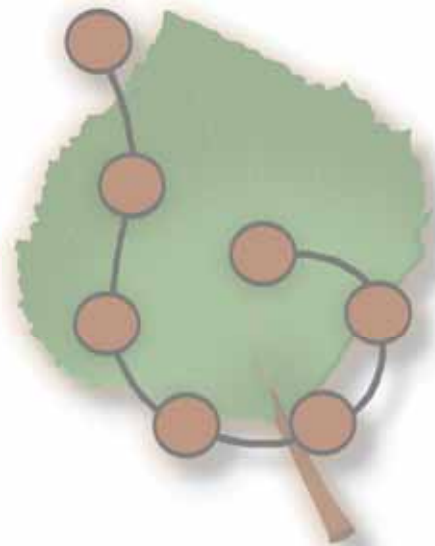
ducted that will enable continuation of the actions after the project period at least with some intensity.

In Kouvola, for example, fluent practices for gathering and updating regional indicators for sustainable development as well as good connections to co-operation parties were developed. Creation of the indicators made municipal officers committed to co-operation to reach sustainable development. In Hyvinkää, during the project period all environmental data of the town was transferred to the geographical information system. Thus, the data will be easily and centrally available for authorities in the future. Easy access to environmental geographical information promotes, for example, taking into account natural conservation areas and groundwater areas in issues prepared by of-

ficials, such as zoning, and thus promotes sustainable development. As comes to environmental reporting, groundbreaking work was conducted in many municipalities, such as Forssa, Hämeenlinna and Salo, by compiling reviews of the state of the environment and thus major advancements were reached in order to be able to continue environmental reporting more effortlessly in these towns after this project has ended. The increase in environmental awareness, environmental and sustainable development indicators, geographical information systems and environmental reports that clearly show environmental and sustainable development issues can, in their part, promote permanent rooting of sustainable development ideas in municipal administration systems and decision-making.



Figure 60. Common seminar of the municipalities about environmental issues in Lahti 7.4.2005.



APPENDIX 1

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APPENDIX 2

CONTROL GROUP:

The control group members were chosen in the first control group meeting of the project on 6 November 2002. In the meeting it was decided that one actual representative from each municipality will be included and they will be issued deputies.

Municipality	Actual	Deputy
Lahti	Kari Porra	Timo Permanto
Forssa	Niina Salminen-Åberg	-
Hyvinkää	Minna Sulander	Markku Nieminen
Hämeenlinna region	Karri Jutila	Sara Syyrakki
Kouvola region	Sirkku Kallio	Marleena Naukkarinen
Lohja	Jaana Lehtonen	Auli Kokkonen
Salo	Mika Ilomäki	Pirkko Paranko

The Project Coordinator Juulia Tuominen has participated in the control group meetings as the secretary. The Project Supervisor Mirja Lumiaho-Suominen has also been issued a right to be present and to be heard.

APPENDIX 3

PROJECT'S PUBLICATIONS AND WEB PAGES:

'Forssan ympäristön tilan katsaus 2004' ('Review of the State of the Environment in Forssa 2004'), Forssa Environmental Board, MAK Media Oy, Forssa, 2004.

'Katsaus Hämeenlinnan ympäristön tilaan' ('Review of the State of the Environment in Hämeenlinna'), Publications of the Environmental Department 34, Environment Department of the Hämeenlinna Region National Health Work Federation of Municipalities, ed. Susanna Kiijärvi. OffsetKolmio Oy, Hämeenlinna 2005. ISBN 952-5251-95-0, ISSN 1455-9102.

'Hyvinkään kestävän kehityksen toimintaohjelma 2003-2006' ('Hyvinkää Sustainable Development Operations Programme 2003 – 2006'), Hyvinkää Town Council 15 December 2003, Hyvinkää Environmental Service, 2004.

'Kouvolan seudun Agenda 21: Kestävän kehityksen indikaattorit' ('Kouvola Region Agenda 21: Sustainable Development Indicators'), Kouvola Region Federation of Municipalities, ed. Sirkku Kallio and Riitta Leviäkangas, Korian kirjapaino Alanko Ky, OK Media Oy, Tammer Haseka Oy.

'Lohjan koulut ja ympäristö –hanke 2003-2004, loppuraportti' ('Project Schools and the Environment in Lohja 2003 – 2004, final report'), Publication of Lohja Environmental Board 3/2005, ed. Virpi Sahi, ISSN 0887-0817, ISBN 952-9518-71-4.

'Salon ympäristökatsaus 2004' (Review of the State of the Environment in Salo'), town of Salo, ed. Reija Kiviluoto, Sälekarin kirjapaino, Somero, 2004.

Web pages of project 'Increasing environmental awareness and networking in local administration in

Finland and Estonia’:

<http://www.bla21f.net/ympietoisuushanke/english>

Web pages of project Hämeenlinna Sustainable Home Environment:

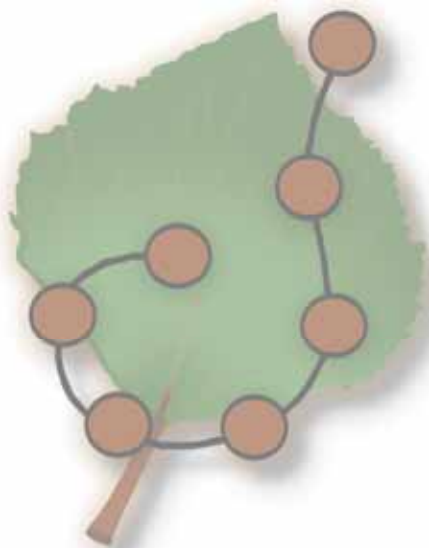
<http://www.hameymos.fi/hyvat/keko/keko.htm>

Web pages of the Kouvola Region Agenda 21 Programme:

<http://www.kouvolaregion.fi/agenda21>

Schools and Environment in Lohja web pages:

<http://www.kaupunki.lohja.fi/Kaupunkisuunnittelukeskus/html/ymparistokeskus/koulut.htm>



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