

Activity report 2010

the Nordic Baltic Forum for Forest Research Communicators

The Network grant arrived rather late in spring just before the holiday season, so the activity could only be commenced in Autumn. The network organized its first meeting in Riga, Latvia, at SILAVA, October 7th and 8th. The minutes of the meeting are attached. Eleven people from seven institutes participated.

In the meeting the network was officially founded and it was agreed that Erkki Kauhanen/Metla will act as the coordinator in 2010 and 2011. In the next meeting in Copenhagen in January, 2011, at Skov & Landskab, the coordinator for 2012 will be chosen.

The network agreed upon cooperation with EFINORD to provide content for the planned forest research –based information service of EFINORD/SNS. Metla will offer expertise in developing the concept and planning the call for bids of the internet portal.

The Network opened up its own online work room for members, based on Grou.ps, at <http://grou.ps/nordicbalticforum/signin/warn/home>.

The number of member institutes by the end of the year 2010 was nine:

- ARICEF, Russia
- Iceland forest service, Iceland
- Metla, Finland
- SILAVA, Latvia
- Skogforsk, Sweden
- Skog og Landskap, Norway
- Skov & Landskab, Denmark
- SLU Future Forests Program, Sweden
- EFI, Finland

The grant for year 2010 was E 10 000. Because the activity started rather late in the year, of this sum only E 3019, 72 was used. It was agreed with Katrine Hahn Kristensen that the rest can be transferred for the year 2011 so that we can organize two meetings in 2011.

31.1.2011
on behalf of the network

Erkki Kauhanen
Metla

Expenses in 2010

Grant E 10 000,00
expenses by 31.12.2010 E 3019, 72
left 31.12.2010 E 6980,28

sum	Number of document in Metla's bookkeeping	name of person	type of expenses
124,58	M2-84	Sanna Kettunen	flight ticket, fr. Helsinki
54,00	M2-84	Sanna Kettunen	airport taxi (Kettunen, Joutsimäki)
155,72	M2-84	Eero Mikkola	flight ticket, fr. Helsinki
58,75	M2-89	Erkki Kauhanen	taxi in Riga (several passengers)
31,86	M2-89	Erkki Kauhanen	airport taxi in Helsinki (Kauhanen)
1466,84	M2-89	Erkki Kauhanen	hotel accomodation (all participants)
518,97	4R-124	SKOGRÆKT RIKISINS	flight tickets, Esther Ösp-Gunnarsdottir; fr. Reykjavik
387,00	4R-119	STIFTELSEN SKOGSBRUKETS FORSKNING	flight ticket, fr. Stockholm
21,20	2R-11153	Eurocard/J.Pöntinen	Grou.ps netsite fee
45,08	M2-533	Erkki Kauhanen	taxi in Riga (several passengers)
155,72	M2-88	Marjatta Joutsimäki	flight ticket, fr. Helsinki
3019,72			

Minutes of the
Nordic/Baltic Forest Research Communicators´ first meeting
in Riga 2010-10-08, by Erkki Kauhanen (Metla)

Venue: The Latvian Forest Research Institute SILAVA

Organizers: Ilva Konstantinova (SILAVA), Erkki Kauhanen (Metla)

Participants:

Camilla Baumann, Norway
Esther Ösp Gunnarsdottir, Iceland
Marjatta Joutsimäki, Finland
Erkki Kauhanen, Finland
Sanna Kettunen, Finland
Ilva Konstantinova, Latvia
Eero Mikkola, IUFRO/GFIS
Mika Mustonen, EFINORD
Fredrik Staland, Sweden
Margarita Strelkova, Russia
Iben Margrete Thomsen, Denmark

Program:

8:00 Breakfast at Hotel Neiburgs
8:30-9:00 taxi to SILAVA, Salaspils
9:00 Meeting commenced at SILAVA
-Participants presented themselves
-Short presentation about the purpose of the meeting (by Erkki Kauhanen)
-Presentation of the institute (by Ilva Konstantinova) and a visit to the Genetic Resources Centre of Silava
11:00-12.30 lunch in Salaspils
12:30 meeting continued
-Presentation by the financier of the event, EFINORD/SNS (by Mika Mustonen)
-Presentation by the coordinator of the GFIS-initiative of IUFRO (by Eero Mikkola)
-Discussion of the network and its idea, possibilities, challenges, and possible activities.
The purpose of the discussion was to create the action plan for the years to come
16:00 the meeting ended

Results of the Discussion:

Founding the network, coordinator

Participants agreed on the need of the network, which was then together considered founded by the group present in the meeting. The name of the network will be Nordic/Baltic Forum for Forest Research Communicators¹, and it is one among the EFINORD networks.

The previous network had a board, but it was agreed that among other things, because the internet-based networking tools are now better than a few years ago, the network does not need to have any official governing body unless the rules of EFINORD networks demand us to have one.

In practice, the financing formalities require that there be an institute that takes the responsibility for the grant. The representative of that institute will be the coordinator of the network for the term. Because the grant for 2010 was applied by and given to Metla, Erkki Kauhanen/Metla will be the coordinator for the years 2010 and also 2011, for which the application is already submitted. In the next meeting in January 2011 the network will decide, which institute will coordinate the activity in 2012, and make the grant application for 2012.

If there is a need that some documents be signed (grant applications, cooperation protocols, agreements or the like), the network will be represented by the coordinator. This kind of actions must be discussed in advance and accepted by the network members in majority, or preferably in consensus.

Membership

Erkki Kauhanen proposed that unlike the earlier network, the membership of the new network would be restricted to forest research institutes/organizations proper so that e.g. commercial forest or paper companies or the like are not included. His justification for the proposal was twofold:

1) Forest research institutes have communication needs and challenges that are unique and quite different to commercial actors. Experience from networks and cooperation groups that include both commercial actors and research organizations is that it is often very difficult to find common ground for these different types of actors. For a research organization it is, for example, usually impossible to take part in various marketing/propaganda efforts that the commercial actors consider very important. There is enough work to do, even if only research communication proper is included.

2) The financing of the network is limited and it is important that the number of participants remains such that travel costs to meetings can be covered entirely, if needed, so that network activity will not become a financial burden to the institutes involved. In the earlier N/B forum travel costs became a limiting factor for participation and apparently contributed to the vaning of activity.

¹ The name was later changed in the network's second meeting in Copenhagen.

Universities' forest departments, if they have communicators who are full-time engaged in forest research communication, may also be considered for membership.

The proposal was accepted.

In principle, the persons involved represent their institutes and it should be agreed in each institute, who will be the *official representative* and will attend the meeting. If financing is scarce, the network will only cover the costs of one representative from each institute, but if financing allows it, there can be more. In any case it is advisable that each institute would have at least two people who follow the network's activity and participate in it so that continuity is better guaranteed and participation is not interrupted in case of e.g. changes of position, as happened to the previous network.

The network now includes the following institutes that were represented in the founding meeting:

ARICEF, Russia
Iceland forest service, Iceland
Metla, Finland
SILAVA, Latvia
Skogforsk, Sweden
Skog og Landskap, Norway
Skov & Landskab, Denmark

Some other persons and through them institutes have also expressed interest in participating:

SLU Future Forests Program (Anders Esselin), Sweden
EFI (Anu Ruusila), Finland

New member institutes will be accepted by the consensus decision of the network members.

When the first meeting was planned, we could not identify representatives from Estonia and Lithuania, but we continue to search. Russia also is not yet adequately represented by only one institute, so we continue to try to identify the best and most contributive institutes that could and would participate.

It was informed in the meeting by Mika Mustonen (EFINORD) that EFINORD activity will in the future probably include England, Ireland and perhaps even Canada. If that is so, representatives from these countries will be searched later, but that will probably need adjusting the grant to a heavier cost burden.

Goals:

The purpose of the network is

1. To advance networking of forest research communication professionals and forest research institutes in Baltic/Nordic countries and to create tools for this cooperation;
2. To share information and discuss current issues in forestry and forest research in Baltic/Nordic countries and research institutes;

3. To develop the professional capacities of the participants by discussion with colleagues and sharing of best practices, tips, experience and information on professional issues, and by organizing training for members;
4. To promote the participation of member institutes in communication channels built or chosen;
5. To help SNS and EFINORD in their networking activities and in creating forums for forestry and forest research information and discussion;
6. To provide content for the forest research communication forum that is planned by the EFINORD;
 - research briefs, information on important publications;
 - news and events;
 - discussion contributions;
 - etc.

Meetings:

Meetings will be arranged once or twice a year. They will usually be two days and they rotate so that each member will share the organizing responsibility. Ilva Konstantinova from SILAVA kindly offered the use of her institutes premises for this meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting will be in Denmark in January 2011, either on week 3 or week 4. This early date is advisable, because the final report on the previous year's activities should be delivered to SNS by February 1st, 2011.

The program of each meeting will be prepared in advance by the organizer together with the coordinator and other members of the network. Usually there will be a business meeting proper where the actual matters are discussed, projects are developed and representatives inform on current issues in forestry and research. In addition, it is important to have time for a more informal social program that helps the representatives to learn to know each other, which is a prerequisite of all really well functioning network activity. It is also possible to invite experts and guest speakers to give training and/or discuss on issues that the network's members deem interesting and important.

Activity between meetings:

To foster activity between meetings a grou.ps net site (<http://grou.ps/nordicbalticforum>) is opened that offers a common place to discuss things and to gather and distribute various materials. On the site, contact information of all members is also available.