

Exploring the early phase – forest regeneration road trip

The EFINORD-SNS Network of Forest Regeneration aims to promote forest regeneration collaboration and exchange of information in the field of forest regeneration across the Nordic and Baltic regions. The network specifically aims to support and facilitate the participation and visible role of early stage researchers and participants of both genders.



Photo: One of the road trip stops was at the Narva mining area in Estonia /Marek Metslaid

Nordic-Baltic region in 14 days

The network activity for 2013 was a PhD course “Forest Regeneration research – a Nordic perspective”. The course was organized through the Institute of Forestry and Rural Engineering at the Estonian University of Life Sciences and the Research School Sustainable Management and Utilization of Forests at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

The course consisted of an intensive, 14-day round trip (September 9-22, 2013) to research units and field stations in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Estonia. The course also included discussions and student presentations. The round trip showed the participants the

spectrum of forest and forestry types across the Nordic and Baltic region. Exclusive visits at research stations and institutions, nurseries and regeneration areas provided the participants with insights into the current challenges and possibilities in forest regeneration in region, and allowed plenty of time for in-depth discussions around regeneration issues.

Catching up with forest regeneration issues

To organize a long round trip demands a lot of preparations, but the works pays off as a rewarding learning experience.

- Our aim was to bring together PhD students from different countries, to provide them with an overview of the forest regeneration research activities in Nordic countries, an in-depth knowledge of different forest regeneration methods and factors that determine the success of forest regeneration measures, says Marek Metslaid (EMU) who was the course leader.

In total ten PhD students from Sweden (Rebecka McCarthy, Abolfazl Daneshvar, Arnis Jurevics and Olle Sjölin), Finland (Tiina Laine, Karri Uotila), Estonia (Azimeh Motallebi, Kristi Nigul, Kristi Parro,) and Latvia (Martins Zeps) participated the course. Several forest researchers and practitioners in different countries were involved as teachers in the course.

- This was the last course organized by our research school which is now ending and I cannot think of a better course as a final, summarizes research school coordinator Johanna Witzell (SLU). – Joint financing and generous input from network members were prerequisites for our possibilities to organize this kind of intensive, international course, she concludes. (For more information, see [http://snsreggroup.wordpress.com/.](http://snsreggroup.wordpress.com/))

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