



Highway science–practice is needed

It is not clear if the forest-related decisions are always based on the best available scientific knowledge. In order to speed up the process of turning research results into well-working practical forestry applications a new international network was established to analyze the different processes and organizational arrangements in place in different countries and to learn from each other's experiences.



The importance of streamlining processes that turn scientific results into practical applications is growing all the time and yet international cooperation and awareness of the models and approaches used even in neighboring countries has so far been limited. Therefore, the new SNS-EFINORD network “Tools for improving science-practice interaction in forestry” was established with the following goals to achieve:

- to create a Northern European network for exchanging experiences and developing instruments for transferring research results into practical forestry applications,
- to organize an international workshop to carry out benchmarking, and
- to develop new Nordic and European projects that can identify best practices for transferring forest science into practical applications.

Evidence-based decision making is a term used particularly in medicine where these systematic review processes were introduced early 1980s to promote evidence-informed health care decisions. Other disciplines, such as social sciences and environmental studies adopted these approaches some twenty years later. Forestry has just recently entered this field and one of the pioneers, Dr. Gillian Petrokofsky, describes the phenomenon in her article included in the proceedings of our workshop.

According to her, a systematic review does not have to be a more extensive literature review. In fact, it may actually be more limited but based on strict criteria on how to select the studies. It applies a highly formal approach which avoids some of the inevitable bias associated with a narrative review. A systematic review supports decision making by providing an independent, unbiased and objective assessment of evidence.