

Gender balance



PHOTO: PÅR FORNLING

in the Nordic forest sector



” Jag tror att skogsbrukets framtida yrkesutövare kommer att karaktäriseras av hög social kompetens och kommunikativa egenskaper. En person som bemöter alla i branschen med respekt och kan svara upp mot olika skogsägares behov oavsett kön, bakgrund och yrkesroll inom industrin.

Gun Lidestav (ATL 2012)



Gender equality in the Nordic forest sector

● Forestry is still regarded as a maledominated sector. To test this belief, we examined the representation of women at different levels within the key parts of the forest sector. In addition to fresh data on gender distributions, we have searched for trends to see if there has been an increase in the share of female representation within the Nordic forest sector.

● It is important to increase equal status and equal opportunities for women and men in the forest sector, for the sake of gender equality itself but also to address the shortage of staff in the sector. Active involvement in different actions is one way to go. Removing hinders that keep women on the outside is another direction. Both of them needs policy incentives to be realized.

” Jag värms på djupet av de många människor som har förstått innebörden av vad #slutavverkat och #metoo handlar om: att vända ägarskapet. Från att hålla tyst, skratta med och lämna situationen till att säga ifrån, markera gränser och stå kvar.

Elin Olofsson, startade #slutavverkat på Instagram ([SCA nyheter](#))

Which is the status of gender balance in different areas of forestry?

Legislation

All Nordic countries have acts that focus on equality and anti-discrimination. However, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland have statutes that force public administration to have 40% female representation.



Sweden is the only Nordic country lacking legislation about gender balanced public administration!

Research

The Nordic countries except Iceland and Norway has about 30% of female researchers, at universities as well as in public and private research organisations. In Iceland the share is 50%, while in Norway 25%.

The share of female students is substantially lower than the share of female employees in Nordic universities.

Education

Norway and Sweden have 30-40% share of female Master students. We also see a positive trend in these two countries, and a slightly negative or no trend in Denmark and Finland. In Denmark and Iceland we see about 30% of female students.

Public administration

It's not easy to compare public administration among the Nordic countries. The highest share of female representation (60%) is seen in the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. In the rest of the countries the share of women lays between 30 to 40%.

Top of the class – Finland

Interest groups

In Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland there are special female interest organisations, and the total number of members in those is close to 1 000. In 2018, a common Nordic female interest organisation started to establish.

Nordic women organisations in forestry:

Sweden: [Spillkråkan](#)
[Skogskvinnorna i Värmland](#)
Norway: [Kvinner i skogbruket](#)
Iceland: [Skógarkonur](#)
Nordic region: [Nordiske skogskvinner](#)

Forest owners

The ownership structure differs between the Nordic countries. We have focused on small scale forestry; with this, we mean family owned forests. In Finland the share of female forest owners is 41%, in Sweden 39%, in Norway 25% and in Denmark 14%.

0% In the Nordic countries, the share of female drivers of logging machines is close to 0% of the total number. Despite the lack of drivers of forest machines, only half of the population is considered for these jobs!

Forest engineering companies

Female drivers of logging machines and forwarders are close to zero. There is a need to include women as employees in logging companies. This is crucial because of lack of drivers in all Nordic countries.





The facts in this brochure emanates from our report Gender balance in the Nordic forest sector. Download the full report on our website - for free!



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