

Nordic forest economists exchange and co-create sustainable scientific solutions to forest-based businesses and policies

Network title: Scandinavian Society of Forest Economics (SSFE)

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Preamble: The Nordic-Baltic network of forest economics and forest policy researchers meets every second year. The network supports early-stage researchers and fosters social connections that lead to joint research articles and projects that benefit the whole region.

Scandinavian Society of Forest Economics (SSFE) is a research network that connects forest economics and policy researchers as well as industry and policy stakeholders in the Baltic Sea region. The network fosters Nordic-Baltic knowledge exchange and scientific partnerships in emerging topics within forest economics. In recent years, such topics have included, for example, economic calculations on the role of forests in climate change, policy instruments safeguarding recreational values of forests, and business concepts for urban multi-storey wood construction.

Questions that SSFE members may answer through their research include the following. What is the economic return of continuous-cover forestry compared to clearcut-based forest management? What kind of market-based economic instruments will efficiently and acceptably encourage forest owners to protect forests' landscape values? Which features of wooden buildings are attractive for urban consumers?

All these topics are important in the Nordic region of boreal forests, because diverse forest-based livelihoods and protective functions of forests are close to a high number of people in the region. Despite climatic and societal similarities, the countries in the region also exhibit interesting differences e.g., in industrial structure and level of urbanization. Therefore, comparing forestry business models, forestry incentives and new ideas enables learning that is immediately applicable in practice.

Suggestions that SSFE network's researchers provide based on their studies can be taken up in the region's forest and bioeconomy policies, in forest planning and advisory practices, and in marketing communications. Combination of empirical data from forests and people and sophisticated mixed methods modelling constitutes a strength for SSFE researchers.

The SSFE network also focuses on offering opportunities to doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers to network in an encouraging atmosphere. Many today's young scientists in the Nordic-Baltic region may in coming decades be professors or business or policy directors, and it is highly convenient to know colleagues from close countries from early career years!

Pictures:

SSFE2020_01: Cover of the SSFE2020 Biennial Meeting Proceedings. Openly available publications of the SSFE Biennial Meetings offer an overview on topical forest economics and policy research in the Nordic-Baltic region.

SSFE2020_02: Profitability and carbon sequestration analyses of boreal forest management are in the core of Scandinavian Society of Forest Economics network. Photograph: Teppo Hujala