

Raising affinity to nature through learning by doing, examples from Finland

EUROPARC Conference 2018



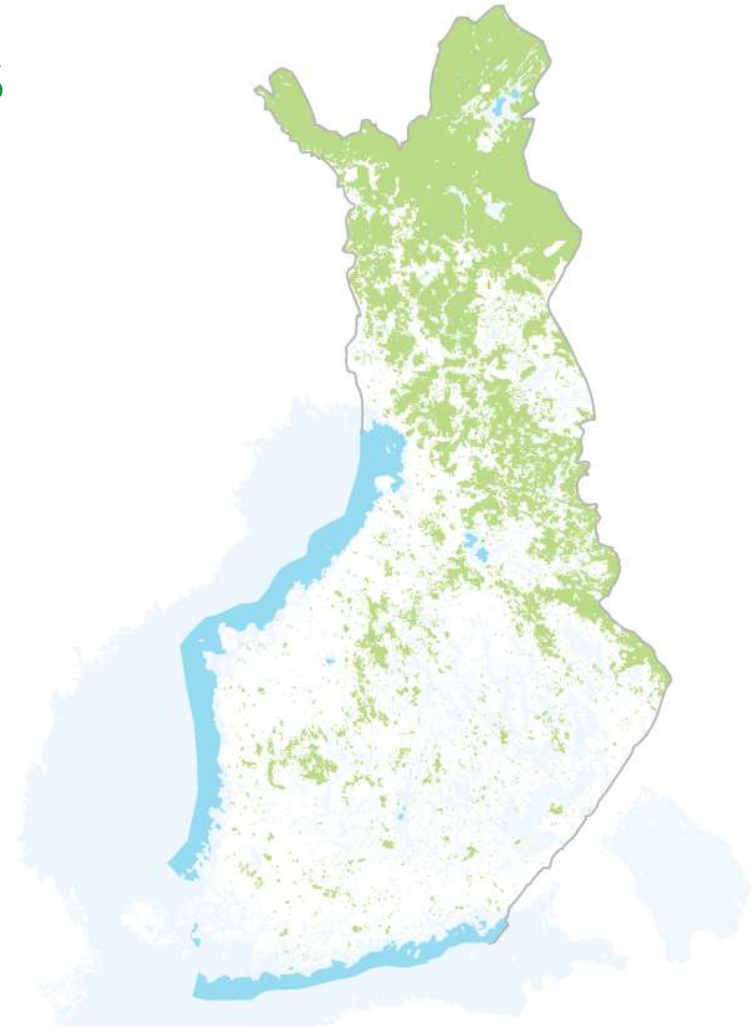
METSÄHALLITUS

Lemmenjoki — kuva:Erkki Ollila

Our organization: Metsähallitus

A state enterprise governing all state-owned lands and waters in Finland.

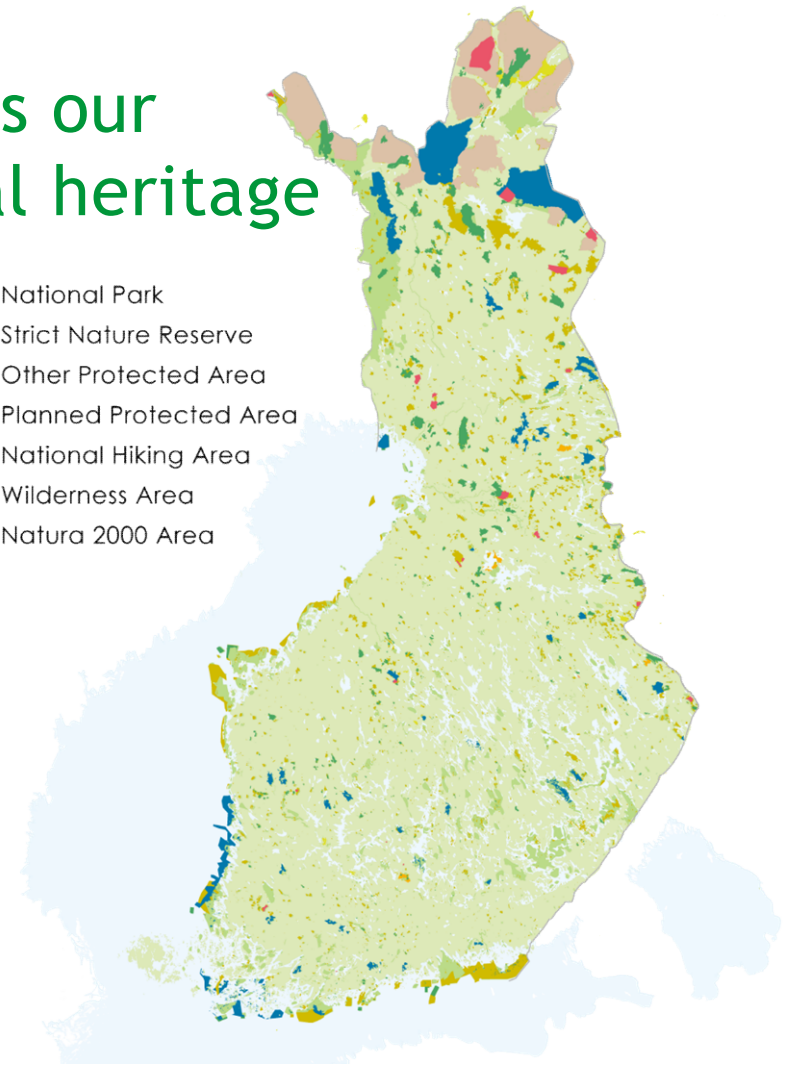
- One third of Finland's total area: over 12 million hectares.
- Business activities include forestry company Metsähallitus Forestry Ltd , Metsähallitus Property Development and seed production.
- Public administration tasks are run by Parks & Wildlife Finland which consists of
 - National Parks Finland
 - Wildlife Service Finland
- www.metsa.fi/web/en



Parks & Wildlife Finland manages our most pristine nature and cultural heritage

- One organization to manage all state-owned areas reserved for nature conservation and hiking:
 - 40 national parks
 - 19 strict nature reserves
 - 5 national hiking areas
 - 12 wilderness areas in Lapland
 - over 3,000 other protected areas
 - and cultural heritage sites
 - Staff all over the country: 505 person years in 2017.

- National Park
- Strict Nature Reserve
- Other Protected Area
- Planned Protected Area
- National Hiking Area
- Wilderness Area
- Natura 2000 Area



Raising affinity to nature through learning by doing, examples from The Finnish Nature Centre Haltia



Nature interpretation manager
Elina Pilke
The Finnish Nature Centre Haltia

What is the Finnish Nature Centre Haltia?

- Haltia brings all of Finland's nature under one roof and closer to the visitor through both the building's facilities and its stunning exhibitions.
- Situated by the Lake Pitkäjärvi on the doorstep to Nuuksio National Park in Espoo (30 km from Helsinki)
- Administred by Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland
- Funded also by the surrounding municipalities



Aims of Nature Education for Youth in Haltia

- The main aim: To strengthen a person's relationship with nature, to inspire to go and enjoy being in nature
 - Understanding the importance of species and/or natural processes
 - Understanding the importance of biodiversity
 - Knowledge and skills for sustainable hiking and other outdoor activities
 - Competence for social influence
 - Supporting the national curriculum and teachers' skills in outdoor education



Pedagogical basis

- Constructivism as a paradigm
- EE models in use:
 - Palmer's Tree model
 - Real World Learning
 - Cornell's Flow Learning
- Methods in use:
 - Learning by doing > skills
 - Exercises for all senses > sensitivity for nature
 - Plays and games > fun and amusement, joy
 - Eco drama > experiences as a different person or a creature
 - Adventure pedagogy > group building



What kind of skills are promoted?

- Skills for outdoor recreation
 - How to feel comfortable when being outdoors?
 - Hiking skills
- Skills of natural scientist
 - Skills for observation
 - Research methods
- Nature literacy
 - How to read nature?
- Skills of conservationist
 - Skills for active citizenship
- Skills for sustainable living



How? Haltia for Schools

- Nature school days for ages 10-15 (approx. 1800 pupils per year)
- Guided tours in the exhibitions for all age groups (approx. 8800 pupils per year)
- Guided nature trail excursions for children of all ages (approx. 7000 pupils per year)
- Courses and workshops for educators about outdoor education and hiking skills
- Teachers can borrow backpacks for independent nature excursions with all the necessary equipment
- Luonto 2.17 changing exhibition
- Photo contest for youth in Instagram

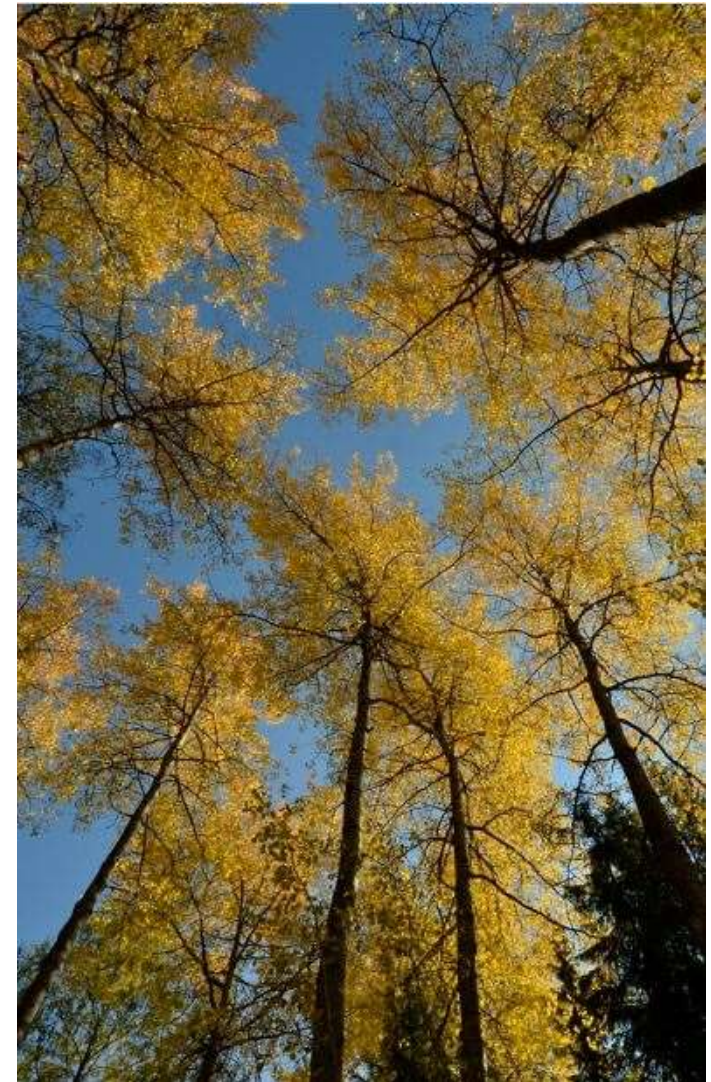


Examples of Nature School Programs and Methods



Collection of Nature School Feedback

- Such a nice day!
- It was really fun here!
- The campfire was neat!
- <3 <3
- The best day in school
- Can we play this again? Please!
- The best was when I found the big mushroom and we cooked it (said by one of the restless kids)
- Pupils enjoyed of the day in the nature school, the program was based on learning by doing -> It works well!
- Different kind of learners were taken into consideration
- Do you get to be here every day? 😊 (question to nature school teacher by pupils)



Developing Nature School activities in Haltia

Points of interest in NANOL (Erasmus+) project (2017-2020)

- How to carry out learning where the learner is truly a center point? How to plan learning with learners?
- How to activate all learners at the same time?
- How to tackle the short duration of a learning event?
- How to build productive collaboration with teachers?





Thank you for your interest!

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