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The Euroscapes network - *learning for sustainable landscapes*

- Sustainable landscapes require evidence-based knowledge about multiple goods, services and values, as well as integrated place-based collaboration among actors and stakeholders at multiple levels.
- EUROSCAPES is an international network of researchers, journalists and practitioners that supports sharing of knowledge about how to maintain and develop sustainable landscapes.
 - Euro... is about the diversity of places in the European continent's East and West - from the Ural Mountains and Caucasus to the Atlantic Ocean.
 - ...scapes links to the word landscape, which has biophysical, anthropogenic and perceived dimensions.
- EUROSCAPES gathers and communicates knowledge using three series of publications:
 - EUROSCAPES News with short texts and illustrations that can be used by journalists.
 - EUROSCAPES Communication with popular summaries of peer-reviewed publications and reports.
 - EUROSCAPES Report with longer peer-reviewed comprehensive text.
- EUROSCAPES uses the web site www.euroscapes.org to disseminate these publication series using five themes: People, Places, Practices, Projects, and Publications.

What is EUROSCAPES?

An increasing number of local to global actors and stakeholders want more of the goods, services and values that landscapes can provide to develop human well-being and quality of life. To meet these demands policies increasingly address the need for adaptive governance and management using an integrated landscape approach. This requires understanding of landscapes as coupled social and ecological systems, as well as of sustainability and societal steering of landscapes. Sustainability is a societal goal aiming to secure quality of life for present and future generations. The process of societal steering towards sustainability is termed sustainable development. This implies a collaborative learning process among stakeholders and actors from different societal sectors at local to global levels of governance.

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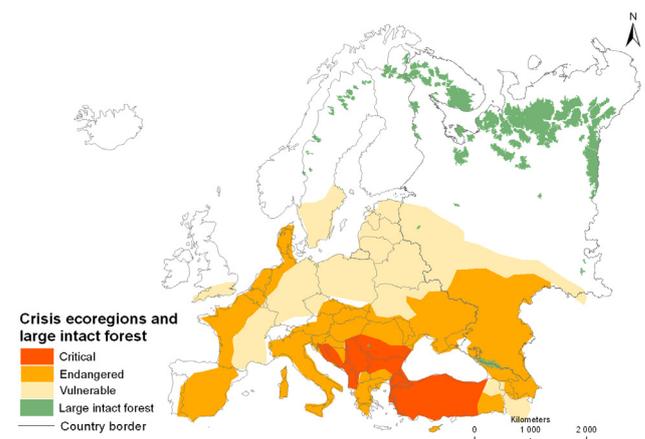
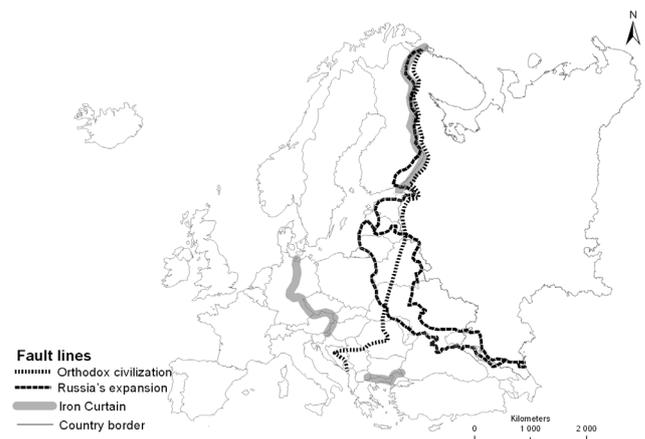
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...SCAPES links to the word 'landscape', which has biophysical, anthropogenic and perceived dimensions.

The policy cycle to understand landscapes

EUROSCAPES presents different aspects of what people do concerning sustainable development and sustainability in their places. The term policy cycle captures the manifold aspects of this complex process.

- Policy formulates and reformulates visions of sustainable development and sustainability.
- Governance is the process when a wide range of actors and stakeholders from societal sectors at local to global levels use diverse instruments to implement policies.
- Management is about the maintenance of goods, services and values in landscapes.
- Assessment combines monitoring of sustainability dimensions, and comparisons of the results with agreed performance targets or norms as described in policies.



Maps of Europe showing fault lines of governance and political culture (top), and the north-south gradient in the level of naturalness (bottom), read more in Angelstam et al. (2013).

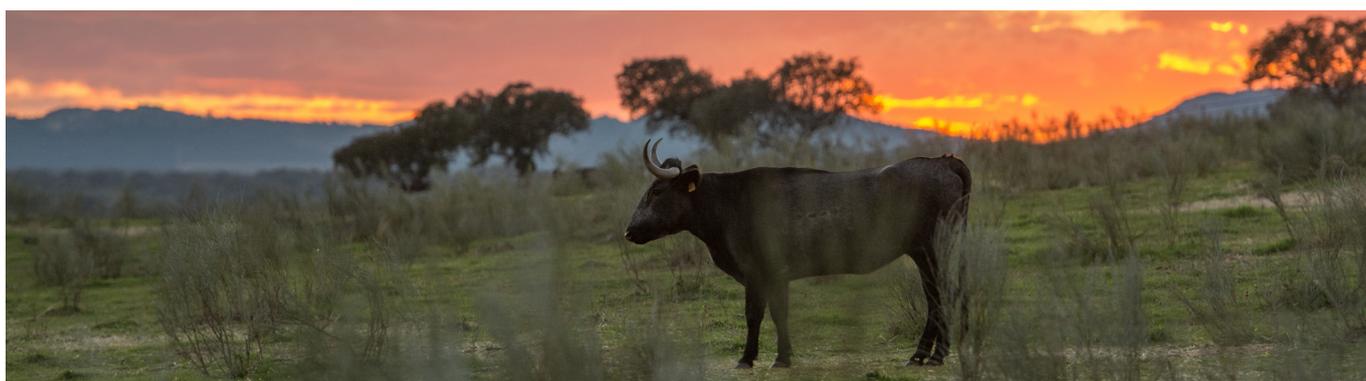
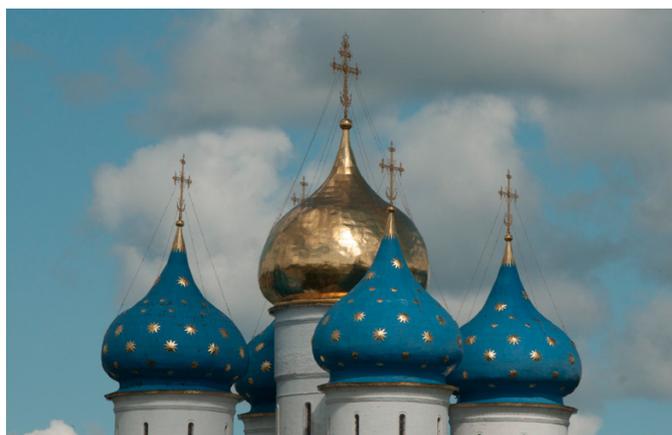
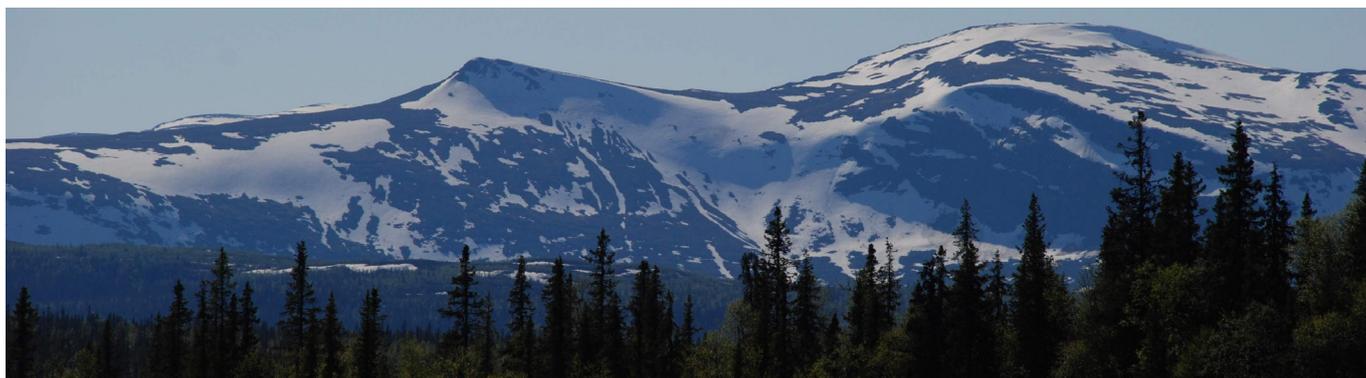
People

Ultimately maintenance and development of sustainable landscapes is about people as part of social-ecological systems. People live in, use and manage landscapes or just derive landscape benefits, even if this might take place far away from their place of origin. People are actors or stakeholders who represent public, civil and private societal sectors. People act at local and regional, as well as national and global levels. People differ in their involvement in governance and management across sectors and levels; and have different power.

Places

A place with its space and people is a landscape, an integrated social and ecological system. EUROSCAPES presents places where people work towards sustainable landscapes and develop practices that others can learn from. The places may be management or administrative units, entire river basins, or geographical regions. To mirror the diversity of rural and urban landscapes in Europe's East and West, several dimensions of places need to be considered:

- Biophysical, anthropogenic and perceived
- Governance systems from top-down to bottom-up
- Landscape history in terms of who did what and why



Places in Europe's East and West (Scotland and Russia) and North and South (Lapland and Spain) are used as laboratories to produce knowledge and support learning for sustainable landscapes.

Practices

Human actions that promote sustainable landscapes may be about policy, governance, management and assessment of outcomes on the ground. Practices aiming towards sustainable landscapes need to be based on knowledge about states and trends of ecological, economic, social and cultural dimensions of sustainability.

- How can policy processes define visions of sustainability?
- How do actors and stakeholders from sectors at different levels in different systems of governance use diverse instruments to implement policies?
- How are natural resources and landscapes managed?
- Continuous monitoring and assessment are prerequisites for learning and steering towards sustainability, but how can this be communicated to decision makers?

Projects

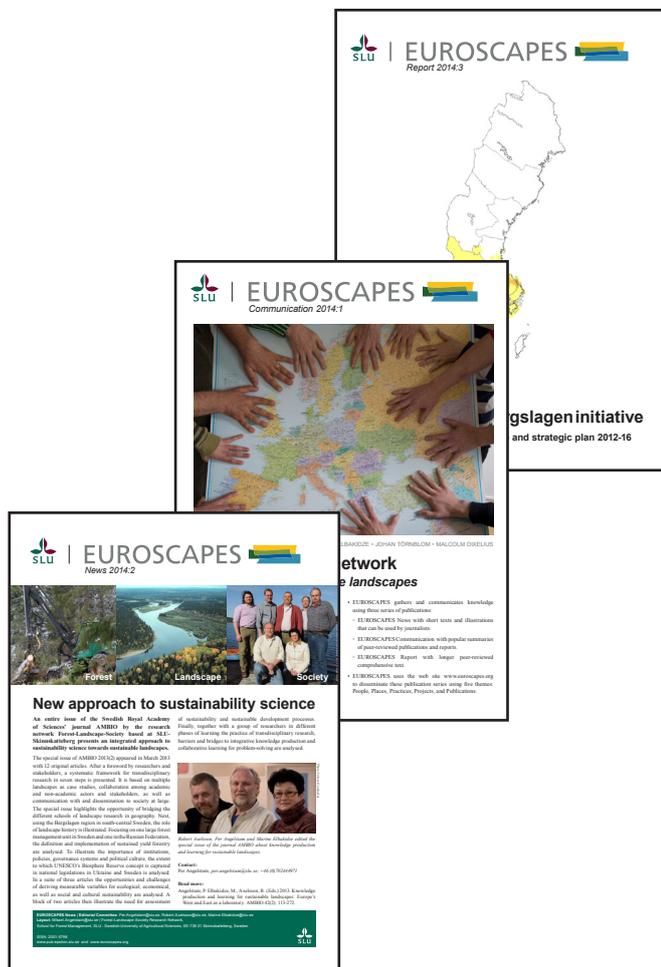
Projects can be classified as networking, research, development or implementation, and be combined in different ways. Knowledge production and learning are key aims of any project.

- Networking is about development of relations with people in other places with the aim of mutual learning to support sustainable landscapes.
- Research can be seen as either academic and disciplinary, or problem-oriented. In the latter, often called transdisciplinary, integration among disciplines and co-operation with non-academic actors occurs.
- Development in this context is when actors and stakeholders learn to steer towards sustainability together.
- Implementation is the process of adopting new practices.

Publications

EUROSCAPES communicates new knowledge from people in different places who develop practices and carry out projects with the aim of sustainable landscapes. This knowledge is communicated using three different series of open-access publications available at www.euroscapes.org:

- EUROSCAPES News: one page with text and illustrations that advertises published work and disseminates new knowledge.
- EUROSCAPES Communication: fact sheet that summarises and illustrates peer-reviewed publications and reports for actors and stakeholders from different sectors.
- EUROSCAPES Report: peer-reviewed comprehensive texts, such as project reports, education materials and workshop proceedings from members of the EUROSCAPES network.



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Read more

- Angelstam, P., Elbakidze, M. and Axelsson, R. 2013. Knowledge production and learning for sustainable landscapes: Europe's East and West as a laboratory. - *AMBIO Special issue 43(2)*: 113-265.
- Angelstam, P., Axelsson, R., Elbakidze, M. and Törnblom, J. 2014. EUROSCAPES: Collaboration and learning for sustainable landscapes in Europe's East and West. - *EUROSCAPES Report 2014:1*.

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