

THE CRITICAL DECADE OF ACTION

Mobilising sustainability
transformation in Europe

EEAC
30th
anniversary



Image: Jussi Hellsten / Helsinki Partners

SEPTEMBER 14TH & 15TH, 2022

Helsinki, Finland

**ORGANISED BY THE FINNISH EXPERT PANEL FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT, THE FINNISH CLIMATE CHANGE PANEL & THE FINNISH
NATURE PANEL**

EEAC 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

DAY 1

Wednesday 14th of September

08:00-09:00

REGISTRATION*Venue: Paasitorni, room Siltasaari Hall & Online*

09:00-09:30

OPENING CEREMONY*Venue: Paasitorni, room Siltasaari Hall & Online***Zahra Karimy**, Reporter & Climate ActivistDr. **Katriina Siivonen**, Co-Chair, Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development**Arnau Queralt-Bassa**, Chair, EEAC Network

09:30-10:30

KEYNOTE SESSION: JOINING FORCES FOR SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATION*Venue: Paasitorni, room Siltasaari Hall & Online*

Sustainability transformation requires a systems level approach where all societal actors work in an integrated manner towards a common goal. This session explores mechanisms of joint goal setting, roadmap development, decision making, budget development and follow up. It will explore questions such as: How the economy is equipped to the transition? Who should lead the process? How to ensure that citizens are brought along? What are the roles of business and what about science? Is it possible to have sustainability transformation that is both effective as well as just and inclusive?

Speakers:**Johanna Kentala-Lehtonen**, Senior Specialist in EU Affairs, Finnish Prime Minister's Office**Olli Kärkkäinen**, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Finance of Finland**Myriam Boveda**, Team Leader for Sustainable Growth, European Commission Directorate-General for Regional & Urban PolicyDr. **Åsa Persson**, Research Director and Deputy Director, Stockholm Environment Institute
Professor **Lassi Linnanen**, Co-Chair, Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development

10:30-11:00

COFFEE BREAK

11:00-12:45

PARALLEL SESSIONS #1, #2 & #3**PARALLEL SESSION 1: SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY IN EUROPE***Venue: Paasitorni, room Juho Rissanen*

Everyone is needed in transformations towards sustainability. Without widespread sustainability agency, participatory processes, and science-based information, sustainability transformation is not possible. In this session, we focus on citizens' activity and we will explore European examples of engaging societal actors over generations into the sustainability transformation. The aim of this session is to explore best practices, share lessons learned and explore different alternatives.

Speakers:**Annika Lindblom**, Head of Unit for International and EU Affairs, Ministry of Environment of Finland
Professor **Filipe Duarte Santos**, Chair, Portuguese National Council on Environment and Sustainable Development (CNADS)Dr. **Armi Temmes**, Activist GranniesProfessor **Lasse Peltonen** Co-Founder, Chairman of the Board, Akordi & professor in Environmental Governance at the University of Eastern FinlandProfessor **Eeva Furman**, Secretary General of the Finnish Sustainable Development Committee*Moderated by Dr. Katriina Siivonen, Co-Chair, Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development*

11:00-12:45

PARALLEL SESSION 2: SUSTAINABILITY OF THE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES: ROLE OF BIODIVERSITY OFFSETTING*Venue: Paasitorni, room Siltasaari Hall & Online*

The overarching goal of the session is to present scientifically competent design of biodiversity offsets and to discuss the requirements for a just sustainability transition, for example how to adopt a principle resembling 'polluter pays' principle, how to tackle negative externalities, and how to engage private sector to the financing of the common goal of net gain of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Speakers:**Juhani Damski**, Permanent State Secretary, Ministry of Environment of FinlandDr. **Atte Moilanen**, Research Director, University of HelsinkiProfessor **Janne Kotiaho**, Chair, Finnish Nature PanelProfessor Emeritus **Markku Ollikainen**, Chair, Finnish Climate Change Panel**Ilona Lundström**, Head and Chief Director of Innovations and Business Financing Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment in Finland**Janne Peljo**, Leading Expert, Confederation of Finnish Industries**Marko Mäki-Hakola**, Forestry Director, The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners

11:00-12:45

PARALLEL SESSION 3: GREEN TRANSITION AND WORK - CONTRIBUTING SKILLS AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE*Venue: Paasitorni, room Karl Lindahl*

The effects of climate change and transitioning from a fossil-fuel based economy will cause changes in how, when and where we work. How to prepare for different climate conditions? What kind of work places are most resilient to change? The aim of this session is to learn from each other and gain fresh perspective on how to fully approach the advancement of climate resilient work.

Speakers:**Claudia Narocki**, Madrid Instituto Sindical de Trabajo Ambiente y Salud**Gabriela Dragan**, Romanian Consultative Council for Sustainable Development**Olli-Pekka Kuusela**, ETLA Economic Research**Panel discussion** with **Jukka Leskelä**, Finnish Energy, **Antti Palola**, The Finnish Confederation of Professionals STTK, **Anna-Maria Teperi**, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health and **Gabriela Dragan***Moderated by professor **Hannele Korhonen**, Finnish Climate Change Panel*13:00-14:00 **LUNCH**

14:00-15:00

KEYNOTE SESSION: EUROPE'S GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY IN COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE*Venue: Paasitorni, room Siltasaari Hall & Online*

Europe has strong and ambitious climate targets, but how to look at Europe's impact beyond its geographical boundaries? In this sessions the EU's global responsibility is brought to the forefront of necessary climate action. Questions we will look at are what is next for the EU in climate diplomacy, how to take care of negative impacts beyond our borders, and how to produce climate solutions to promote green growth.

Speakers:**Tim Gould**, Chief Energy Economist, International Energy Agency (IEA)**László Borbély**, State Councillor, the Romanian Prime Minister's Office - Department of Sustainable Development. Vice-Chairman of the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)**Sirpa Pietikäinen**, MEP for Finland15:00-15:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:30-17:15 **PARALLEL SESSIONS #4, #5 & #6**
PARALLEL SESSION 4: EMPOWERMENT IN INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE

Venue: Paasitorni, room Juho Rissanen

The core of intergenerational justice, the idea that the need of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, has been seriously compromised by escalating climate crisis, rapid loss of biodiversity and continuously growing economic inequalities. The youth climate movement, initiated in 2018 particularly by Fridays for Future school strike, was originally greeted by hopeful enthusiasm among sustainability professionals. It relied on different modes of organising and action than traditional environmental movements. However, the movement has gradually lost its momentum amidst COVID-19 pandemic which in its early phases restricted cornerstones of civic participation. In this session, we explore what are the opportunities created by youth-led and -organised movements. How could they scale up further and influence the generation in power while simultaneously avoiding polarisation against more conservative fragments of societal fabric? **The session is organised in collaboration with WWF Youth and Youth Agenda 2030.**

Speakers:

Alli Pylkkö, Finnish Youth Delegate for Nature and Biodiversity

Hanna Höijer, Member, Youth Agenda2030

Anni Turunen, Researcher, Finnish Environment Institute

Joel Lindqvist, Extinction Rebellion Finland

Eevastiina Talvisto, Jenna Jokela and Sanna Saarinen, WWF Youth

*Moderated by professor **Lassi Linnanen**, Co-Chair, Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development*

15:30-17:15 **PARALLEL SESSION 5: GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY – DECISIONS MADE IN EUROPE AFFECT BIODIVERSITY GLOBALLY**

Venue: Paasitorni, room Karl Lindahl

It has become widely accepted that biodiversity is being lost at an alarming rate, with up to a million species facing elevated risk of extinction during the next decades – and the challenge is global. Besides of threatening natural species, communities and ecosystems, biodiversity loss is also undermining the economy, equity, food security, health, safety and well-being of the human society by severely affecting the ecosystem services provided by nature. Consequently, e.g. the World Economic Forum rated biodiversity loss among the most severe risks on a global scale over the next 10 years. Consumption and everyday life in European Union are causing biodiversity loss all over the world. This session will concentrate on global responsibility. What is global responsibility, and do we already have good tools for estimating our biodiversity impact globally?

Speakers:

Professor **Ilari Sääksjärvi**, Vice-Chair, Finnish Nature Panel

Dr. **Ville Uusitalo**, Associate Professor in Sustainability Science, LUT University

Henna Rouhiainen, Project Researcher, Biodiversity Unit, University of Turku

Dr. **Ayu Pratiwi**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Lecturer in Economic Geography, University of Turku

Dr. **Anne Quarshie**, Post-doctoral researcher at the School of Business and Management, LUT University

15:30-17:15 **PARALLEL SESSION 6: ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE UNDER TRANSBOUNDARY CLIMATE RISKS**

Venue: Paasitorni, room Siltasaari Hall

The impacts of climate change outside of Europe will have tangible effects on European countries. International trade will be affected and geopolitics shift due to changing environments. What kind of climate impacts should we be prepared for? Do we know how the related transboundary risks and opportunities will affect Europe? In this session we will discuss what kinds of impact Europe may face and how to prepare for this with the EU Adaptation Strategy and national plans. The aim is to bring forward issues which are not yet in focus in national adaptation plans and to provide concrete examples on how to improve preparedness.

Speakers:

Professor **Tim Carter**, Finnish Environment Institute Syke

Panel discussion with professor **Filipe Duarte Santos** CNADS, **Helen Sooväli-Sepping** Tallinn University and **Tim Carter**

*Moderated by professor **Sirkku Juhola** Finnish Climate Change Panel*

EEAC 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

DAY 1

Wednesday 14th of September

18:00-19:00 RECEPTION AT THE HELSINKI CITY HALL

Invitation only

Speakers:

Mayor of Helsinki, Juhana Vartiainen

19:30-22:00 DINNER CELEBRATION

Invitation only



Image: Jussi Hellsten / Helsinki Partners

08:00-09:00

REGISTRATION*Venue: Paasitorni, room Siltasaari Hall & Online*

09:00-09:30

HIGH LEVEL OPENING*Venue: Paasitorni, room Siltasaari Hall & Online*Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Finland, **Maria Ohisalo**Professor **Paula Eerola**, President, Academy of Finland

09:30-11:00

KEYNOTE SESSION: MID-TERM POLICY ACTIONS NEEDED AGAINST BIODIVERSITY CRISIS*Venue: Paasitorni, room Siltasaari Hall & Online*

This session will review previous successful policy actions to halt biodiversity loss and especially what type of concrete actions are needed now. We will discuss how those could be addressed and what are the most difficult stumbling blocks for the change from different viewpoints.

Speakers:

Professor **Josef Settele**, Member of the German Advisory Council on Environment (SRU) & Co-chair of the previous IPBES Global Assessment Report

Professor **Janne Kotiaho**, Chair, Finnish Nature Panel

Patrick Child, Deputy-Director General, European Commission Directorate-General for Environment

Saara-Sofia Sirén, Member of the Finnish Parliament

Tarja Haaranen, Director General of Department of the Natural Environment, Ministry of Environment of Finland

11:00-11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:30-13:15

PARALLEL SESSIONS #7, #8 & #9**PARALLEL SESSION 7: SYSTEMS LEVEL APPROACH TO FOOD, BIODIVERSITY AND LAND USE CHALLENGE***Venue: Paasitorni, room Siltasaari Hall*

In this session, we explore some good examples of how actions against biodiversity loss as a part of sustainability transformation can be advanced in the food system. The question combines 1) the impact of food production on the condition of land and water areas, soils and climate, 2) the impact of healthy, socially fair, secure and sustainable diets on wellbeing of humans and ecosystems, and 3) food industry and supply chains promoting biodiversity. This will be done through questions such as: What land use methods can be used to provide biodiversity and build a more sustainable food system? What kinds of policy measures are needed to reverse the current path of continuous biodiversity loss from the point of view of the food system? How can industrial food production strengthen biodiversity? With what kind of knowledge and activities can public and private kitchens support biodiversity?

Speakers:

Peter Schmidt, President of the EESC Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (NAT)

Dr. **Hannah Janetschek**, German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)

Laura Höijer, Chairman of the Board, Co-founder, Baltic Sea Action Group

Dr. **Minna Kaljonen**, Research professor, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)

Professor **Heikki Lehtonen**, Research Professor, Natural Resources Institute Finland, tbc

*Moderated by adjunct professor, **Katriina Soini**, Coordinator, Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development & Principal Scientist at Natural Resources Institute*

11:30-13:15

PARALLEL SESSION 8: EDUCATING THE YOUNG GENERATIONS IS NOT ENOUGH: THE CHALLENGE OF AWAKENING THE CIVIL SOCIETY INTO ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENSHIP**Venue:** *Paasitorni, room 302-303*

Responsibility for environmental citizenship education is typically placed on schools, with the idea that a fundamental change can be attained by educating new generations into responsible societal actors for the environment. This endeavor involves several misconceptions: First, that environmental challenges can be solved in the future, while many of them are pressing now and will worsen notably if adequate measures are not taken immediately; Second, that new generations should carry the heaviest burden for solving the problems created by previous generations, in an increasingly unequal world; Third, that school education will automatically turn children and young people into environmental citizens with certain kinds of political identities, attitudes and agencies; Fourth, that all children and young people have similar opportunities to act in environmental crises as citizens. Bearing these concerns in mind, the session will focus on the challenge of educating the intergenerational civil society, into critical environmental citizenship that is needed for responding to the pressing challenges.

Speakers:Dr. **Kirsi Pauliina Kallio**, Vice-Chair, Finnish Nature Panel**Essi Aarnio-Linnavuori**, University Lecturer, Tampere University**Hanna Seimola**, Programme Director, WWF Finland**Satu Jovero**, Environmental Education Specialist, SYKLI Environmental School of Finland**Antto Luhtavaara**, PlanWe Think-and-Do-Tank

11:30-13:15

PARALLEL SESSION 9: FORESTS AND DEFORESTATION - LINKS BETWEEN CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY**Venue:** *Paasitorni, room Juho Rissanen*

We know that improving biodiversity also helps to combat climate change. However the reverse is not always true - all climate action isn't necessarily beneficial towards advancing biodiversity. In this session we will look at how can we make sure biodiversity and climate action are simultaneously put forward with equal emphasis. We will hear from three speakers bringing different perspectives on how to make the most of climate and biodiversity cobenefits and avoid situations where there are risks. The aim of this session is to learn from other countries and give food for thought on how to analyse, implement and promote pro-biodiversity forest climate policies.

Speakers:Professor Emeritus **Markku Kanninen**, University of HelsinkiProfessor **Raisa Mäkipää**, Natural Resources Institute FinlandDr **Matti Hyrynen**, Natural Resources Institute Finland*Moderated by Professor **Jyri Seppälä**, Finnish Climate Change Panel*

13:15-14:30

LUNCH

14:30-15:30

CLOSING CEREMONY**CRITICAL DECADE OF ACTION: MOBILISING SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATION IN EUROPE****Venue:** *Paasitorni, room Siltasaari Hall & Online***Programme:****Annika Valkotammi, Elina Ruha** and **Ida Aulaskoski**, Otaniemi High School Students KeTut (Sustainable Futures group)Music performance by **VIMMA**

13:15-14:30

COFFEE BREAK

EEAC 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

DAY 2

Thursday 15th of September

16:00-18:30

OPTIONAL TRIP TO MAGPIE ISLAND

Organised in collaboration with the City of Helsinki

DAY 3

Friday 16th of September

09:30-12:00

EEAC Annual Plenary Session

Invitation only

FUTHER INFORMATION:

<https://eeac.eu/annual-conferentions/30th-eeac-annual-conference-helsinki-14-15-september-2022/>

CONTACT:

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