

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**

08:00-09:00 REGISTRATION & MORNING COFFEE

Venue: Helsinki & Online

09:00-09:30 HIGH LEVEL OPENING

Venue: Helsinki & Online

Finnish Prime Minister, **Sanna Marin**, tbc

Arnau Queralt-Bassa, Chair, EEAC Network

09:30-10:30 KEYNOTE SESSION: JOINING FORCES FOR SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATION

Venue: Helsinki & 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 get 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:

Joakim Strand, Member of the Finnish Parliament & Chairperson, Committee for the Future in the Parliament of Finland

Juha Majanen, Permanent State Secretary, Ministry of Finance of Finland, tbc

Myriam Boveda, Team Leader for Sustainable Growth, European Commission Directorate-General for Regional & Urban Policy

Dr. **Åsa Persson**, Research Director and Deputy Director, Stockholm Environment Institute

Professor **Eeva Furman**, 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: Helsinki

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 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. **Mikko Rask**, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Policy and Principal Investigator at the Consumer Society Research Centre, University of Helsinki, tbc

Professor **Lasse Peltonen** Co-Founder, Chairman of the Board, Akordi & professor in environmental governance at the University of Eastern Finland, tbc

11:00-12:45 PARALLEL SESSIONS #1, #2 & #3**PARALLEL SESSION 2: SUSTAINABILITY OF THE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES: ROLE OF BIODIVERSITY OFFSETTING**

Venue: Helsinki

Biodiversity offsetting is the practice of compensating ecological losses caused by any socio-economic activity or development by producing ecological gains with ecosystem restoration, management or protection elsewhere. The overarching goal of the discussion is to present scientifically competent design of offsets and explore the requirements for a just sustainability transition towards no net loss and net gain of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Speakers:

Juhani Damski, Permanent State Secretary, Ministry of Environment of Finland

Husu Kallio, Permanent State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, tbc

Raimo Luoma, Permanent State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, tbc

Dr. **Atte Moilanen**, Research Director, University of Helsinki

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

Professor Emeritus **Markku Ollikainen**, Chair, Finnish Climate Change Panel

11:00-12:45**PARALLEL SESSION 3: GREEN TRANSITION AND WORK - CONTRIBUTING SKILLS AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Venue: Helsinki

12:45-14:00**LUNCH****14:00-15:00****KEYNOTE SESSION: JOINING FORCES FOR SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATION**

Venue: Helsinki & 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:

Professor Emeritus **Markku Ollikainen**, chair, Finnish Climate Change Panel

High-level speakers from the EU and academia

15:00-15:30**COFFEE BREAK**

Wednesday 14th of September

15:30-17:15 PARALLEL SESSIONS #4, #5 & #6

PARALLEL SESSION 4: EMPOWERMENT IN INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE

Venue: Helsinki

The core of intergenerational justice, the idea that the needs 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?

Organised in collaboration with WWF Youth.

Speakers:

Emma Sairanen, representative in the Finnish delegation to the UN Convention of Biological Diversity

15:30-17:15

PARALLEL SESSION 5: GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY – DECISIONS MADE IN EUROPE AFFECT BIODIVERSITY GLOBALLY

Venue: Helsinki

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 the most severe risks on a global scale over the next 10 years.

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: Helsinki

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**, moderated by Sirkku Juhola.

Panel discussion with climate advisory council members and adaptation experts

EEAC 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Wednesday 14th of September

15:30-17:15 RECEPTION AT THE HELSINKI CITY HALL
Invitation only

Speakers:

Mayor of Helsinki, Juhana Vartiainen

19:30-21:30 DINNER CELEBRATION
Invitation only



Image: Jussi Hellsten / Helsinki Partners

08:00-09:00 REGISTRATION & MORNING COFFEE

Venue: Helsinki & Online

09:00-09:30 HIGH LEVEL OPENING

Venue: Helsinki & Online

Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Finland, **Maria Ohisalo**

09:30-11:00 KEYNOTE SESSION: JOINING FORCES FOR SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATION

Venue: Helsinki & 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

Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director General, European Commission Directorate-General for Environment, tbc

Representative from the Parliament of Finland, tbc

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: Helsinki

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:

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

Representative from the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)

Saara Kankaanrinta, Chairman of the Board, Co-founder, Baltic Sea Action Group

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

Dr. **Guy Pe'er**, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) & German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, tbc

11:30-13:15 PARALLEL SESSIONS #7, #8 & #9**PARALLEL SESSION 8: EDUCATING THE YOUNG GENERATIONS IS NOT ENOUGH: THE CHALLENGE OF AWAKENING THE CIVIL SOCIETY INTO ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENSHIP**

Venue: Helsinki

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
Minister of Education of Finland, **Li Andersson**, tbc

11:30-13:15 PARALLEL SESSION 9: FORESTS AND DEFORESTATION - LINKS BETWEEN CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY

Venue: Helsinki

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 Helsinki

13:15-14:30 LUNCH**14:30-16:00 CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE****CRITICAL DECADE OF ACTION: MOBILISING SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATION IN EUROPE**

Venue: House of Estates & Online

EEAC 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Thursday 15th of September

September
15, evening:

OPTIONAL TRIP TO HARAKKASAARI
Organised in collaboration with Helsinki City

September
16, morning:

EEAC Annual Plenary Session
Invitation only

REGISTER NOW:

<https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/eeac2022>

FUTHER INFORMATION:

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

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