

INtegrated Spatial Planning, land use and soil management Research ActiON:

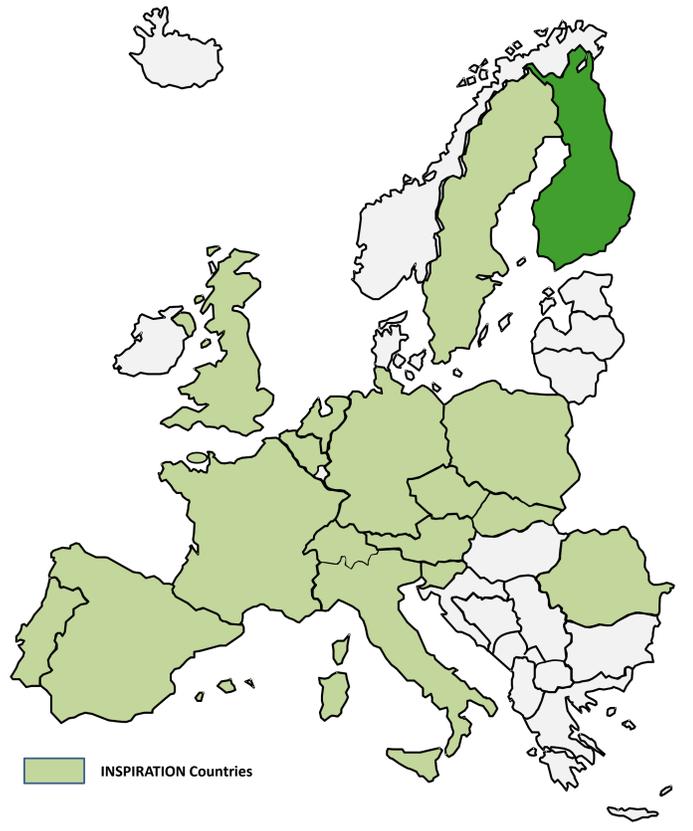
National results: FINLAND

Societal challenges and needs

- In Finland, most often emphasized societal challenges requiring attention included:
- Resource efficiency and circular economy concerning both raw materials and land areas
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation to change
 - Healthy living environment and secure and sustainable infrastructure
 - Biodiversity, green infrastructure and ecosystem services

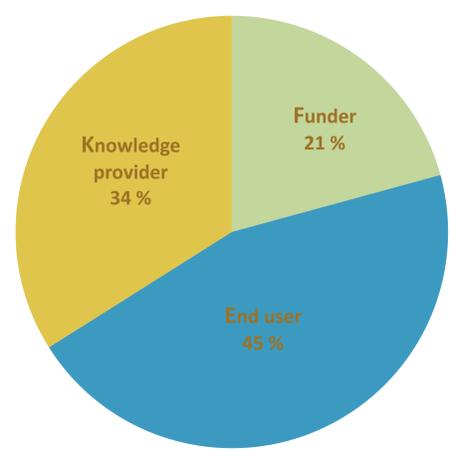
Topics / research needs to be included in the SRA

- Theme A: Data gathering, analysis and assessment methods**
- FI-1 Assessing the impacts of different land uses and climate change on the quality and quantity of surface waters and groundwaters
 - FI-2 Development of reliable sampling and analysis methods
 - FI-3 Gathering and synthesizing data on the state of soils and waters for policy formulation
- Theme B: Soil and water ecosystem functions**
- FI-4 Interactions, changes and resilience of biogeochemical cycles in soil-water-sediment system
 - FI-5 Soil carbon dynamics
 - FI-6 Changes and challenges in forests and mires
 - FI-7 Soil-related preconditions for sustainable intensification of food production
 - FI-8 Assessment of soil ecosystem services and biodiversity
- Theme C: Circular economy and sustainable management of soils and waters**
- FI-9 Innovative ways of recycling materials and re-using land areas
 - FI-10 Risk management and sustainable remediation of soils and groundwater
- Theme D: Sustainable urbanisation and infrastructure development**
- FI-11 Sustainable urbanisation and healthy living environments
 - FI-12 Sustainable infrastructure development and maintenance
- Theme E: Integrative land use policies and planning**
- FI-13 Integration of different land uses
 - FI-14 Development of land use policies and planning methods
 - FI-15 Social acceptance and environmental regulation
- Cross-cutting theme F: Climate change adaptation**
- FI-16 Climate change adaptation – capabilities in Nordic conditions



Background of Finnish Key Stakeholders

- In total, 26 experts were interviewed in 14 interviews.
- 32 experts participated in the national workshop in Helsinki on 19th–20th Nov. 2015.
- Distribution of participating experts:



Experiences regarding the connection of science to policy and practice

- Knowledge end users need to receive the essential knowledge in a concise and easily understandable form. They also need help in assessing the quality of the available information.
- Knowledge users hope that research findings and datasets would be gathered under a common web portal and new communication channels would be used more often.
- Illustrative examples of good practices, maps, graphs and other visual material are found useful in communicating results to decision-making in a compact form.
- Synthesising research findings for decision-making and communicating about the synthesis appeared as a key issue. Relevant and easily applicable knowledge like policy briefs and interpreted scientific data is needed.
- Researchers are hoped to communicate more actively about most recent and relevant research findings and consider the usability of the findings more extensively.

National and transnational funding schemes

- The alignment and interfaces of different funding systems should be considered carefully.
- There is a need for instruments through which it is possible to merge public and private funding and that could serve also the research needs of small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Soil and land as a resource was thought to be a partly neglected topic in large scale research agendas.
- Many experts expressed worries over the funding of basic research, monitoring and maintenance of data pools.
- Synthesis of existing data and integrated approaches combining different fields of expertise deserve more attention.

Key messages from Finland:

- Research activities should concentrate on increasing understanding of ecosystem functions and services, resource efficiency and urbanisation development in order to promote circular economy and minimise the impacts of natural resources use.
- Integrative and cross-disciplinary approaches are needed to tackle complex challenges and manage risks in the changing environment.
- Soils, waters and land uses differ greatly within Europe. Some research challenges concentrate only on certain parts of Europe, but in those areas they may have crucial importance, which needs to be considered in the SRA.

