

“TRAVELLAB- A new participatory research method”

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FACESMAP

- Among the **objectives** of the action were:
 - To understand local contexts
 - To build a shared understanding
 - To link experiences in successive meetings

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- Our topics of study (forest ownership changes, forest management) are **wicked problems**.
- **Transdisciplinary methods** are especially appropriate when searching for solutions for wicked problems. This type of research is **problem or solution based**. It is interdisciplinary + stakeholder involvement
- **Social learning** - participation, collective action, and decision making => fundamental to coping with complexity and uncertainty
- *When scientists do research in collaboration with local experts, the resulting knowledge can be **more accurate and more policy relevant** (Fortmann & Ballard, 2011).*

What does European policy say about stakeholder engagement

- **New EU Forest Strategy 2013**

“The Commission and Member States, within their respective competences, will ensure the strategy’s implementation and follow-up, paying particular attention to **stakeholder involvement.**” pp 16.

**How do we do it with a
large group of people?**

~ 50 participants

The TRAVELLAB!!!!!!

- = joint learning processes from **facilitated stakeholder interactions**, during the Working Group meetings, and particularly during the field visits
- = 'lab' because it is about learning
- = 'travellab' because it is about **learning while we travel** to visit each other's realities

Training School in Solsona



Methods for interaction

- **Field visits** and interaction with forest owners *on site* (asking questions and listening)



Methods for interaction

- **Carousel** – Interaction with a wider range of stakeholders (asking questions and listening)



Examples of pre-formulated questions

(WG1 – Forest ownership changes)

- 1.) (Types of Ownership) **What** do you consider a traditional forest owner?/And what do you consider a non-traditional forest owner?
- 2.) (Challenges, Problems) In your opinion, **what** are the biggest challenges that /you as a forest owner/ forest owners in your region, face?
- 3.) (Management) **How** is forest currently managed in this region?
- 4.) (Future) **Who** do you see owning your land in the future? And how will it be managed?

Data collection in the field visits

- Notetaking



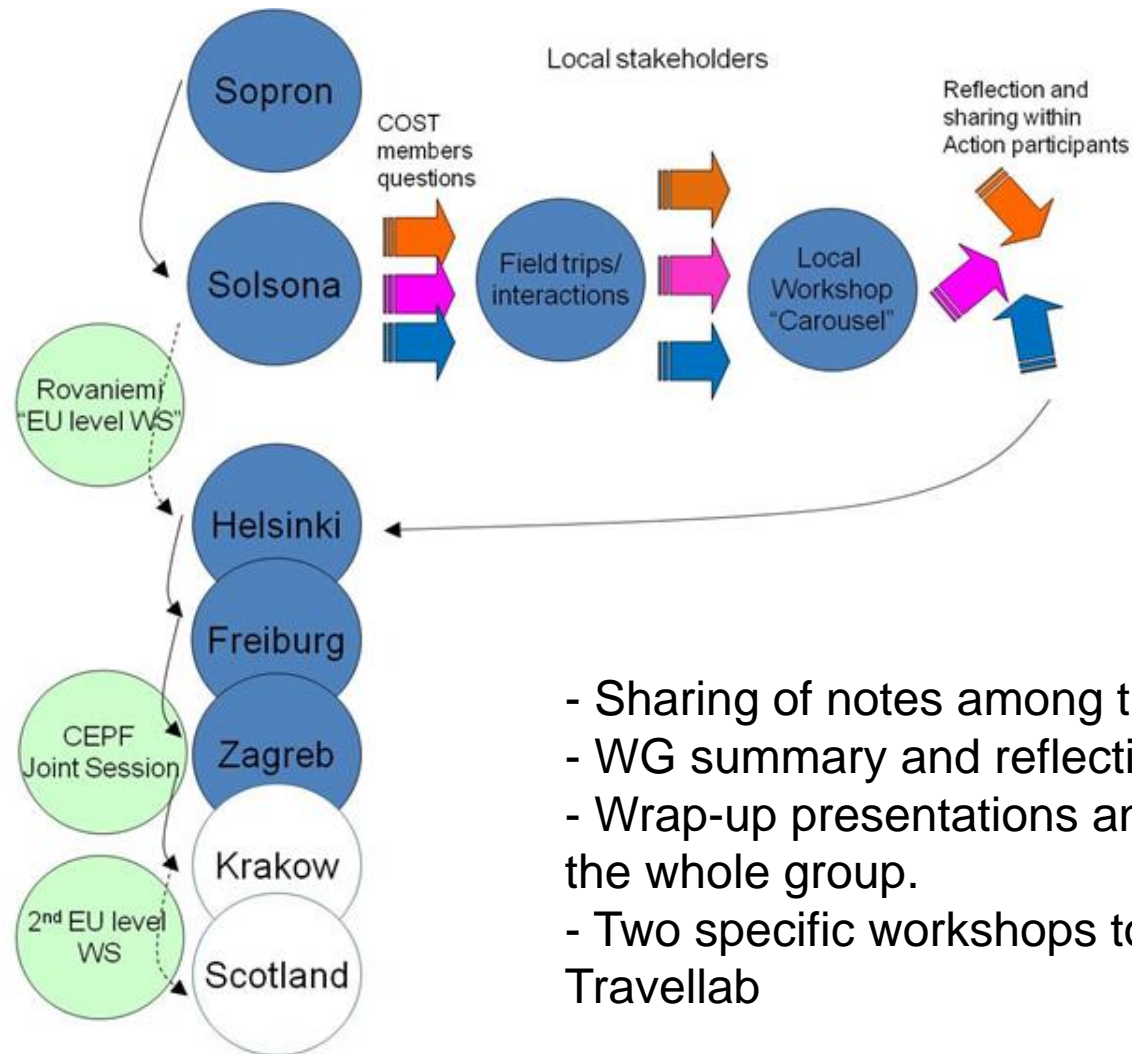
Data collection in the carousel

- Problems: wind & pests & fires pass ^{in circles}
- Private owners do not participate in designing FRP, but to comment afterwards and comment noted even.
- Strong technocracy;
- > State intervenes with active forest owners; do not "oblige" forest owners to be active; ^{ways of seeing it;}
- Future generations are taken into account.
- Community forest owners are perceived more knowledgeable than private forest owners.
- All forest operations are done by private companies/contractors;
- limited advisory system;
- Harvest less than FRP targets;

Our interaction with forest owners (e.g. Inverness, Scotland)

- **Video here** – showing some parts that link to topics we analysed more in depth in the subgroups.

The TRAVELLAB learning process



- Sharing of notes among the group
- WG summary and reflection,
- Wrap-up presentations and reflections to the whole group.
- Two specific workshops to reflect on the Travellab

What did we learn from TRAVELLAB?

Themes	Quotes from participants' notes
Local context	<p><i>The good discussion about the history and management plan between the group, owner and the advisory service representative.</i></p> <p><i>"Welcome words, while introducing the region, people listening carefully."</i></p> <p><i>"Information of stakeholders was good structured – from concrete cutting site, management area and Finland in general."</i></p>
Silviculture issues	<p><i>"Mainly clarifying questions to understand specifics of thinning approach, finding and convincing forest owners to join project, cooperation."</i></p> <p><i>"First questions were related silviculture and forest management (important, but not related to main task)..."</i></p>
Forest owners types and values	<p><i>"...this forest owner says that money is not so important, but the very good and revealing question about three wishes showed that monetary basics are very important."</i></p> <p><i>"The sensitive issue of forester's professional dignity evokes attention again."</i></p>
New forest management approaches	<p><i>"Very interested and attentive audience when explaining the local forest advising practices."</i></p> <p><i>"Also issues related to the management plan were discussed."</i></p> <p><i>"Absent forest owners hire more the contractors because they need someone to do the work for them."</i></p>
Forest policies	<p><i>"Main points of interests and driving forces of Croatian Private Forests were restitution process and green tax and these two topics were most interesting for the group."</i></p> <p><i>"Many questions about FMP's role and degree of freedom for management activities. (Mainly to larger owner, the owner with the small estate got fewer questions)."</i></p>

What did we think of Travellab?(2)

- More structured approach...helps group to have joint focus”
- “travellab is the most important part of such a meeting”
- ...”for some of the participants it is only boring excursion”
- “We are so different that it is better to embrace that rather than to keep to a limited and quackery developed frame”

What did we think of Travellab? (7)

- “The same setting enabled exploration: forced over-controlled & at times beaten by the clock”
- “Constructive process: Framing, field, intermediaries”
- “People opened up in such a small group”
- “Repeated interaction has value”
- “A distinct improvement compared to other COST Actions”

What do we think now

Is the knowledge and experiences gained with TRAVELLAB helpful in the development transdisciplinary research in the future?

As emphasised by the new Forest Strategy (for example)!

THANK YOU!

