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University / School Aalto University
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Title of the project Karelian landscapes, the evolution of Karelia: promotion and preservation of cultural landscape dimension in Finnish-Russian Karelia through Cultural Tourism
Authors Bergpob Viriyaroj, (Alina Boris, Elina Haapaluoma, Johanna Himberg, Lotta Nylund)





# PERFORMATIVE NATURE

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#### **TECHNICAL DOSSIER**

Title of the project Karelian landscapes, the evolution of Karelia

Authors Bergpob Viriyaroj, (Alina Boris, Elina Haapaluoma, Johanna Himberg, Lotta Nylund)

Title of the course Management and Conservation of Cultural Landscape

Academic year 2016

Teaching Staff Juanjo Galan

Department/Section/Program of belonging Department of Landscape Architecture

University/School Aalto University

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

The first objective was to understand the evolution of the cultural dimension of the Karelian-landscape. The methodology of the project was based on studying the differences and similarities of places and regions that shared the same nature and cultural background but that took at some point diverging paths. Therefore the project was located in two places with similar natural and cultural substrata but at the same time, with different recent stories, with distinct socio-demographic and economic trajectories, with contrasting planning systems.

Karelia is a region in Finland with long history and its own cultural identity. Karelia has been through many regimes, but most significantly, when it was divided and ceded to Soviet Union. From then on, the divided landscape diverged by drastic transformation of human actions with contrasting regimes.

The second part involve the development of guidelines and recommendations for the protection and/or protection of cultural values in the landscape. This part took into consideration of several landscape dimensions, e.g. the physicality of the landscape, its cultural identity and its evolution.

For further information

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# Landscape through time

**Grand Duchy** 

The predecessor state

**Independent Finland** 

with Karelia

1917-1940 Finland become an

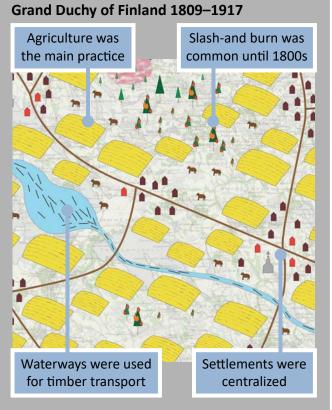
Union

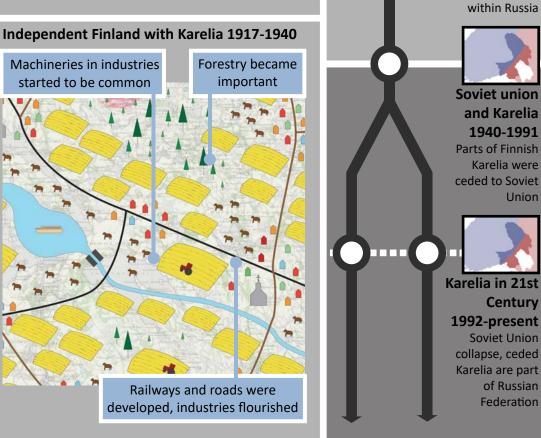
independent nation,

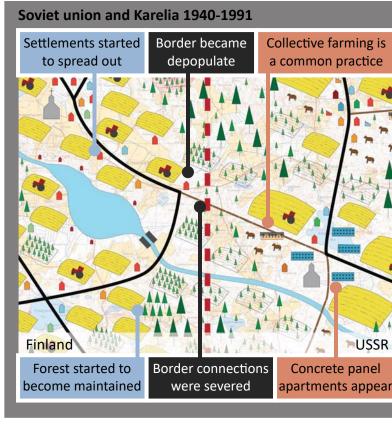
ending its autonomy

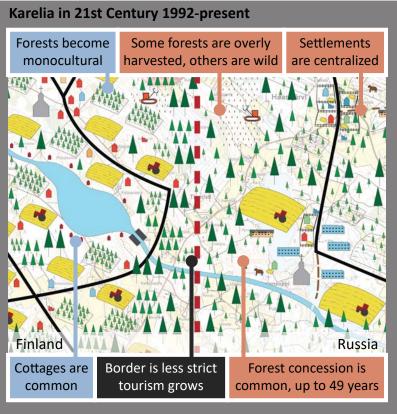
of modern Finland, is part of the Russian Empire

of Finland 1809-1917



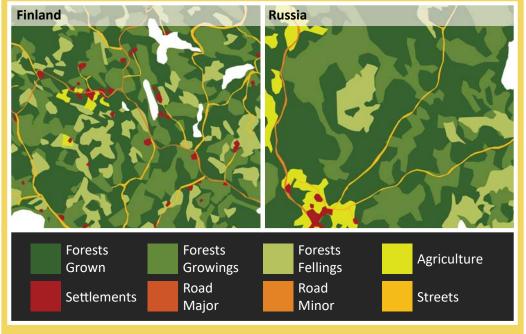






# Life between the border

**Finland** Russia 42 311.0 \$ GDP 4.6 more > 9 092,6\$ 3 384 €/month Average monthly earnings 5.8 more > 577 €/month 81 years Life expectancy 11 years more 70 years 1 699 €/month An average old-age pension 7.5 more >



### Economy

- Have strong economy
- Collaborations of companies and locals
- Tight connection among entrepreneur
- Agricultural and Forestry goods are for export and regional uses

#### Culture

- Nature are perceived as culture
- Agriculture and forest are part of culture
- Preservation of heritages are deliberate
- Tourism integrated to lifestyles

#### Nature

- Less biodiverse

direction

- The usage pattern is homogenous
- Nature are mostly touched by human
- Natural legislation have a preservation

**Conclusion - Locality, Authenticity** and Preservation

#### **Economy**

- Investor based economy
- Companies employ locals
- Agricultural and forestry goods are for household or regional use

226 €/month

- Tourism is a new economy drive

#### Culture

- Nature are perceived as resources
- Agriculture and forest are sustenances
- Regional culture have little traces left
- Tourism as business

#### **Nature**

- Biodiverse
- Usage are in zones
- Nature are either wild or over-harvested
- Natural legislation at it first step in improvement process

**Conclusion - Investment, Revitalization** and Development

# **Evolution:**

The timeframe of the study started with 1900s, when Karelia belongs to the Grand Duchy of Finland, an autonomous part of the Russian Empire.

Karelia had stong culture identity, dates back to 800s. Its golden era was in the 1200s when the Karelian culture was spread from east to the western coast of Finland. Karelian region was versatile landscape with rich vegetation and wildlife, its land considered having the best oil in Finland. Along with the modernisation, the natural landscape has shifted toward forest industry, becasue of its increase in value. The most drastic change to Karelian landscpae is however, after 1940 when part of Karelia was ceded to Soviet Union. The Soviet Regime has create a great diverge of the people lifestyle in Karelia, which in turn greatly affected Karelian landscape. The collapse of Soviet Union pushed the different of the landscape even further. When this project was conducted in 2016, the border between Russia and Finland has the greatest GDP gap between borders in the world. The drastic difference of economy between borders can be both the result and cause of policies, which dictate the life of people and how they manage and maintain landscape.



# **Regional Analysis**

Public Participation Plan 1

**Detecting common issues among stakeholders:** 

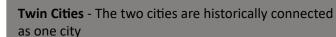
Authorities - NGO - Investors - Locals - Tourists



# **Regional Strategy**



# **Cultural Tourism:**



Crossborder Gateway - With less than 10 km distance between two cities they served as suitable crossborder

Pilot/Hub Cities: Imatra - Svetogorsk

**Vouksi River** - Connected with natural non-man-made element, the Vouksi river

## **Identified Regional Issues:**











## **Finland**

Environmentalism, Culturalism

Conserved Sites and Heritage

RESILIENCE

# Russia

Modernisation

Development of **Recreation Zones** 

LIFE QUALITY



LIFESTYLES

LANDSCAPE

VALUES

A problem of harsh living quality is a major obstacle for improvement of the cultural dimension in Russian Karelia landscape, which is well managed in Finland and might become a role-model



Standardization of landscape in Finland might become a potential threat to its resilience; bonding with the diverse landscape on Russian side might prevent situation from worsening

#### **FINLAND**





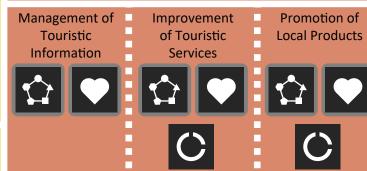
- A tool to Promote and Conservation of Cultural
- It can affect urban heritage, industrial heritage agriculture heritage, natural heritage

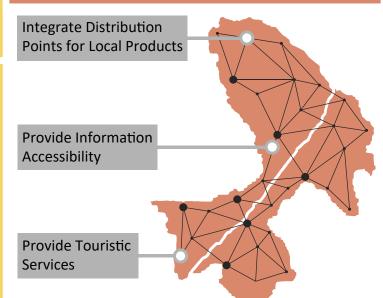






- Cultural Tourism can increase the value of Cultural Landscape dimensions, thus initiated local interest to promote and conserved Cultural Landscape dimensions
- Cultural Tourism can be operate cross border reunite Karelian Cultural Landscape dimensions between Finnish and Russian sides
- Cultural Tourism can be operate in variety of scales, provide equal share of opportunity to each level of stakeholders





# **Local Analysis**



**Detecting common values among stakeholders:** Authorities - NGO - Investors - Locals - Tourists

### **Identified Local Values:**



**Imatra tourism** 

information Svetogorsk tourism

 Each service operates separately Well-established touristic services





**Imatra** 

Each site provides sufficient amount of touristic

- Lack of tourist information and services - Unrealized touristic potential of many sites

Unoccupied buildings as potential assets

**ENDANGERED** 





Svetogorsk

REPRESENTATIVE

## **Imatra**

**INFORMATION NODES:** 

Nodes are placed in

strategic location and

provide information and

cultural landscape sites

Each Landscape site act

as an Information Nodes

SITE NETWORK:

guidelines concerning the

**Local Strategy** 



Integrate to Existing **Imatra Services** 

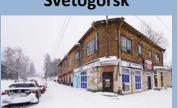
**Information Boards** 



**Karelian Product Shelves** 

# **Svetogorsk**

local Karelian products



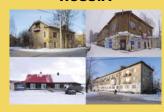
Repurpose of **Abandoned Building** 

**Tourist Information Points** 



**Karelian Product Stores** 

## **RUSSIA**



# **Proposals:**

Cultural Tourism is the chosen tools for promotion and preservation of cultural landscape dimensions in Karelia. Cultural Tousim is the fitting tool in the context of economy

and politics between borders. it is also an established tool that has already form connections between locals in both side of the borders. In this project focusing on the cultural aspect in tourism with strategic planning, can divert attentions to cultural landscape dimensions of Karelia, promoting and preserving them as a result.

The working area of this project is considerably large, spanning through several cities, towns and villages. Therefore, this management plan need to consider its scale of operation, in order to have effective impacts. The scales in this project are considered are Regional and Local scales.



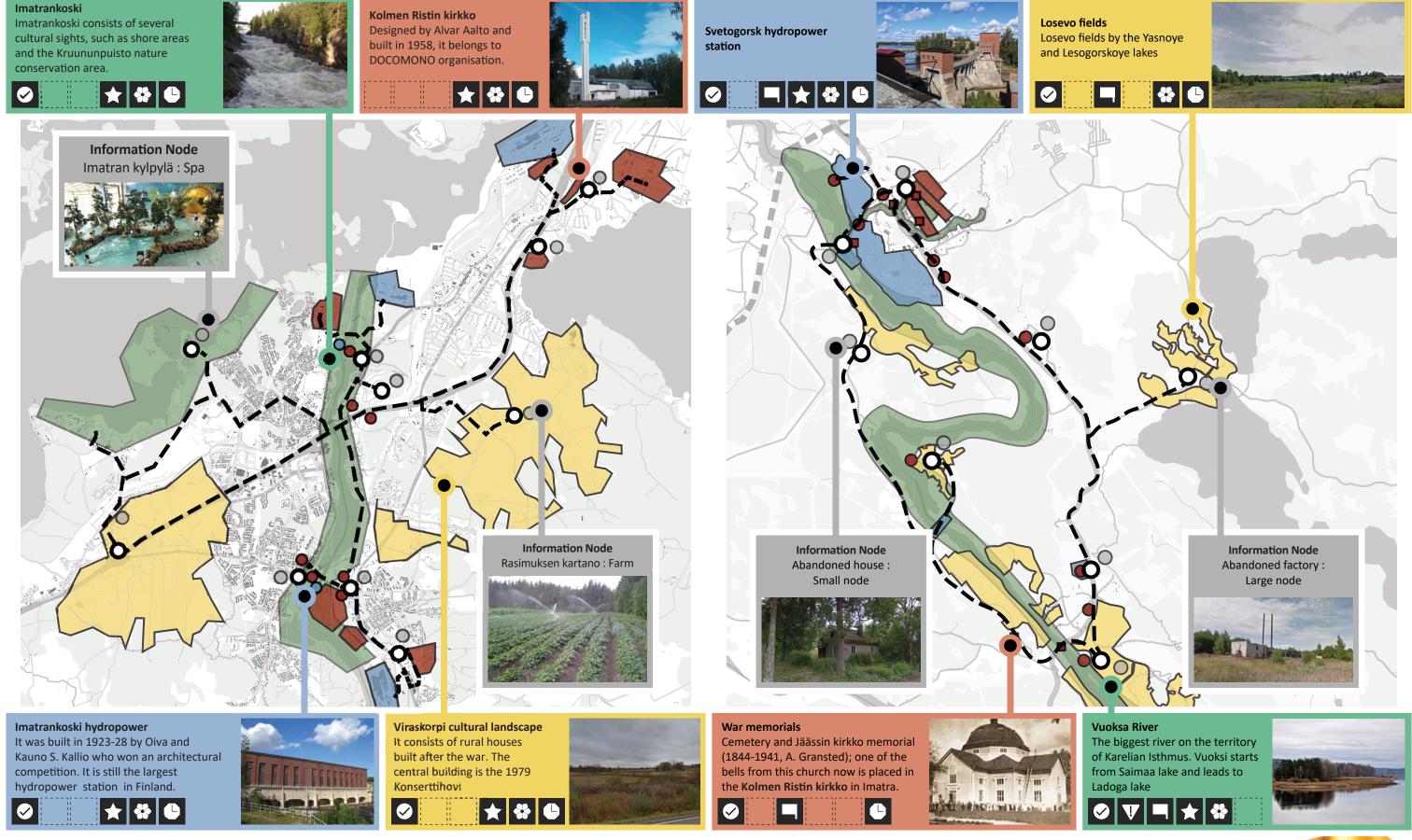
Regional scale will focus on development and improvement of connections and networks of landscape.

Local scale will focus on development and improvement of each units and landscape sites









# **Cultural Tourism Map:**

Cultural Tourism Map will be design to provide infromation for visitors. These map will create a Network of cultural touristic landscapes in each area in Karelia. These Networks of Information for cultural landscape sites will create value for less well-known sites, by connecting them with the more commonly visited sites. The selection of cultural landscape sites will be determined by pre-defined criteria, which will be catagorized based on their landscape dimensions. Catagories will be develop from the local values, which gather through research and participation plans. They will also dictate how the landscape sites should be maintain.

Apart from the touristic landscape sites, this infomation network can promote Karelian products. Karelian products are one of the importants representative of Karelian culture, which can be a valuable aspect for cultural tourism. Information Nodes can be create and act as a distribution channel for Karelian products. In each area of Karelia, the local strategy might be differ. For the pilot case, Imatra has well-established touristic services and the Information Netork can be intergrated from them. In Svetogorsk however, the touristic services are still lacking, but they have a lot of abandoned buildings, which can be used as Information Nodes.

