**TECHNICAL DOSSIER**

**Title of the project:** Karelian landscapes, the evolution of Karelia  
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**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.

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Karelia had strong 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, because of its increase in value. The most drastic change to Karelian landscape 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

Identified Regional Issues:
- Utility
- Life Quality
- Equality
- Resilience
- Maintenance

Regional Strategy

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

Pilot/Hub Cities: Imatra - Svetogorsk
Twin Cities - The two cities are historically connected as one city
Crossborder Gateway - With less than 10 km distance between two cities they served as suitable crossborder gateway
Vouksi River - Connected with natural non-man-made element, the Vouksi river

Local Strategy

Local Analysis

Public Participation Plan 2
Detecting common values among stakeholders:
Authorities - NGO - Investors - Locals - Tourists

Identified Local Values:
- AUTHENTICITY
- ENDANGERED
- REPRESENTATIVE
- EXCEPTIONAL
- VITALITY
- HISTORIC

Local Analysis

Proposals:
Cultural Tourism is the chosen tool for promotion and preservation of cultural landscape dimensions in Karelia. Cultural Tourism 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.

Scales:
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.
Imatrankoski consists of several cultural sights, such as shore areas and the Kruununpuisto nature conservation area.

Kolmen Ristin kirkko
Designed by Alvar Aalto and built in 1958, it belongs to DOCOMOMO organisation.

Losevo fields
Losevo fields by the Yasnoye and Lesogorskoye lakes

Imatrankoski hydropower
It was built in 1923-28 by Oiva and Kauno S. Kallio who won an architectural competition. It is still the largest hydropower station in Finland.

Svetogorsk hydropower station

Losevo fields

War memorials
Cemetery and Jäässin kirkko memorial (1844-1941, A. Gransted); one of the bells from this church now is placed in the Kolmen Ristin kirkko in Imatra.

Vuoksa River
The biggest river on the territory of Karelian Isthmus. Vuoksi starts from Saimaa lake and leads to Ladoga lake.

Cultural Tourism Map:

Cultural Tourism Map will be design to provide information 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 categorized based on their landscape dimensions. Categories will be developed from the local values, which gather through research and participation plans. They will also dictate how the landscape sites should be maintained.

Apart from the touristic landscape sites, this information network can promote Karelian products. Karelian products are one of the important representatives of Karelian culture, which can be a valuable aspect for cultural tourism. Information Nodes can be created and act as a distribution channel for Karelian products. In each area of Karelia, the local strategy might be different. For the pilot case, Imatra has well-established touristic services and the Information Network can be integrated 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.