



Natura 2000 Networking  
Programme on behalf of  
the European  
Commission



LOUNAIS-SUOMEN  
YMPÄRISTÖKESKUS  
SYDVÄSTRA FINLANDS  
MILJÖCENTRAL

Natura 2000 Networking Programme  
managed in partnership by project partners  
EUROPARC Federation, Eurosites and  
European Landowners Organization (ELO)

## Reed strategy in Finland and Estonia

### Workshop Report

#### Reed workshop in Matsalu

This Seminar took place in one of the finest and largest reed bed areas in the Baltic Sea Region, Matsalu National Park from 30<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007. The workshop took place in collaboration between two projects: Finnish-Estonian Interreg IIIA –project "Reed strategy in Southern Finland and Estonia" and The Natura 2000 Networking Programme. The main organisers were the Estonian Nature Conservation Centre (Hiiumaa Region), Tallinn Technical University and Southwest Finland Regional Environment Centre.

The seminar included a one plenary day, one workshop day and the third day was reserved for field visits in reed beds.

The workshop included approximately 70-100 people: specialists, farmers, entrepreneurs and students interested in the reed issues. A local Member of the Parliament (Green Party) *Mr Aleksei Lotman* opened the seminar together with his wife the Matsalu director, *Mrs Kaja Lotman* and both were present during the whole event. The full list of registered participants is attached.

The Reed project is led by the Southwest Finland Regional Environment Centre. The budget is Euro 992,000 and the timeframe is 2005-2007. The project approach is interdisciplinary and aims to find solutions for problems and possibilities concerning the common reed (*Phragmites australis*). The project will focus specially on questions that are connected with the following five themes:

- 1) water protection
- 2) biodiversity
- 3) construction and building
- 4) bioenergy
- 5) culture, landscape, farming and recreation

All these previous themes are connected together in order to create the reed strategy for pilot areas in Finland and Estonia. The pilot areas in Finland are located in the coastal areas of Turku city and Salo town and in Estonia in the Väinämeri area. The project will carry out innovative planning and management actions also in other coastal areas of Southern Finland and Estonia. Natura 2000 areas are specially in focus because e.g. in Finland nine of the biggest reed bed areas are totally or partly situated inside Natura 2000 areas. The project leaders and collaborators wish to have contacts from across Europe in order to increase both the knowledge of management of reed beds and utilisation of reed - and how the utilisation, preservation and management of reed beds could be balanced within Natura 2000 sites in order to create

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#### Ruovikkostrategia Suomessa ja Virossa Interreg IIIA

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win-win situations.

## Conclusions and further action

It was suggested that a European-wide network of coastal areas, which are searching for a balance between utilisation, management and preservation of reed beds and management of coastal meadow mosaics, should be established. The former European Commission employee and Ecologist, *Seppo Vuolanto* stressed the importance of networking of suitable reed and coastal meadow areas, especially in Natura 2000 areas. The key search could be done by using suitable reed and coastal meadow habitat types e.g. coastal meadows (reed beds are not a listed habitat type in the Habitats Directive) and/or LIFE –project databases. The seminar participants also discussed the possibility of utilising the Natura 2000 Networking Programme to find all the relevant European reed bed areas and contribute towards establishing a new Eurosite project EUROREED (name suggested by Raphael Matevet, Camargue). EUROREED could exchange information of success stories such as Natura 2000 products from reed beds, management methods and machinery of reed beds and coastal meadows. This international project could also work in a very practical level.

**Short conclusions of workshop groups** (all conclusions shall be available in [www.ruoko.fi](http://www.ruoko.fi) before 15<sup>th</sup> September).

### Bioenergy group

- SWOT analysis of harvesting reed and SWOT analysis as using reed as biofuel (later available on internet)
- New projects should be established in order to find best solutions for using hay biomasses
- National support schemes or EU –support for the utilisation of reed beds as bioenergy could be discussed (political climate is good).

### Water protection group

- The total effect of removal of the reed should be considered – when and how much are important questions.
- In river mouth you could leave reed, because it stops solid material from catchment areas
- Burning could be recommended in spring, but can have negative impact on biodiversity thus this balance should be considered.
- Utilisation of reed for water purification should be increased, by-product is biomass

### Biodiversity group

- The assistance of the Natura 2000 Networking Programme shall be requested in order to create a network of important European reed bed/ coastal meadow areas for EUROREED network. These areas are mainly Natura 2000 areas.
- Cost effective entrepreneurs packages could be created in order to create sustainable reed and coastal meadow mosaics inside Natura 2000 areas. These packages could include reed utilisation in one part of the Natura 2000 area and same machinery and entrepreneurs taking part in coastal meadows management in the other part of the Natura 2000 area.
- Coastal planning carried out in the Interreg IIIA Reed Project is a practical part of ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) and could be used in a wider context in the Baltic Sea Region.

### Construction group

- Use of reed in constructions should be further increased in the Baltic Sea Region
- Tallinn and Turku shall arrange reed happenings during their Cultural Capital year 2011

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### Contact details of workshop host

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### Contact details of workshop participants

See list attached

### Presentations and background material

Most of the presentations of the seminar shall be available on [www.ruoko.fi](http://www.ruoko.fi) before 15<sup>th</sup> September.

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