

The Finnish Environment Institute SYKE

– Towards a sustainable world

SYKE constantly assesses the state of sustainable development and provides steering methods for achieving a sustainable world in collaboration with its partners.

We promote sustainable urbanisation and a carbon-neutral circular economy.

We develop practises for promoting well-being through clean water and ecosystem services.

We participate in multi-stakeholder projects that facilitate global sustainable development.



decision-makers, administration, civic society actors

HOW SUSTAINABLE IS THE PATH THAT WE ARE ON?

The adoption of the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 has boosted and electrified work towards sustainable development. As part of these efforts, SYKE has supported the sustainable development work conducted in Finland under the direction of the Prime Minister's Office. This work has helped to identify the main obstacles to sustainable development and ways of overcoming them. We also support the international community by offering tools, services and expert help for expediting and assessing the structural changes associated with sustainable development.

decision-makers, citizens

LEVERAGING THE ENERGY TRANSITION



UNSPASH

Efforts to combat climate change are shaking up the energy sector to its very core. As part of these efforts, SYKE and its partners have assessed the impacts and opportunities that the energy transition poses for the economy of Finland, including ways in which new technologies, trials and business models could be utilised as part of the transition. This work has resulted eg. in recommendations to decision-makers, the Energy Opera, a database on energy trials and the Energy Transition Arena process intended for decision-makers. These tools and processes not only help us understand energy transitions, but accelerate them as well.

food services, schools, citizens

TURNING SCHOOL AND WORKPLACE CAFETERIAS INTO DRIVERS OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD CULTURE



JYVÄSKYLÄ CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

School and workplace meals have a strong foothold in Finland as supporters of healthy lifestyles. In recognition of this, SYKE has promoted sustainable dining in collaboration with food services by introducing optional vegetarian meals to three Finnish schools and helping pupils in the development of vegetarian meals. In addition to this, we have also promoted plant-based meals in our own workplace cafeteria. Long-term menu planning and recipe development play a major role in changing people's diets. As regards schools, it is important to facilitate pupils' involvement in the development of vegetarian meals – otherwise the food will remain uneaten.

civil society actors, cities and municipalities, decision-makers

ENABLING ACCESS TO THE BENEFITS OF URBAN NATURE



LAURA RAUTJOKI

Natural areas sustain human health and wellbeing. With an urbanising trend, the natural habitats in and around cities have decreased. SYKE generates information and tools on the value of urban nature for decision makers. The city of Järvenpää and the municipality of Sipoo have benefitted from these tools, and taken the urban nature into account in their planning approaches together with the local citizens. The citizens thus had the chance to positively influence retaining urban nature as part of a functional urban form.

research partners, businesses, decision-makers

CREATING SUSTAINABLE SMARTPHONES



UNSPASH

Smartphones and mobile communications technology have great potential to drive sustainable development forward through the use of smartphone applications and other technologies. Increased production and consumption of smartphones have major social and environmental impacts. With several partners SYKE identified and published a comprehensive set of good and scalable practices that have the potential to contribute to more sustainable production, consumption and end-of-life of smartphones. In addition, SYKE is focusing on a procurement-led strategy to accelerate market pull towards a more sustainable life cycle of smartphones.

international partners

KYRGYZ AUTHORITIES IMPROVED WATER MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT



ANSSI KARPPINEN

A prerequisite for good management and protection of surface waters is the availability of reliable data. SYKE developed a water quality and environmental monitoring programme for the Issyk-Kul lake area leading the way to a modern, nationwide programme in Kyrgyz. We facilitated practical implementation of the programme through extensive capacity building in the field and in the laboratory. The new skills and quality assurance procedures have notably increased the local capability to carry out in-situ measurements of key water quality parameters and to assess the status of water bodies.

researchers, decision-makers

EQUALITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH



PIXABAY

While the numbers of women working in research and expert positions continue to increase, women are still underrepresented in the most demanding expert positions. This needs to be addressed, as the realisation of equality and non-discrimination is a prerequisite for the widespread utilisation of competence and innovations. In recognition of this, SYKE and seven other research institutions from five countries bordering the Baltic Sea have developed and trialled new measures for supporting the realisation of equality. These include addressing inequality with the help of peer support networks and by developing management and research practises.



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