

BLUEGREEN CORRIDORS IN THE REGIONAL PLAN OF KYMENLAAKSO

1. Challenge/problem addressed

Bluegreen corridors needed to be added as a new element in the regional plan.

2. Main scale of governance involved: local / regional / national / international

Regional

3. Description of what and where was done

The Regional Council of Kymenlaakso needed to add bluegreen corridors in their regional plan. To be able to conduct it they order an external expert report to make a suggestion for the regional plan according to available knowledge and data. However, the regional council decided not to implement directly the suggestions into the regional plan. They decided to elaborate the suggestions further together with stakeholders. The main idea of the initiative was that stakeholders could indicate local features and identify specific coordination needs and thereby strengthen the acceptability of blue green connections. This resulted in two studies, a scientific-theoretical study and a clarifying and enabling study, which enabled stakeholders to commit to blue-green connections in the future regional plan. Commitment and acceptance were prerequisites for the final adoption of the regional plan, which also created strong planning solutions. The draft plan then went to the political process and further clarifications were made during the decision-making process. During the decision-making process, it was crucial to be able to state and document that the information and views that came from stakeholders, which the consultant could not include in his own report, were now taken into account. There are no large research institutes or consultants in the Kymenlaakso region from which this type of expertise could normally be commissioned. This process has ensured that regional and local information is sufficiently fed into the decision-making process.

4. What sectors were involved?

The natural resources sector, nature conservation organisations, municipalities and cities, the forestry sector and the agricultural sector, and finally the provincial government in the decision-making process

5. Which target/interest groups / stakeholders were reached?

The same ones as above

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6. What methods were applied?

- Expert analyse – external consult made analyses
- Workshops – in stakeholder meetings the expert analyses were presented on maps and stakeholders could suggest changes according to their local knowledge which then were taken into reconsideration as the final solution was made

7. Lessons learned

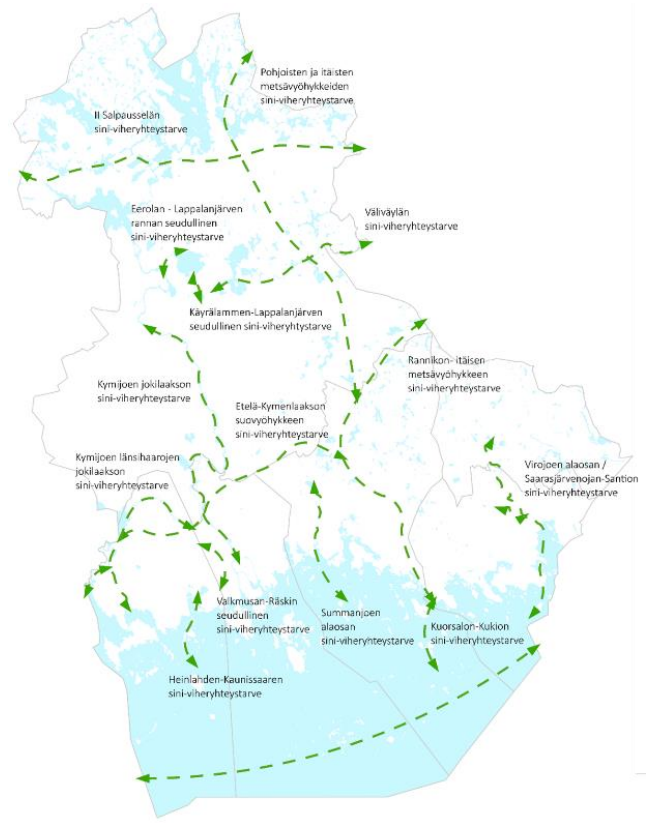
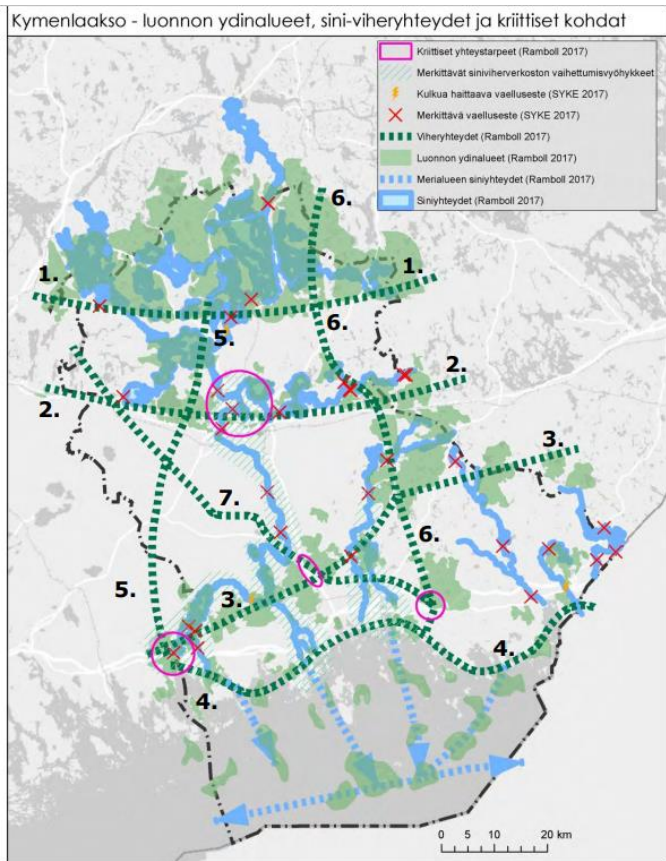
Regional knowledge, or rather the lack of it, can be a very big challenge nowadays. A consult report is not always sufficient, it needs to be evaluated by local stakeholders. If the planning question incorporates prioritisation it needs to be accepted/approved on local level. A scientific view cannot be transferred directly in a regional plan, some suggestions need to be revised since they might be opposed on a local level. If they have an effect on local people and income, they always need revision before they can be accepted.

8. To which Multi-level Governance steps this valuable practice contributes?

Step 3 Solutions and implementation as well as step 2 Stakeholder involvement

9. Links to further information about the practice/case

[Selvitykset – Kymenlaakson liitto](#) (Kymenlaakson sini-viherrakenne ja ekosysteemipalvelut selvitys 2017, Kymenlaakson sini-viherrakenne, valmisteluvaiheen tarkastelu 2018), contact person Frank Hering.



Expert analyse suggestion on the left side and final planning solution on the right side