



National Rules for the Application to the European Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

A National Landscape Award has been arranged in Finland for three times now (2008, 2010, and 2012). The competition is organised and coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment in cooperation with the Finnish Environment Institute. The candidates are gathered through open invitation that is being distributed through actor networks and public media. The candidates are being reviewed by a jury that is mustered by the Ministry. The winner is announced in a Landscape Symposium approximately a half year after launching the competition. The symposium has traditionally gained pleasingly great media attention.

So far, three projects have been nominated as the “best landscape projects in Finland” (“Suomen paras maisemahanke”):

- 2008 (21 candidates): Landscape Management of Hämeenkyrö National Landscape Area run by the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK), Kyrön Luonto ry (Kyrö’s Nature), and Hämeenkyrö-Seura (the Hämeenkyrö Local Society)
- 2010 (12 candidates): Matkalla maisemaan – luonnollisesti (“On the way to landscape – naturally”) run by The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC) and the National Railway Company (VR)
- 2012 (4 candidates): The Landscape Projects of the Hyypä Valley run by the City of Kauhajoki, Hyypä village association, The Finnish Forestry Centre/Public Services/The Unit of South and Central Ostrobothnia

The competition is open to all NGO’s and local and regional authorities. Each candidate needs to send an application with a presentation of the project, a map of and photographs and video from the project area, and a future plan. The winner of the national award will represent Finland at the European Landscape Award.