

## The landscape management of the Hämeenkyrö National Landscape Area, City of Hämeenkyrö



The Landscape Management of Hämeenkyrö National Landscape Area project is composed of three separate development schemes: Hämeenkyrö's National Landscape, Environmental Management in the National Landscape and Hämeenkyrö Landscape Tourism. These activities are managed by an array of local and regional associations, as well as national organisations. Hämeenkyrö is one of the 27 landscapes identified as a national landscape in 1992. Landscapes are places of particular cultural, historical and natural significance to the nation. Hämeenkyrö is characterised by its traditional rural scenery, which inspired Frans Eemil Sillanpää, who received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1939, and who was keenly aware of the position of the human being in the natural world. A national landscape management plan was developed, which prescribed certain measures including: identifying value and problem factors in the landscape, as well as landscape and forest management. In 1999, the Mahnala village school became the Environmental School and in 2003 it was awarded Green Flag accreditation. Environmental management is at the forefront of the project, with the objective of reviving diverse aquatic life, cultural landscapes and nature conservation to preserve the biodiversity of the area. Tourism is also of great importance in maintaining the socio-economic balance of the community and local amenities, and a range of activities have been developed to support it.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe congratulated the organisers of the project and recommended making it well-known to the general public for its exemplary value, and as a source of inspiration.