

Dear colleagues and participants  
Ladies and gentlemen

I will give an introduction to the next presentation

In Norway we have used the Landscape Park model to community development and local economic development. The idea of Landscape parks is in itself a cross-border cooperation by learning from each other. Norway has developed our Landscape Park model based on inspiration from Switzerland and France.

The Norwegian Local and regional Landscape parks are based on a local and regional commitment to their own natural and cultural values. Municipalities, counties, organizations and businesses are joining forces in a long-term, volunteer park agreement. Park is a tool to realize a coordinated development strategy to preserve natural and cultural values and also help them to be developed in a sustainable manner.

The parks have a broad and sustainable approach to value creation rooted in the European Landscape Convention. At present it is formally established five regional parks, 8 local, neighbourhood-based parks and one transfrontier park within the organization Norwegian Parks; The transfrontier Finnskogen Nature and Culture Park is the newest and was established last summer through a Swedish Norwegian cooperation.

All the Landscape Parks are dependent on enthusiasts who engages and drives the work ahead, far beyond having it as part of their formal tasks, and I am pleased to have with me two of these enthusiasts Herdís Bragelien from Norway and Suzanne Palmquist from Sweden. They represent Finnskogen Nature and Culture Park

Tourism and experiences, local food and harvest from nature's treasury, art and culture and use of nature for recreation and exercise, mysticism and the good stories are development areas for Finnskogen Nature and Culture Park, and Suzanne Palmquist will present this transfrontier cooperation.

Susanne the floor is yours.