

The “Bull by the Horns”: grazing in nature and landscape management,

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Central Finland

The “Bull by the Horns” project organised landscape management for areas that are particularly valuable in terms of ecology in the regions of Central Finland, South Savo, Pirkanmaa, Central Ostrobothnia and Ostrobothnia. This resulted in management arrangements being established for 220 hectares of threatened traditional rural biotopes, and the rare species contained therein. The project helped build networks of co-operation, through which landowners of valuable sites made grazing agreements with livestock owners. At the same time, efforts were made to prevent the harmful overgrowth of landscapes, and local people were encouraged to manage landscapes in the concerned area. Funding of management initiatives was provided by a special support fund under the agri-environmental aid agreements. The project was administered by the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment of Central Finland and a wide range of partners – including public authorities, associations and individuals – have participated in its realisation.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe acknowledged and praised the great value of the project presented for the 4th Session 2014-2015 of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention and recommended making it well-known to the general public for its exemplary value, and as a source of inspiration. The project provides landscape management to guide the development of highly valuable natural areas across a number of regions. It includes a wide variety of partners (authorities, associations and citizens) and has forged co-operation networks. These steps have led owners of valuable sites to make agreements with grazing livestock owners and to management arrangements being established for more than 200 hectares of threatened traditional rural biotopes. Operations aimed at preventing overgrowth and subsequent degradation of landscapes, have also been conducted. The project demonstrates the importance of involving all stakeholders concerned, and notably local people, in the appropriate management of the landscape and in their commitment to carry on the aims of a project even after termination of its initial financing.