

FURTHER INFORMATION

Programme leader Professor Tapio Määttä
University of Joensuu yliopisto
ph. + 358 13 251 5220, + 358 50 575 1589
tapio.maatta@joensuu.fi

Co-ordination Secretary Researcher Leila Suvantola
University of Joensuu
ph. + 358 15 511 7659, + 358 50 358 1879
leila.suvantola@joensuu.fi

The Academy of Finland
Senior science adviser Leila Häkkinen
ph. + 358 9 7748 8288
leila.hakkinen@aka.fi

WEBSITE OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME: WWW.AKA.FI/ENVLAW



ENVIRONMENT AND LAW
RESEARCH PROGRAMME



ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

VILHONVUORENKATU 6 • P.O. BOX 99, FI-00501 HELSINKI, FINLAND
PHONE +358 9 774 881 • FAX +358 9 7748 8299
WWW.AKA.FI • KESKUS@AKA.FI

ENVIRONMENT AND LAW



Environment and Law
Research Programme
of the Academy of Finland
2005 - 2008



ACADEMY OF FINLAND

SCIENTIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION: ENVIRONMENT AND LAW 2005 – 2008

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The principal background factors in research on environmental law are related to climate change, biodiversity and the use of natural resources. Global economic, technological and social development is crucially important to the future control and governance of environment use. Environmentally integrated consumption and production control is a critical issue. Global political goals, the development of states' sovereignty relative to the international community and universal human rights must also be taken into account as background factors in the use of the environment. They have great significance to future environmental policy decisions.

THE CHALLENGE OF MULTIDISCIPLINARITY

There is an ever greater need for multidisciplinary collaboration in legal research on the environment. Problem-oriented approaches are continuing to gain ground in environmental research and to throw up new challenges for environmental law. The processes in which environmental problems are defined and in which their meanings evolve and take shape, are fundamentally of a societal nature. The increasing diversity of the means and mechanisms of environmental policy control also requires increasingly broadly-based multidisciplinary research.

The Academy of Finland has gathered together environmental experts to promote social environmental research. The Environment and Law Research Programme involves in total 45 researchers representing environmental law, private law, environmental economy, environmental policy, environmental sociology, environmental philosophy and forestry. A genuine

interaction of the different disciplines aims to generate new approaches and methods to examine environmental questions.

THE OBJECTIVE: A SOCIETY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In its Constitution and multilateral international agreements, including EU treaties, Finland has committed itself to the goals of sustainable development. In a constitutional state it no longer suffices to address people's immediate basic needs such as health or the quality of the living environment, but ecological mechanisms and the rights of future generations place additional demands upon legal control and governance. The aim is to mainstream sustainable development in the prevailing legal order and to integrate it with social practices. The attainment of ecological, economic, social and cultural sustainability requires an in-depth understanding of and proper control over long-term changes and processes.

The legal order and its application must be so developed that the requirements of sustainable development can be met. The achievement of the goal of mainstreaming requires that the legal order is approached from the perspective described above rather than focusing exclusively on traditional environmental legislation.

According to the Constitution of Finland 20 § nature and its biodiversity, the environment and the national heritage are the responsibility of everyone. The public authorities shall endeavour to guarantee for everyone the right to a healthy environment and for everyone the possibility to influence the decisions that concern their own living environment.



The Research Programme consists of seven projects which examine the effects of legislation on the environment and society. The research questions reflect the tight interplay of the development of environmental law and social changes. The funded projects share common themes such as the development of environmental policy instruments and their effectiveness, public participation and conflict management.

Themes of the Research Programme are:

- Man, environment and law
- Means of environmental policy control
- Sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity
- Product and consumption-based environmental protection and environmental responsibility
- The use of land and water areas and building
- International questions

FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Eco-Efficient Public Purchasing? Economic Advantages and Legal Possibilities (Eco-PP Law), Helsinki University of Technology, project leader Professor Ari Ekroos
- Law, Forests and Biodiversity (FORBID), Finnish Environment Institute, project leader Professor Mikael Hildén
- Effectiveness of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EFEIA), University of Jyväskylä, project leader Professor Markku Kuitunen
- Redefining the Concepts and the Practices of Environmental Law and Decision-Making (YLKÄ), University of Helsinki, project leader Professor Olli Loukola
- Legitimacy of Environmental Governance (LEG), University of Joensuu and University of Lapland, project leaders Professor Pertti Rannikko and Professor Juha Karhu
- Procedural Environmental Rights in Land Use Conflicts (PERILUC), Helsinki University of Technology, project leader Research Director Rauno Sairinen
- Effective Environmental Management (EMLE), Finnish Environment Institute, project leader Research Director Jonathan Tritter



The multidisciplinary research programme Environment and Law enables novel research possibilities. The programme brings together over forty top experts in a range of disciplines and generates interaction and co-operation in order to find new aspects to environmental questions.