

Notes (WR) for minutes of the socio-economy discussion

Participants: Gerald Schwartz, Anni Takko, Viviane Froidevaux, Philippe Grosvernier, Daniel Gilbert, Harri Vasander, Vincent Pheulpin, Walter Rosselli

Viviane Froidevaux presented the state of the art and the issue of her research for Switzerland in the RECIPE socio-economical part during the plenary session of Monday 8.11.2004. The data about import and export of peat and peat products in and from Switzerland between 1988 and 2002 gave interesting results from both points of view of the evolution of the trade after the ban of peat extraction in Switzerland and of the origin and destination of peat and peat-derived products that were imported and exported. The potential of peatlands for agriculture (direct payments) is interesting, whereas it is difficult to evaluate it for tourism (lack of data, difficulty in quantifying the role of peatlands and also of nature and landscape in tourism because they are felt as common goods one should not pay for). From the point of view of the perception of peatlands, they are actually regarded by the tourist as attraction or leisure parks rather than as natural sites.

The work in the different lands is progressing well, although it is a little delayed in Germany and, partially in Scotland and Switzerland (V. Pheulpin lacks some interviews to be able to have a complete set of data to interpret).

Finland (Anni Takko) and Switzerland (Viviane Froidevaux) have finished the second part of WP 01. Vincent Pheulpin (CH) finished the first part of the interviews on the perception and protection of peatlands (Les Ponts-de-Martel). He will next collect other interviews in La Gruère and La Chaux-d'Abel and will be able to have enough data to interpret.

France has the data necessary (collected by Carine Maitre) but needs someone to interpret them and integrate them into a final report.

There is enough material to plan a **common paper** (→ perhaps in Ecological economics?). Finland and Switzerland probably have enough information to plan **country-specific papers**. The extended abstract of the meeting in Tampere may be a good example and the starting point for the new papers.

The main theme for Switzerland may be the re-use of exploited peatlands: the agricultural use of the different habitats with the tourism as an option (value of the mire landscapes, link between rehabilitation, agriculture and tourism).

The main theme for Finland may be the rehabilitation (into another peat-accumulating system) and re-use of peatlands. Finland can integrate tourism but should not focus on agriculture and tourism since these two options are not very interesting in this land.

The further works and the publications should put emphasis onto the balance between ecological and economical aspects. The aspects to develop will be the rehabilitation into new peat-accumulating systems, the re-creational use of peatlands, the conversion into nature conservation areas, tourism. The aim will be to identify the socio-economical benefits of peatland rehabilitation instead of peat-extraction.

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