

The report

Sweden forest management system and green infrastructure as an example of the ecological sustainable development

I have visited Sweden before, so I have known something about this country. However, it was my first internship abroad and when I won the grant I did not know what to start with. I searched for the place of the internship and it took long time for me to find it. I had known about the Sweden forest management system from the books and wanted to see it. I expected to work at the forest factory or forest company, but what I have found was much more interesting.

My internship took place at the School for Forest Management at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences' (SLU) campus in Skinnskatteberg. I worked with the researchers in the Forest-Landscape-Society under the overall supervision of Professor Per Angelstam and Doctor Marine Elbakidze in Skinnskatteberg.

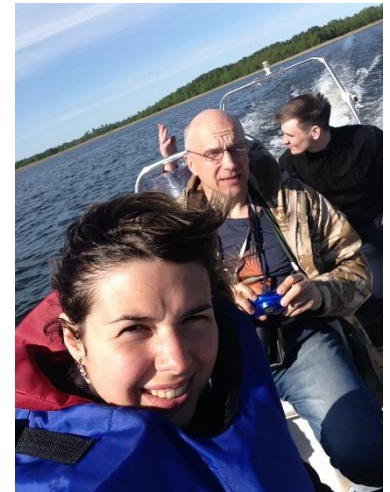


Professor Per Angelstam



Doctor Marine Elbakidze

My work was divided on two parts. With Per Angelstam I participated in the research work of the Forest management comparison in Sweden and Russia. I went to the Sweden forest, participated at some meetings of forest society and met representatives of the different forest companies and levels of the forestry system. With professor and researches we also discussed strengths and weaknesses of forest management systems in Sweden. It was great discussion because they also knew about forest management system in Russia so we could work on the comparison. I learned a lot from this research and it was useful for my Master thesis in Russia.



I also took a part in the project “Green infrastructures for ecological sustainability and human well-being in the Baltic Sea region”. The project (managed by Marine Elbakidze and Per Angelstam and financed by Swedish Institute) was about ecological sustainability and green infrastructure – something new for me. I knew very little about it before because the work on the green infrastructure just started in Russia, however in Sweden it is good developed. The project by itself covers 4 countries of Baltic region: Belarus, Latvia, Russia and Sweden so during the internship I had the possibility to visit seminars in Latvia and Belarus as well. During these workshops we met people successful in developing green infrastructure in their



Photo: Per Angelstam

countries. The project was especially interesting for me because I worked there as a translator, researcher and interviewer during surveys and I had a chance to compare different approaches for sustainable development and forest management as well. Moreover, I have continued to work on the project in Russia. I have done the survey in Pskov oblast in August and now we are writing final articles about it. I am working with the group on the possibility to continue this research in future.

I got much more than I expected from this internship. Firstly, I got a lot of new knowledge on the forest management system in Sweden which I have used in my Master thesis and hope to use it in my future work. I learned about Sweden traditions and lifestyle as well, which was quite different from Russian one. I'll never miss Disa Håstad's words that people in Russia cut the bread before eating and Swedish people cut it when and as much as they need. I think it is one of the most significant differences, which cannot be "applied only on the bread".

Secondly, I took part in very interesting international project, where I practiced my translator skills and applied my knowledge. This work showed me another field where I can use my knowledge.

Finally, I met a lot of nice people: my supervisors Prof. Per Angelstam and Doc. Marine Elbakidze, who helped me a lot in me research work and with whom I am still working, other researchers and participators of the project (from Russia, Belarus and Latvia), other students-scholarship holders, with whom we had a great time in Stockholm and, of course, Disa Håstad, the person who I respect for her youthful spirit.



This internship opened my mind and revealed new fields of my future work. In Sweden, I found out what I want to do in my future and now I am hardly working on it. I am happy that the project I have participated is still working and I am glad to be a part of it as well as be a part of the great work of the Sverker Åström foundation.



I would like to say a lot of thanks to the Sverker Åström foundation, especially to Disa Håstad, to the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, to Per Angelstam and Marine Elbakidze and others I have met during this wonderful time!