

The first session in WG1 consisted of four presentations

Grethe Mattland Olsen's (Volda university College, Norway) presentation examined the decline of voluntary work ("dugnad", "talkoot" in Finnish) in Norway through a case study of Hornindal, a small rural community, aiming to understand both motivations for participation and reasons for decreasing engagement. Based on a survey on active participants (N=51) of dugnad, the results showed that attitudes toward voluntary work are positive, but many had noticed a decline in the interest of particularly young families to participate due to lack of time and competing priorities. The study concludes that sustaining dugnad requires more direct recruitment, attention to social dynamics, and more flexible, accessible forms of engagement in the context of ongoing societal and structural changes. The following discussion pointed out similar findings from other Nordic countries.

Lotta Aho (University of Eastern Finland) presented her ongoing PhD study on how well different rural areas meet the needs and preferences of diverse population groups. She argued that the ongoing population and economic centralization in Finland has weakened the development prospects of rural areas and affected their attractiveness as places to live while at the same time a significant amount of people continue to express an interest in moving to the countryside. Using geospatial data on services, infrastructure, employment, community, environment, housing, and safety, the findings revealed substantial variation between rural areas, with urban regions generally offering better conditions, especially for families with children. The results suggest that although rural living is increasingly a matter of choice, many rural areas struggle to meet diverse residential expectations.

Manu Rantanen's and Annemari Kiviahö's (University of Helsinki, Finland) presentation explored how place attachment among both second-home owners and local residents can drive climate action and sustainability, using the South Savo region as a case. They highlighted that second home owners have strong emotional ties to place that can motivate sustainable behavior. Using an action research approach, their study investigated how motivations, actions, and barriers shape sustainability practices. Preliminary results show that attachment to place, memories, and responsibility toward future generations encourage actions such as sustainable consumption, mobility choices, and technical improvements. In the discussion the questions of scaling from the individual to community level and the differences between the local population and second home owners in terms of sustainability were raised and also tensions between these groups were identified.

Hannele Toivonen (LUT University, Finland) presented her PhD study related to the sustainability of the material arrangement of multi-local living. She examined how dividing time between a primary home and a second home shapes the "metabolism of housing," meaning the flows of materials, energy, and resources required for everyday living. Maintaining two homes multiplies infrastructures, appliances, and material stocks, thereby increasing overall resource demand. The study showed, however, that resource use is not determined only by technology but also by everyday practices shaped by local conditions: while modern cottages may increase energy use through heating and maintenance, more modest cottages can encourage lower consumption through simplified routines such as reduced water use and reliance on alternative water sources. In the discussion the need to study multi-locality in the multiple contexts of living and dwelling was highlighted.