



Finnish Association of Public Service Environmental Professionals (FAEP) / Ympäristönsuojeluviranhaltijat ry (YSV)

Finnish Association of Public Service Environmental Professionals FAEP was founded in 1981 when the first environmental professionals were appointed in municipalities. The purpose of FAEP was to build a network for those environmental professionals who are working in public sector at local and regional level. Most of the about 200 members are from local level but there are also members from regional and state level too. Environmental professionals working at local level are often working alone in the environmental sector in their municipalities and that's why they have a great need for a network like FAEP.

FAEP has organised from the very beginning a two days annual conference with up to date topics for its members. These conferences held in October provide a possibility to share experiences among colleagues. For new members they also provide a possibility to get to know older colleagues from all over Finland. This year the conference topics have to do with household wastewater management, incoming legislation concerning contaminated soil and waste management, environmental aspects in agriculture etc. The second conference day, as always, deals with administrative issues. FAEP also arranges smaller seminars connected with the annual assembly which usually takes place in March. Also the board of FAEP makes annually one or two one-day trips to a chosen region in Finland to meet and to get to know it's members and the special environmental issues in the target area. FAEP distributes at least twice a year a bulletin to its members.

This year one of the main goals of FAEP is (in co-operation with the official labour right organisations) to supervise it's members' interests especially in the smaller municipalities where the officials work alone with a wide field of environmental legislation and yet with a low salary. Another goal is to raise the question about the poor resources in personnel especially in the small municipalities. This year FAEP also renewed it's Internet homepages (<http://www.ymparistonsuojeluviranhaltijat.fi/>).

The financial ground of FAEP consists only of membership and conference fees. Even though FAEP's budget is very small it supports it's members by grants to attend international conferences or educational trips.

Because of Finland's remote location in Europe FAEP considers it's membership in EFAEP as a valuable link to the rest of the Europe's associate organisations and colleagues and as a possibility to gain important information concerning prevailing environmental issues like incoming legislation in EU as well as information about the actions of other EFAEP's associate organisations.

Since FAEP is a very small organisation and not supported by government or other parties it's role in EFAEP cannot be as active as the role of the bigger member organisations'. However FAEP considers it's membership in EFAEP very important and is pleased to continue participating EFAEP's action within it's resources also in the future.