Private Road Management System in Finland

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Good roads connecting people
Private Roads –
Vitally important part of the road network

What are the private roads?
What has the Finnish Road Association do with them?
Road Network in Finland

80 000 km public state roads = motorways + highways + local roads

25 000 km streets in cities and municipalities

350 000 km private roads = unadopted roads (possible to drive by car)
Private roads in Road Network

- Forest Road (private access to forest)
- Private Roads
- Local Road (Public)
- Main Road or Street (public)
- Access to forest
Private Roads 350 000 km

100 000 km with permanent residence

Both near built-up areas and in rural areas
Private Roads 350,000 km

120,000 km forest roads

For timber haulage
Private Roads 350,000 km

110,000 km other minor private roads

Agriculture access roads and summer cottage roads
Private Road Management

- Bases on the Law (the Act) on Private Roads

- The background is to
  - preserve the whole country inhabited
  - ensure foundations for agriculture, forest and other industry operations
  - even out the costs of private road keepers compared to those living along public roads or municipality streets
The Law on Private Roads

- Establishment of private road cooperative
- The property owners (house, cottage, forest, field ...) have the main responsibility
- The rights and limitations to use the road
- The rules how to act, maintain, manage, share the maintenance costs ...
- State subsidy for the repair and maintenance of roads and bridges, distribution through Transport Agency (the amount is now 23 million €/y, state road budget is 700 million)
- Municipalities have possibilities to give their financial support for maintenance and repair
  [Public support is about 1/3 of total road keeping costs]
The Private Road Organization – Road cooperative

Annually the General Meeting for all members basically once per year (budget, account, road charges for maintenance, rights to use the road, elect a board or an agent …)

The General Meeting appoints a board of 3 members + 2 deputy members or an agent (keep the books, take care of the road, collect the charges …)
The Private Road Organization – Cooperative member

Is requested to

- pay yearly road fee for road maintenance
- take care of the junction and culvert of his/her access road or courtyard
- take care of the road as one of the owners
- pay repair if damages the road
- inform co-operative board of a change of road use
Current situation on private roads

- Public support decreasing, problems in financing road keeping
- Road condition is weakening
- Fragmented system, roads are too small
- Lack of cooperation between co-operatives
- Lack of contractors and special equipment
- Lack of know-how
- Lack and ageing of responsible persons
**Finnish Road Association and Private Roads**

Some 1,000 private road cooperatives as the members, number is increasing. The association has taken responsibility in several ways:

- Free telephone guidance to members (mainly legal advices)
- Telephone guidance to non-members (0.92 €/minute)
- Regional Private Road Day every 2 years, all over the country in about 15 places, totally 2,500 participants
- Road course by order (municipalities, companies...)
- Handbooks on management (sold more than 10,000) and on road repair, other guides and bulletins
- Private Roads Newspaper, 1/year, 25,000 copies
- Insurance (through the insurance company, discount price for members)
- Training courses for Private Road Managers
Private Road Manager Training program

- New secondary occupation, part-time work for almost 200 managers in the country
- Work for private roads as ‘manager directors’
- Increase the effect and cooperation in road keeping
- Saves in contracts and procurements
- Secures road condition
PRM Training program in Practice

- Organized by Finnish Road Association
- Mainly financed by Transport Agency and Ministry of Transport and Communications (a part of state financial support to private roads)
- 9 courses until May 2010, some 20 students / course
- 3 course sections in classrooms, each 3 days + homework
Private Road Manager’s services

- Administrative tasks in road cooperatives (meetings, economy, cost share calculations)
- Organizing the road maintenance
- Reconstruction project planning, execution, supervision
- Counseling and consulting
- May be up to 40 ... 60 customers / road manager
Private Road Management System in Finland

Can be applied also in other countries

Thank You!