



## Latvian NFSS Process: Next Possible Steps

**FSC® International**  
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Forest Stewardship Council®

### DOCUMENT PURPOSE

- To summarise key points made at meeting with Latvia SDG (held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019)
- To outline possible next steps; draft developed at meeting for review by group before final commitments to be made.

### IN ATTENDANCE

SDG: Econ Chamber	SDG: Soc Chamber	SDG: Enviro Chamber	FSC Staff
Arturs Bukonts	Aris Smildzins	Janis Rozitis	Anand Punja
Kristaps Klauss	Dagnis Dubrovskis	Lelde Engele	Indrek Talpsep
Maris Liopa	Janis Baumanis	Viesturs Kerus	Henrik von Stedingk
Edvins Zakovics	Peteris Kaleinikovs		Imants Kruze

### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

- Discussion held in the morning with individual chambers to understand key concerns of NFSS process and possible ways forward
  - Each chamber expressed concerns, but all expressed a desire to carry on with the process as their preferred way forward.
- At the SDG meeting in the afternoon the following was presented or discussed;
  - The example of how FSC SE had similar issues in 2018 and overcame them by streamlining the process and composition of the SDG.
  - The alternative route to an FSC standard for Latvia (Interim National Standard)
    - This would be developed through a technical working group with a specific CB leading the process.
    - FSC International would try to ensure, that where agreements had already been made by the SDG on IGI's/ indicators that they would be incorporated in some way.
    - High likelihood that the any INS process would go back to the last formal agreed draft, which was the agreed draft for the first consultation.
    - However, there is a high likelihood that many of the IGIs that were dropped by the SDG may have to be incorporated back into an INS process. Photo A in the Annex 1 shows the flexibility available between INS and an SDG/NFSS approach to developing an FSC standard using the IGI's as a foundation to build on.
  - During this meeting there was a consensus that an NFSS process is still the preference
    - However, there were still concerns that the HCV definition was the key sticking point, and the SDG focused a little bit on this issue and asked for possible ways to overcome the differences between chambers in this definition. This was considered as a possible process was co-created between SDG and Indrek Talpsep of FSC Baltics.

## PROPOSED REVISED PROCESS FOR RESTARTING OF THE NFSS PROCESS

The following table outlines a proposed way forward for the Latvian NFSS process, based on discussions at the meeting. This is based what was developed during the meeting, captured by Photo B.

Milestone Deadline	Milestone Action	Responsible body
15.04.2019	Internal discussions on ways forward	Latvian SDG
30.04.2019	Proposal on changed process (ToR, SDG composition/ mandates, leadership, dynamics)	Latvian SDG; FSC Baltics
31.05.2019	HCV issues closed (Suggestion of a 2-day workshop with technical experts from outside of Latvia, possibly through HCVN network)	Latvian SDG; FSC Baltics supporting
30.06.2019	Local community definition issues closed; other issues closed	Latvian SDG; FSC Baltics supporting
31.07.2019	2nd draft ready for public consultation	Latvian SDG; FSC Baltics
30.09.2019	2nd draft public consultation closed, forest testing completed	Latvian SDG; FSC Baltics; FSC International
30.11.2019	Final draft ready for PSU assessment	Latvian SDG; FSC Baltics
31.12.2019	Supplementary documentation ready for PSU assessment	Latvian SDG; FSC Baltics

If this proposal (or an alternative) is presented to FSC Baltics team by the end or April, FSC will support the revised NFSS process. However, in case of any milestone not being met, FSC will halt the NFSS process and start an INS process.

## NEXT STEPS

- FSC International expects the Latvia SDG to digest inputs from the meeting and then self-organise to develop a proposal for a way forward, based on the discussions during the meeting
  - Members of the FSC Baltics team are available to support
- It would be helpful to receive a communication from an agreed chamber balanced working group that discussions are being held and actions are being taken as a result of the meeting. We would like to have a signal by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 that a revised proposal is being developed together.
- If the signal received by 15<sup>th</sup> April is positive, the SDG should work to finalise a revised proposal and submit by 30<sup>th</sup> April. Members of the FSC Baltics team are available to support the Latvian SDG.

ANNEX 1: PHOTO'S FROM MEETING

NFSS	INS
Adopt	✓
Adapt	✓
Add	✓
Drop	✗

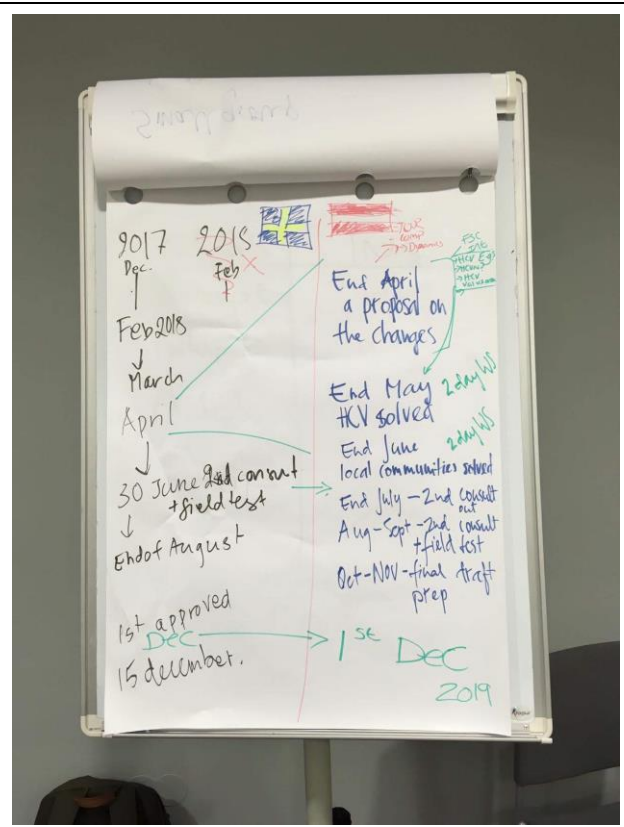


Photo A: Differences in IGI uptake between INS and NFSS

Photo B: Outline of proposed process.