



NORTH HUNT
SUSTAINABLE HUNTING TOURISM IN NORTHERN EUROPE

Is the demand for hunting increasing or decreasing?

The effect of demographic changes on the amount of local hunters



**Northern
Periphery
Programme**
2007–2013

Innovatively Investing
in Europe's Northern
Periphery for a sustainable
and prosperous future



European Union
European Regional Development Fund

Hunting in Finland

- Hunting rights are bound to land ownership
- The State administers over 12 milj. ha of land areas
- The Forest and Park Service estimates game populations and distributes licenses through a centralised system
 - 40 000 small game hunting licenses were sold in 2008



Finnish hunters

- A traditional “everyman’s hobby”, especially in Eastern and Northern Finland
- 300 000 hunters in Finland
- 6% of the total population holds a hunting license

Hunter status

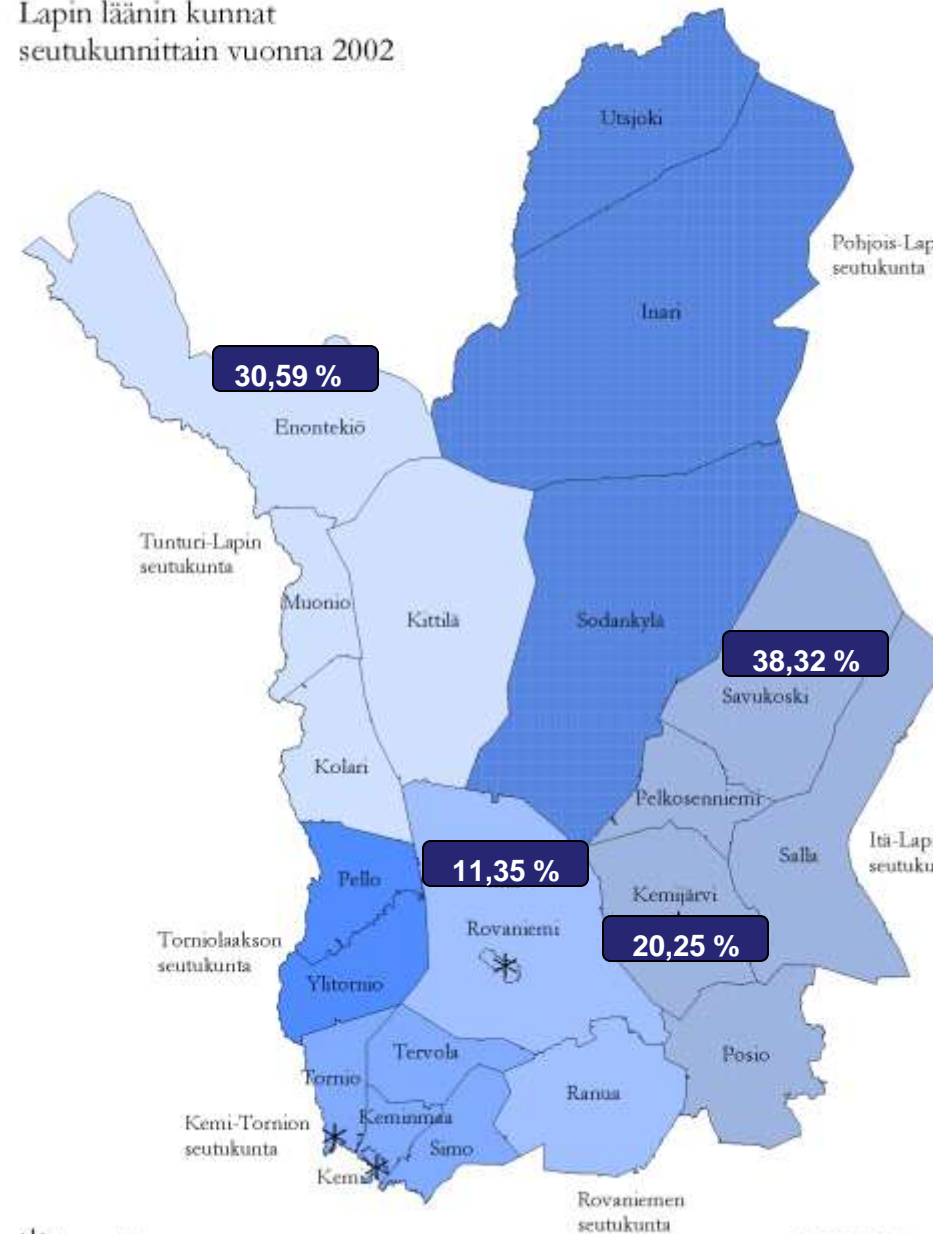
- Local hunters
 - Local people in the 30 + most Northern municipalities have the law-protected right to hunt on State land areas in their own municipality
 - this right takes priority over other hunters
- Other hunters
 - mostly independent hunters from other municipalities
 - customers of hunting enterprises

Data

- Population estimates / forecasts from National Statistics
- Hunting license database: hunters by
 - town of residence
 - age
- It has been assumed that the hunter activity in each age group stays the same and only demographic changes account for the decline

- The percentage of people that are hunters in some Northern municipalities

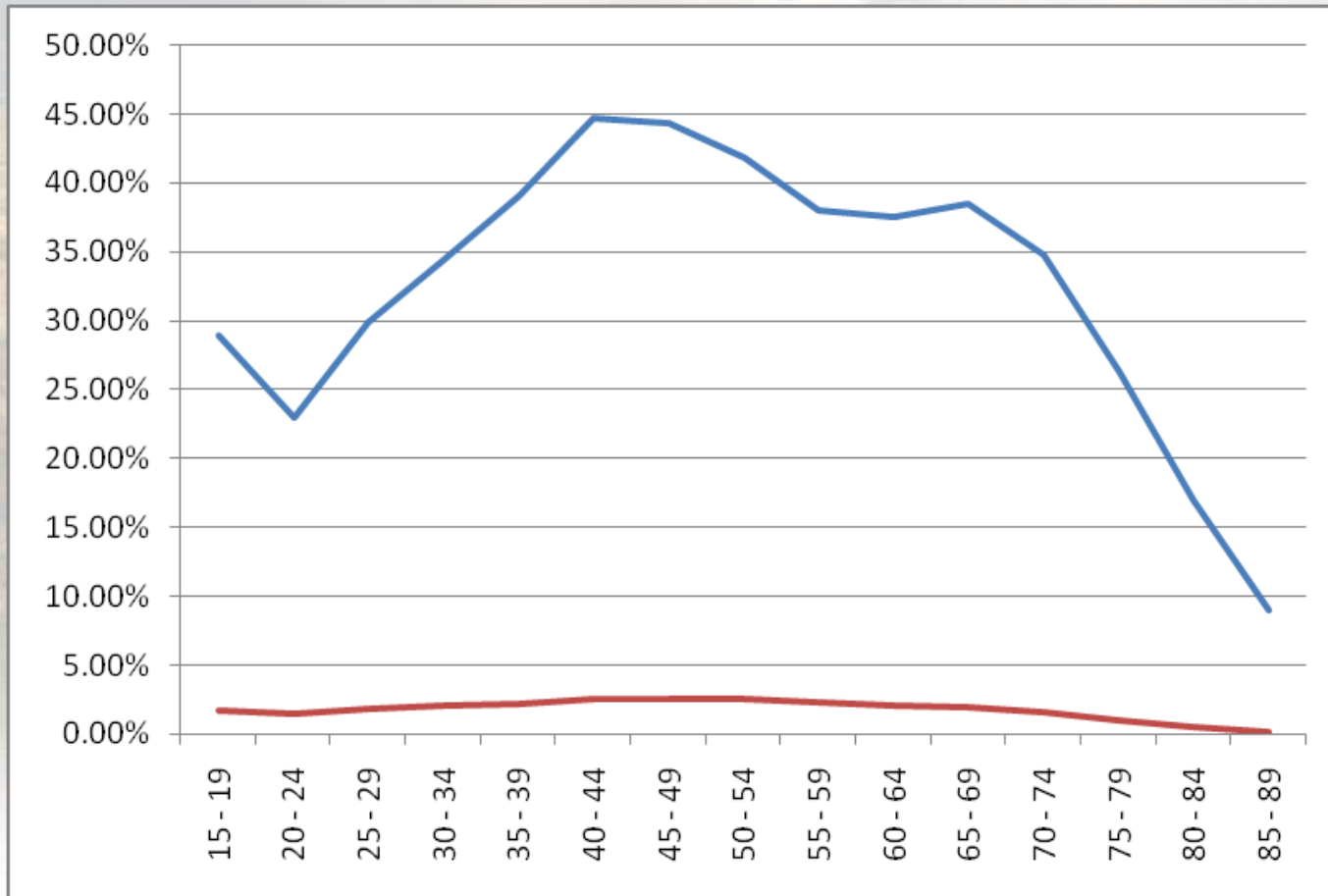
Kartta 1
Lapin läänin kunnat
seutukunnittain vuonna 2002



* kaupunki

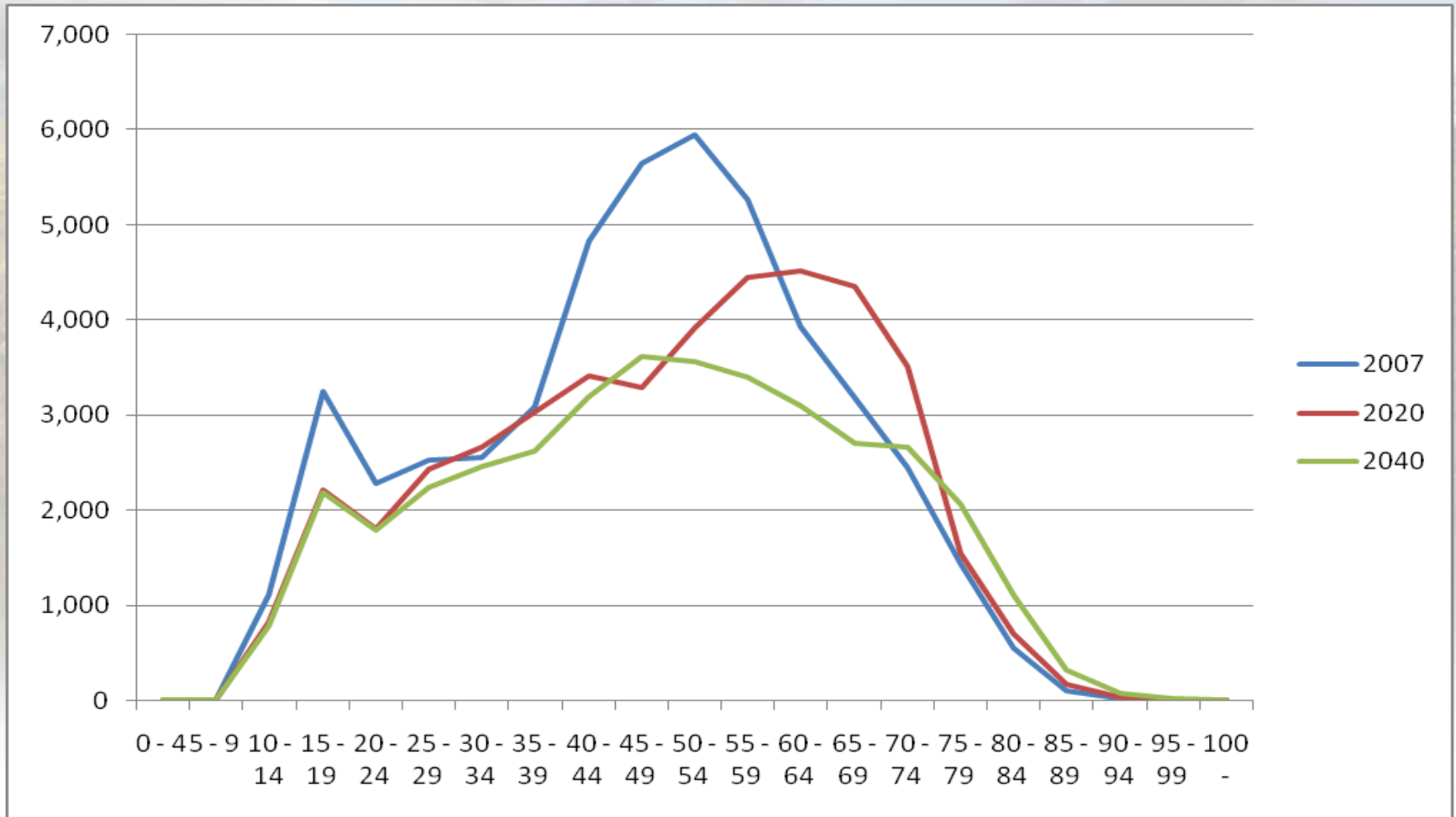
1 : 2 200 000

Male and female hunters

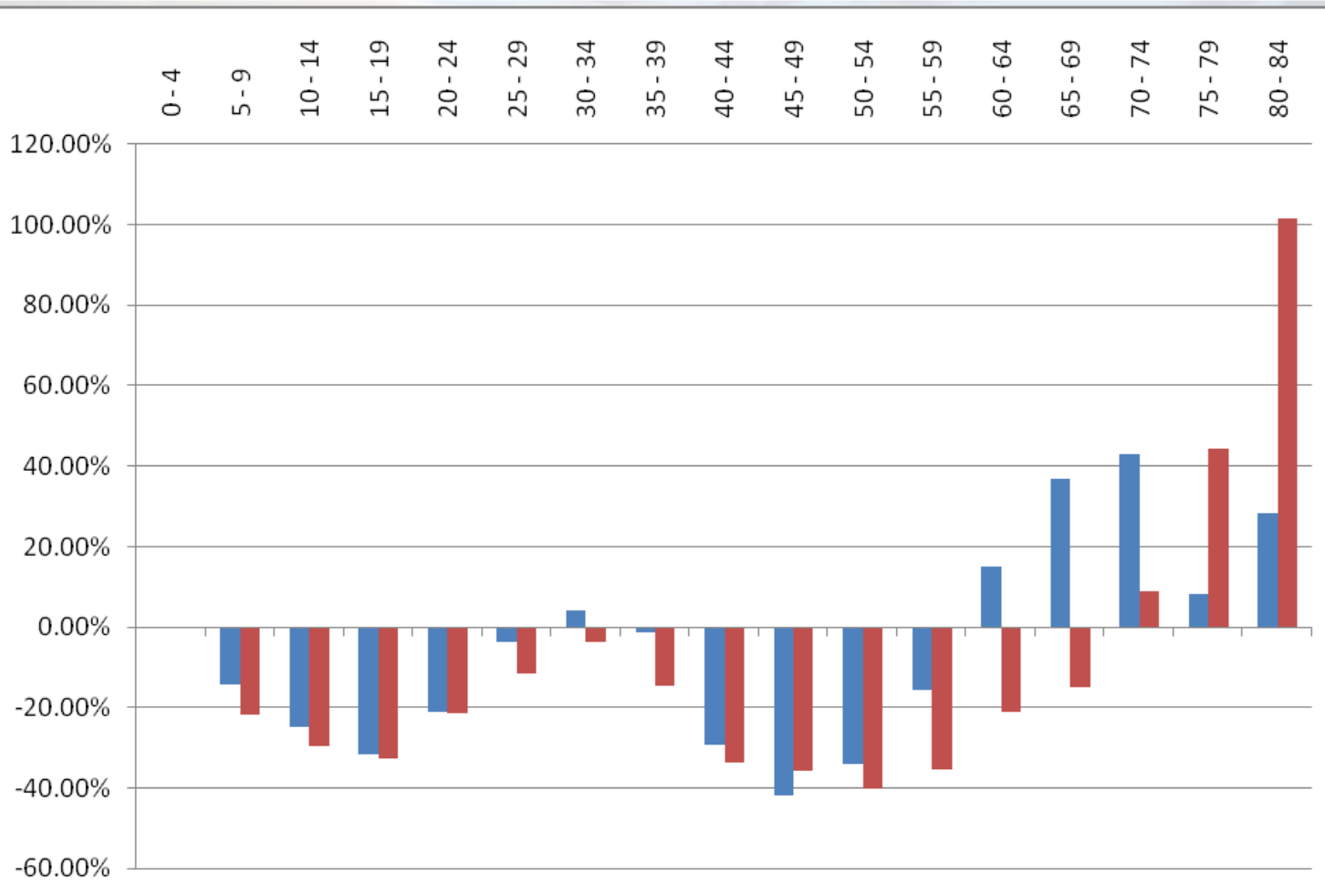


- **The proportion of men that hunt and the proportion of women that hunt in the North**
- (95 % of hunters are male)

Number of hunters



Demographic change

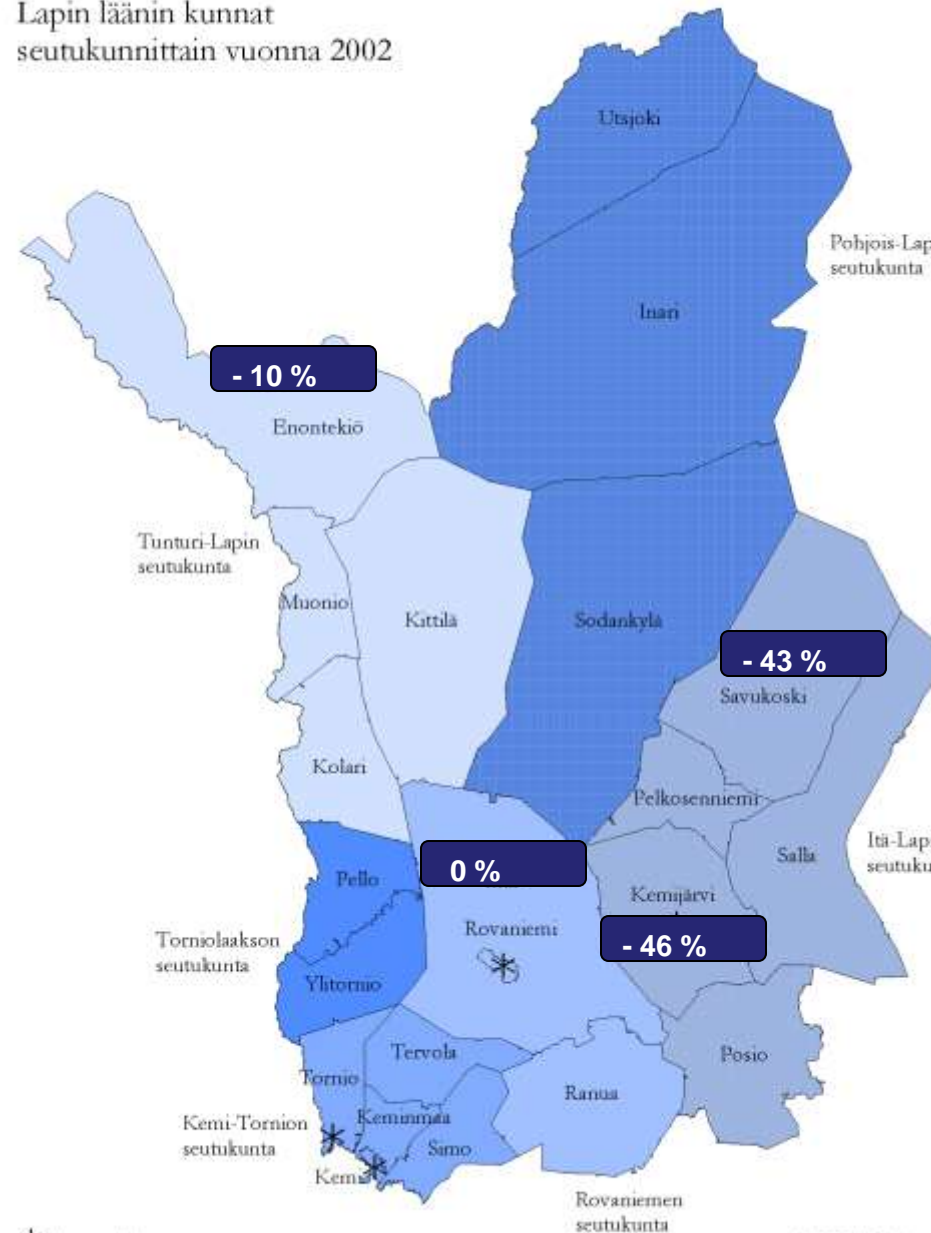


Blue = 2020
Red = 2040

- Current number of hunters **48 000**
 - 43 000 in 2020
 - 38 000 in 2040
- The change in the number of local hunters: 2040 compared to 2007



Kartta 1
Lapin läänin kunnat
seutukunnittain vuonna 2002



* kaupunki

1 : 2 200 000

Discussion

- The image of hunting is positive in the North and hunting activity is currently high
- The right to hunt on state-owned land in the North is a highly valued and a highly sensitive issue that has strong support

Discussion

- Young hunters are brought to the hobby by their parents and therefore the declining number of families with children is a concern in remote regions
- Hunting club membership conditions in some regions are so strict that young hunters may be discouraged from joining
 - The social structure of hunting clubs is bound to change

Discussion

- Declining amount of hunters may affect
 - game management
 - local communities
 - forests, traffic
- Hunters see that hunting influences
 - physical and mental health
 - the social life in areas of population decline
 - the conditions for staying in rural regions
 - family food type in moose hunter households
 - hobbies (dogs)
 - the attitude towards nature
 - the connection between generations

Discussion

- Hunters highlight the value of the Northern hunting culture
 - spending time in the wild
 - focus off the prey
 - the social aspect
 - earning the prey
- The strengths of Northern hunting
 - peace and quiet
 - game species
 - large wilderness areas
 - exotic conditions and methods

Discussion

- The number of women hunters slowly increasing
- Demand for hunting remains high
 - although the number of local hunters is decreasing, the number of hunters in general is not
 - local hunters tend to game management

Hunting tourism

- Effect on rural economies
 - may become a source of livelihood for rural entrepreneurs
 - could prove to be a game management method
- People have less time to spend in the nature but they appreciate it
- The hunting permit system is under pressure

Thank you!

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