International trends for sustainability in FM: Evaluation of policy and FM competence in Norway and UK

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Ingemund Skålnes  
Centre for Real Estate and Facilities Management  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Antje Junghans  
Centre for Real Estate and Facilities Management  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Abbas Elmualim  
British Institute for Facilities Management  
University of Reading
Agenda

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Introduction

• In several European countries, sustainability has emerged and is developing as a core business strategy and an obligation for public and private organisations

• Purpose: “to contribute to the development of an internationally applicable sustainable FM strategy in research, education and practice”

• This is done by evaluating policy and FM competence in Norway and UK.
Background

- SFM has become a topic of research in the Nordic countries
- In 2010, sustainability was at the top of the EuroFM research groups agenda.
- Literature research using Google Scholar (November 2013):
  - Keyword phrase: sustainable facilities management
  - Small but increasing number of publications.

“Managing facilities in a Scandinavian manner”
(Elle et al. 2004)

“Sustainable FM – a new field of research and practice”
(Jensen & Nielsen 2008)

Top of the EuroFM research groups agenda
Approach

Theoretical framework

Scientific publications describe theories and concepts that can organise the advancement of specialist knowledge effectively.

Standards and state of the art literature review in professional FM publications.

Literature research

Structured Survey

FM experts in research and education, as well as professional facilities managers involved in the development and execution of survey.

Norwegian University of Science and Technology

University of Reading

British Institute for Facilities Management

Norwegian Facilities Management Network

Sustainability in FM is the particular object of research steering the development of an international strategy for SFM.

Approach

Methodology

• The annual BIFM survey of sustainability in FM
  – Objective: “examine and track trends in environmental responsibilities, energy management, waste management, carbon footprint management, water management, response to legislation, sustainable use of resources among Facilities Managers” Singh & Elmualim (2012)
  – Online questionnaire survey among FM professionals, both members of the British Institutes of Facilities Management (BIFM) and others.
    • Target group: 1200
    • Respondents: 203
  – Annual survey since 2007

• The Norwegian sustainability in the FM survey
  – Online questionnaire survey among FM professionals that are member of the Norwegian FM Network (NfN).
    • Target group: 45
    • Respondents: 31
  – First survey in 2013
Approach

Methodology

• Developing the Norwegian survey
  – Clarifying the technical language (State of the art theory: literature research, standards, FM experts)
  – Choosing relevant questions (According to object of research)
  – Translating the questions into Norwegian language and context
  – Testing the survey (FM professionals)

• The Norwegian sustainability in the FM survey
  – Demography of the Norwegian respondents
  – SFM questions translated from the UK survey
  – Norwegian opinions on statements based on the UK survey
Results

Demography of the respondents

- Which of the following economic sectors best describes the ownership of your organisation
Results

Demography of the respondents

• Which of the following best describes your organisation?
Results

*Sustainability policy and management of reporting*

- How important is sustainability for your organisation?

![Bar chart showing responses to the question about sustainability importance.](chart.png)
Results

*Sustainability policy and management of reporting*

- Organisations with an Environmental/Sustainability/Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy

Norway 2013

- Yes: 76%
- No: 18%
- Don’t know: 6%

UK 2013

- Yes: 88%
- No: 11%
- Don’t know: 1%
Results

Sustainability policy and management of reporting

- Aspects of sustainability covered by the policy:
Results

Sustainability policy and management of reporting

- Stakeholder groups the organisations report their environmental/sustainability/CSR activities to
Results

Norwegian opinions on the British SFM perspective

The most significant influence driving the implementation of sustainable practices in organisations is corporate image

The most significant barrier to effective management of sustainability responsibilities in organisations is physical constraints, e.g. building structure

FM professionals need better expertise in sustainable FM

FM professionals need to develop their understanding of the key issues of sustainability

FM professionals are at the forefront of implementing and managing it in the workplace

Sustainability is emerging as a core business strategy

References for statements:
Conclusion

• There was a growing number of scientific publications in the timeframe 2007-2013.
• FM professionals in both UK and Norway thinks sustainability is important for their organisations.
• In comparing the results between UK and Norway, the survey showed slightly higher coverage of sustainability aspects in the British organisations.
• SFM is evolving as a discipline and becoming increasingly attractive to academics and professionals.
Thank you for listening

Questions?

Ingemund Skålnes | Antje Junghans | Abbas Elmualim