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Kristiina Jokelainen

Regional Council of Lapland

Dear Readers,

Finland has a long tradition in developing regional innovation systems with smart specialization. Our smart choices are based on natural strengths and opportunities. Finland is known as a country of thousands of lakes, remarkable forest resources and high quality IT know-how. In addition to these national features, our many regions also have unique strengths of their own.

regions. Their persistence and ability to thrive and work together for a common goal delights me time after time. Regional priorities are developed in close collaboration of companies, universities and public innovation and effectiveness. government. Today it gives me a great pleasure to be able to share with you some of our success stories.

international actor in the Baltic Sea area. Marine industry is a major employer in the region and represents a global top competence. Water plays a key role also in South Karelia, where the famous Vuoksi River promotes renewable energy production. Vaasa region in Ostrobothnia is the

These turn into new bioenergy solutions and products for our top notch health the Northern Ostrobothnia is a platform for testing these innovative products entire health care sector.

forestry. The industrial parks in Satakunta region offer an excellent innovation platform for improving industrial competitiveness. Pirkanmaa region's well known bio- and circular economy ecosystems are built on the principles of openness, smartness,

✓ I am ever so grateful to all the regions present here today and proudly welcome

across Europe. Metropolitan areas flourish while surrounding rural areas are suffering from lack of investments. Need for growth inductive Cohesion policy exists throughout Europe.

I find it extremely important to combine support for SME's, innovations, skills and jobs with regional development also in the future. The EU is not able to face the



future of ever growing complexity Southwest Finland is an active without its prospering regions. I am confident that the you all to take a closer look next round of funding programs will enable us to continue with at our achievements." an ambitious Growth Agenda for Europe beyond 2020. It Lapland promotes arctic smartness and will be an Agenda for the development, tourism, making a great example on how structural renewal and wellbeing of to turn challenges into opportunities. unofficial energy capital of Finland On the opposite end of Finland, the I am ever so grateful to all the regions present here today and proudly with strong competence in the fields of Helsinki-Uusimaa region, home to 1.6 renewable energy and smart grid. million inhabitants, serves an engine for welcome you all to take a closer look at South Savo has great forest resources. economic growth in the whole country. It our achievements. is a dynamic and sustainable metropolitan area that also acts as a logistic hub Mika Lintilä connecting Finland to the international care sector. OuluHealth ecosystem in Minister of Economic Affairs In spite of great achievements, and services to benefit the needs of the challenges persist. While it is true that the social, economic and territorial gaps Central Ostrobothnia has strong within and between the Member States industrial profile combined with vital have partly decreased, there are still primary production in agriculture and wide differences between the regions

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You are warmly welcome to visit, invest, or live and study in South Karelia. Here industry, research, and beautiful lake views and sceneries are united in harmony.

> - Matti Viialainen Regional Mayor



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Make it openly, do it smartly, use your intelligence, be sophisticated, use most modern technology, be open to new ideas and don't waste your time. That is the modern mood in Pirkanmaa, Tampere Region.

> - Esa Halme Region Mayor



All the core actors of the region including research institutes, cities, municipalities and citizens molded the shared vision of South Savo's smart specialization strategy.

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> - Jussi Rämet Region Mayor



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CENTRAL

Central Ostrobothnia can be called a Biovalley region which means the area has strong industrial profile combined with vital primary production in agriculture and forestry.

> - Jukka Ylikarjula Regional governor

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Lapland is the northernmost region of EU where unique nature consists of abundant natural resources and it creates strong accumulation of northern expertise.



Smart housing, smart technology and even smart dogs!

- In the Helsinki region, the focus is on smart specialisation

Home for 1.6 million inhabitants and made up of 26 cities and towns, the Helsinki smart region is a place that leverages the power of IT to improve the life-quality for its inhabitants.

he aim is to boost the economic development and to increase sustainable use of natural resources. For us, smart means a well-functioning, dynamic and ecological region.

Helsinki metropolitan region is also home for several top-level universities, research institutes and a multitude of international companies. The buzzing start-up scene is thriving: perhaps you are familiar with events like Slush that gathers over 17 500 start-ups, investors and visitors to Helsinki in November. Startup hubs, like a former hospital Maria 0-1 or Start-up Sauna, are hosting and fostering a growing number of companies in the region. Helsinkin-Uusimaa is also the place where major international companies are collaborating actively with SMEs and students in the area.

How to find focus?

The smart specialization strategy encourages regions to find their strengths and to focus funding on the most essential By focusing on a limited number of themes and providing the key actors with funding, we aim at reaching even better results in these fields, creating more functional networks and finding new ideas and partners for collaboration.

IN HELSINKI-UUSIMAA the following themes have been identified as key promoters of growth:

- urban cleantech
- human healthtech
- digitilising industry
- smart citizens and welfare city

But how come smart dogs?

The HelsinkiSmart website, launched in June 2016, introduces the themes Helsinki region focuses on in its RIS3 projects and companies working with these themes. On the website, you can find the right contact person to help you discover more information on any topic



Helsinki Smart Region

of particular interest whether you're looking for partners or best practices.

On our website, you can also strategy. It also includes examples of find two videos of smart living in the Helsinki region. Smart solutions are in touch via Twitter @HelsinkiSmart. being tested and developed with the aim of saving time and effort for the end users. But what does a day in the

smart city look like through the eyes of a dog? To see Dalia the dog in action in the Kalasatama smart district, visit our website www.helsinkismart.fi or get

Hop on to the driverless bus!

Finland has a peculiar advantage over its neighbours: law permits driverless vehicles on open roads, enabling the testing of robobuses. There are two buses roaming the streets of three large cities in Finland, ploughing the way to future.

inland is a pioneer in developing smart mobility services to electric cars and driverless buses. The long distances and harsh winter climate require a particular know-how in the field of transport services. If a service functions well here, it is likely to function well elsewhere too.

Metropolia University of Applied Sciences is piloting French-made Easymile EZ10 -robobuses in Helsinki, Espoo and Tampere under the Sohjoa project from summer of 2016 to the end of 2017.

"The robobuses offer a more flexible alternative to public transport when, for example, going home from the train station. The idea is to make public transport a more interesting option to taking the private car", explains Harri Santamala, Project Director from Metropolia.

Finland's leading edge in the automation of transport

Helsinki is two years into its 10-year plan to make car ownership unnecessary through "mobility on demand" systems, but operating such demand-based systems has proven difficult. Often the number of passenger is too low to make new services cost-efficient. Even though the public transportation has not yet seen a major breakthrough in new types of services, there's a lot to expect from the years to come. Mobility as a service concept (MaaS) is creating a whole new approach to urban mobility and the role of automated buses will possibly – if not replace – at



Oscar Nissin

least complement the existing urban transport services.

"The robobuses have a combination of Lidars and GPS which allows them to locate itself and drive the preferred route", Harri Santamala continues. "The buses can also operate on routes where traditional buses have difficulties to operate or in regions where passenger flows

The Sohjoa project is not only aimed at creating new types of automated transport services, but also to increase understanding of the changes transportation is going through. In the next years, the automatization of transport is likely to transform the way people and cities operate. The possibilities, the problems and the risks should be well understood and addressed and answered collectively by the whole community of citizens, authorities, businesses and

In addition to piloting, the Sohjoa project will create an open innovation platform that companies can utilize to develop new product and service ideas. The potential new operational models, products and services will either support all-round operability of automated systems or take advantage of it.

The Sohjoa project has also worked as a showcase project for upcoming project in the area of smarter mobility that Metropolia will participate. "The field of smarter mobility is very wide and there are a lot question to be answered, and the new project will be more focused in problem solving", tells Oscar Nissin, Project Manager from Metropolia, about the future.

SOHJOA-6Aika is part of a Finnish cities' collaborative 6Aika -project family funded by European Structural Fund. Our partners are Aalto University, Forum Virium Helsinki, Finnish Geographical Institute and Tampere University of Technology.

WELCOME TO

UUSIMAA REGION

THE HELSINKI-

Regional Council

HELSINKI-UUSIMAA is international, multicultural, modern and tolerant. We are also proud of our nature: it is diverse, offering both recreation and tranquility. Nature, clean water, good infrastructure, as well as stable social system and security are all values that we embrace.

THIS YEAR Helsinki is the venue for the Smart Regions 2.0 Conference organized by the European Commission. We have the pleasure of welcoming hundreds of international visitors to our region. I hope you enjoy the interesting programme and the beautiful capital region.

BY THE WAY, did you know that we have 300 km of coastline and you can swim in the sea all year round even in the Helsinki city centre.

WISHING YOU a successful event and good discussions in Helsinki,

Ossi Savolainen Regional Mayor



WE ARE ALSO PRESENT AT NOSTURI – COME AND SAY HELLO!

Urban Woodshed

The Urban Woodshed project will develop new and functional wood storage- and service solutions for the urban households. Better storage solutions reduce the problems connected to air quality, black carbon emissions and the negative impact on the climate and would improve the energy efficiency of wood combustion.

Climate Street

Climate Streets in the Helsinki capital region aim for urban sustainability where future low carbon cities are adapted to changing climate. Test

areas are Iso Roobertinkatu in Helsinki and Tikkuraitti and Asematie in Vantaa. Areas showcase practical steps by piloting climate friendly services and

Biofore Concept Car

Biofore Concept Car is a milestone in the utilisation of next generation biomaterials in the automotive value chain. The concept car is designed and manufactured in partnership with Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, and several other partner companies.



Uusikaupunki

- "Victory Through Hardship"

rom a regional economic perspective, Uusikaupunki is an interesting city in many ways. Even though Uusikaupunki is a relatively small city and a sub-region in terms of population, important international industry has always operated there.

The most significant present-day

challenge has been the large size of the region's central industrial enterprises in relation to the region's total economy and population. This was most concretely visible at the beginning of the 1990s. Depression hit Finland hard all around, and Uusikaupunki suffered a particular blow as two major industrial enterprises

had to almost simultaneously significantly

reduce their labour force, which then increased the unemployment rate of Uusikaupunki to 33.7 percent.

In this situation, the city's industrial policy was built on the notion that the problem was only temporary. An important goal was preventing the mass migration of inhabitants, and therefore the city's resources were used, for instance, for subsidised employment. At this point it became clear how important diversifying the regional economic structure actually is. Both the industry and company structure had to be diversified, which stressed the importance of supporting the growing conditions of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Fortunately, the region has succeeded in its mission to diversify its economic structure. The current situation is good as the corrective measures conducted mainly via the SME sector have borne fruit and also the large industrial units in the area have grown rapidly. All in all, the future prospects look very bright. Unemployment is no longer a problem, and now the city invests in giving people the opportunity to move to the Uusikaupunki region for work.

Maritime cluster going strong

Meyer Turku Oy employs over 1,600 persons and is specialized in building highly complex, innovative and environmentally friendly cruise ships, car-passenger ferries and special vessels.

ogether with its two sister shipyards in Germany, Meyer Werft in Papenburg and Neptun Werft in Rostock, Meyer Turku is one of the world's leading cruise ship builders. The successful shipbuilding tradition in Turku has been continuing since 1737. The company is currently building three cruise ships for TUI Cruises. The company are supported by the subsidiaries of Meyer

The order book of Meyer Turku is looking better than ever before."

will also build two cruise ships for Costa Crociere, Carnival Corporation and Royal Caribbean International. Together with a local and national supplier network, shipbuilding in Turku employs over

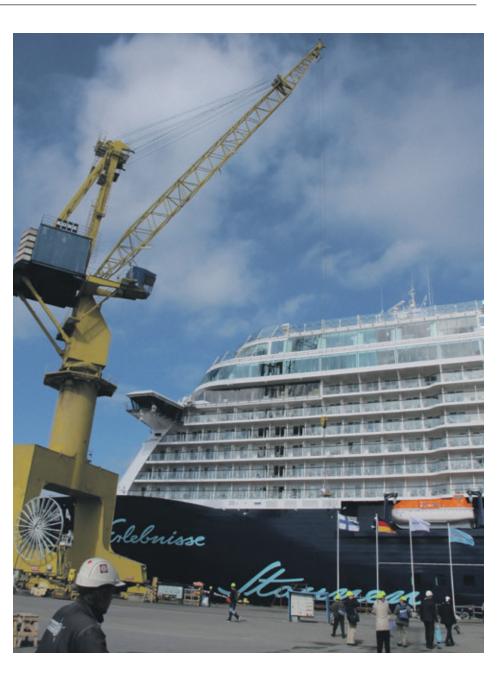
The order book of Meyer Turku is looking better than ever before. This enables

major investments to the machinery, processes, systems and also people of the shipyard. This means increasing recruitments but also more work to the network of suppliers. Meyer Turku has at the moment published an investment program of 75 million euros, including a new 1 200 ton Goliath Gantry Crane. The design and construction of the ships

> Turku: Piikkio Works Oy, which is a Cabin Factory in Piikkiö, Shipbuilding Completion Oy, which provides turnkey solutions to public spaces in ships, and ENG'nD Oy, which is a

company offering services for shipbuilding and offshore engineering.

Meyer Turku also runs Finland's last industrial occupational school. Welders, sheet metal workers, engineers and other professionals are educated to the benefit of both Meyer Turku and the



Be smart, think blue!

mart Blue Regions project seeks to enhance blue growth increased capacity of the 6 partner regions from the Baltic Sea to implement research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3). With a focus on economic development efforts and investments in a region's relative strengths, the participating regions have made

RIS3. Region of Southwest Finland takes actively part in the project and is especially responsible of operationalising joint transnational

Blue Growth a priority in their

projects in blue RIS3 implementation. Southwest Finland is the leading region of the Finnish maritime industry and hosts over 60 % of all Finnish maritime technology industry companies. Shipbuilding and maritime industry and the





whole maritime cluster are very important for the region. The maritime industry grows rapidly and is expected to employ more than 15 000 new employees within the next five years period. According to the latest survey, over 50% of companies expect turnover to grow in future years.

Smart Blue Regions project aims to improve the

Maritime industry is expected to employ 15 000 new employees within the next five years."

understanding of macro-regional synergies and transnational cooperation in the field of the blue economy. Seas and oceans are drivers for the European economy and have great potential for innovation and growth. Blue Growth stands for innovative ways of developing a range of (often interdependent) maritime activities, i.e. by relying on common skills and shared infrastructure. However, a sectorial approach does not do justice to the full potential of maritime economic activities.

Currently the Smart Blue Regions project is collecting information about most effective

blue growth implementation financial and non-financial). At the same

time project partners are mapping and collecting the most promising cooperation opportunities and key players from the participating regions and beyond. The aim is to build new transnational project initiatives based on expressed needs.

Turku Game Lab

TURKU GAME LAB operates under Turku University of Applied Sciences (TUAS) and University of Turku. It engages daily in multidisciplinary activities where students, staff and industry partners work on game application software, interface solutions and product development.

THE LABORATORY functions as a Living Lab, an innovation environment capable of both rapid prototyping and longlasting development processes. Turku Game Lab is currently participating in one EU Horizon 2020 flagship project called ACTIVAGE and in three Tekes funded projects.



Cooperation and partnership drives the development!



e strongly focus on customer needs and values in our strategic work in the region. One of the key ideas is the interactive teamwork bringing together and mixing various expertise across their traditional fields, focusing only

on important topics. We believe in partnership and cooperation! In our smart specialisation strategy we emphasise especially the following priorities: Blue growth & industrial modernization, Life science & health technologies and Innovative food supply chains.



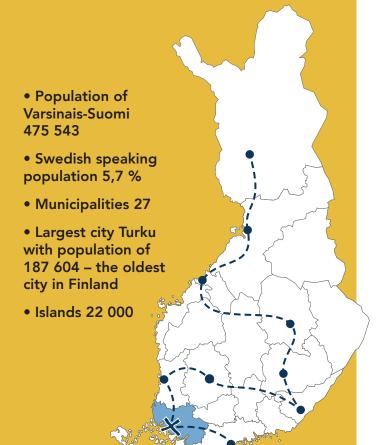
SOUTHWEST **FINLAND**

SOUTHWEST FINLAND is situated by the coast of the Archipelago Sea. The region is known for its unique archipelago with over 20 000 islands. Here maritime atmosphere meets urban city culture. A rich history is combined with high technology, global top know-how, creative industries and culture.

THE EXPERTISE in Southwest Finland creates products ranging from medicine to cars and the world's biggest and most environmentally friendly cruise ships. The marine industry is a major employer in the region and represents global top competence. Biosciences and circular economy are very important fields of expertise and development as well.

SOUTHWEST FINLAND'S central location as a gateway to the West makes it an important international actor in the Baltic Sea area. The region has also diverse educational potential with several universities.

BY ITS POPULATION, Southwest Finland is the third biggest region in Finland. Almost 6 % of 473 000 inhabitants speak Swedish as their mother tongue. There are 27 municipalities in the region. The capital of the region, Turku, is the oldest city in Finland, and the former capital of the country as well.



Satakunta region

- diverse industry and significant industrial parks



one of the most industryeavy Finnish regions? The share of industry in its added value was 25% in 2013. Due to its history, Satakunta is a very open, export-oriented and international region with regard to its industrial operations. The terms of trade in the region are double the country's average. Finland and the world surely need Satakunta.

Satakunta has a strong, living industrial tradition, and also today, the basis of business life in the region is its diverse industry. All vital industrial sectors of Finnish national economy are strongly present in Satakunta, such as technology, engineering, metal, energy, food, and forestry industries. The diversity of the industrial sector has been an advantage to the Satakunta region and it also protects it against economic fluctuations and trends.

The nationally notable industrial parks located in Satakunta are Kupariteollisuuspuisto (Copper Industry

Park) and M20 Industrial Park in Pori, Seaside Industry Park in Rauma, Suurteollisuuspuisto Industrial Park in Harjavalta, Agro-ecological Industrial Park of Kirkkokallio in Honkajoki, and the foodstuff business areas of Southern Satakunta. The growth of the region's export-oriented industry can also be seen in the development of Finland's

Industrial parks employ 8,000-

9,000 people in Satakunta, and the companies located in the industrial parks have investment plans worth EUR 1.3 billion. The industrial parks offer an excellent innovation platform for improving industrial competitiveness and creating new solutions. Industrial parks and areas have been built on the basis of the common interests of their businesses, supported by land use plans and logistics. The parks have been created with the support of infrastructure on the basis of existing industry and industrial hubs and along excellent traffic connections. In the current industrial parks, the companies benefit from the

shared operations by utilising efficiently the common infrastructure provided by the park. Growing synergy benefits can also be achieved in logistics, material stream management, procurements, subcontracting and suppliers as well as in support operations by utilising shared resources. To further develop industrial parks, optimising operational models further will be necessary, for example, with regard to the physical environment, the shared network of the companies' operational models, business opportunities and marketing. Innovation operations and product development are actions where major advantages could be achieved through shared pilots between industry and institutes of higher education.

The future prospects of industry in Satakunta have been reviewed in Industrial vision 2020 programme that was created through business-centered preparations based on an initiative by the Satakunta and Rauma Chambers of Commerce in 2013. The goals set in the programme were more productive interaction between the regional operators, strengthening the

role of Satakunta industry in Finnish industrial policies, and strong independent reform of industrial companies. One of the key themes of the vision is "Steadier synergy and profit from industrial parks". The Satakunta Industrial Pilot is based on the views of the Industrial vision 2020 programme and it implements its goals. The province has a shared view of the development needs and the government programme goals as well as a strong will to support the renewal of industry.

Success stories from Satakunta -articles give a versatile view on Satakunta region and its strengths. The main aims are pure vitality, people-oriented solutions and encouraging community.

Satakunta is the largest electricity producer in Finland, as a quarter of all electricity in the entire country is produced there. Read more about prospects of renewable energy forms such as wind, solar and gas (http://www.satakunta.fi/ en/energy-solutions-and-new-investments).

Coast of robots

do the following vorld-leading portal and business processes, and a tree seedling planting device manufacturer that radiates solid international growth potential? The core activity of each one focuses on the utilisation of robotics and automation. And they are all based in

The Swedes have Robotdalen, the Danes have RoboCluster and we Finns have the Robocoast of Satakunta. Robocoast is a very apt name because there is a cluster of top companies in the industry and the educational and research organizations in the area invest in research and expertise in the automation industry says the coordinator of the Robocoast network, Senior Consultant Mikko Puputti of the regional development company Prizztech Oy.



A common brand providing business support

The Robocoast network was created to develop a common brand for operators in the automation industry in Satakunta and to market the expertise and products of individual companies in the network. In collaboration with the Satakunta University of Applied Sciences (SAMK), Prizztech Oy coordinates and convenes the network. - In the first phase, we compiled a company catalogue of automation

companies that already consist of over 30 companies in the area. The objective of the network is to promote collaboration between companies in the industry and higher education institutions.

Expertise in automation also has a great impact on the success and competitive development of other industries. Robots work just as well in Finland as they do in China, so it is no longer profitable to transport extensively automated manufacturing to faraway places due

to logistical costs. - Sinituote (http:// www.sinituote.fi/en) is a good example

New challengers and a need for investment

There are several large and traditional automation companies in Satakunta. Alongside these companies grows a new pool of agile challengers with nothing less than interesting growth potential. Expertise and the ability to utilise automation and robotics have reached a nationally high level in Finland, but investments are lagging behind. In Puputti's view, there are two options.

- We can decide that we will focus on developing manufacturing in Finland and invest in automation and robotics. Alternatively, we will most likely see even steeper reductions of manufacturing

He does not expect work to run out as robotics steps into the picture, but jobs will be different.

- Robots could be of assistance in health care, for example, by making nurses' work more pleasant. For example, if a robot assisted in tasks requiring physical strength, such as lifting, nurses could focus their energy on tasks for which they have been trained.



Indoor Hygiene in Satakunta

Satakunta has become an innovation centre in the field of IH and a strong Finnish cluster of IH has been developed.

atakunta region has xcelled outstandingly smart specialization several research and development projects. The past research projects funded by Tekes (HygTech 1 and 2) as well as the ongoing Hygiene into Business (HygLi) project funded by the Regional Council of Satakunta are all focused on improving healthy indoors through hygienic and hygiene increasing products and solutions for indoors in buildings. The projects have been and are coordinated by the Satakunta University of Applied Sciences and co-executed by the University of Turku, Turku School of Economics, Pori unit. From the start, strong emphasis has been on the business development within the new area of IH.

Through the successful project work and co-operation of project partners, active companies and actors in building sector, already several concrete results have seen the daylight. Companies have formed an indoor hygiene

alliance in Finland, Hygtech Alliance (hygtechalliance. com). Project partners have together with Finnish Building Information Group finalized and published instructions for indoor hygiene construction (planning, construction, and maintenance) to building sector (RT Building Information Files). Several new Living Lab innovation environments for pilot studies and modelling indoor hygiene solutions have been planned and negotiated and will be constructed during years 2017 and 2018 in a school in the city of Rauma, in the new campus of SAMK and in a hospital, all in the Satakunta region. Also, new employment has been created and new startup companies initiated within the field of indoor hygiene. The excellent project work

and cooperation of different actors have renewed and improved the infrastructure of the RDI-activity and innovation cooperation as well as smart specialization in Satakunta through networking the research of universities, corporations and the public

sector. Market preparation and creation have been an important part of the commercialization process of the new innovative IH solutions. The scientific background of the IH solution, new IH Building Information Files and the life cycle related benefits have been introduced through a series of seminars/ webinars conducted in Satakunta. In addition, researchers and company representatives have organized an own fair and participated to construction and health care sector related fairs to familiarize the key stakeholders to the issue.

At this turning point in both economy and industry, hygienic products and solutions are truly a potential opportunity to several fields of business and manufacturers in Satakunta and in Finland.



Leverage from the EU







SATAKUNTA IS A GENUINE PLACE FOR LIVING, **ENTREPRENEURSHIP** AND EXPERIENCES

BUSINESS SUCCESS in Satakunta is based on specialization, a diverse industrial structure and international cooperation. We have excelled particularly as expert in the energy, industrial production, forest bioeconomy and the food industry. Our expertise continually creates new jobs and opportunities. Two ports, an airport, railway connections and highways make logistics possible in every way. In Satakunta, you are encouraged to be an entrepreneur.

SATAKUNTA IS also known as a cultural province whose a unique, genuine and heartfelt approach to art and culture has produced numerous success stories. We offer a diversity of events in culture, history, music and sport. The Bothnian Sea, national parks and the numerous rivers and lakes are the prides of our province.

Asko Aro-Heinilä Region mayor

- Population of Satakunta 221 740
- Largest population cluster is Pori 85 059
- Growth of Export of Manufacturing Industry in 2000-2015: Satakunta: +42%, Finland in average: +10 %
- Export of Manufacturing Industry/GDP 2014: Satakunta: 53 %, Finland in average: 36 %
- Two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Old Rauma, Bronze Age **Burial Site of** Sammal-



Tampere's two universities have a long history of research and education in a wide variety of medical and biomedical sciences and engineering.

esearchers at Tampere University of Technology have for decades been among the best in the world in the area of biodegradable implants, and their work has led to numerous commercialized products for clinical use, while researchers at the University of Tampere have been pioneers in fields such as mitochondrial and stem cell research - research areas still waiting to become to the commercial maturity. The two universities joined their efforts in life sciences in 2011 by establishing BioMediTech – institute of biosciences and medical technology.

TAMPERE

BioMediTech's main aim is to foster the universities' collaboration in life sciences and create an efficient support network for life science innovations. The establishment of BioMediTech and the

innovation environment was supported by the Council of Tampere Region and the City of Tampere through the European regional development fund. "The ERDF support was crucial when we created the new innovation culture to support the researchers", says Juho Väisänen, programme manager of BioMediTech, who has worked to develop BioMediTech from its infancy.

State-of-the art research infrastructure

BioMediTech is currently the base of more than 25 research groups: some 400 researchers utilise its state of the art laboratory facilities. Over the past five years, BioMediTech has invested heavily in the development of research infrastructure in order to support the world-class research. As part of the ecosystems, especially in the Euregio



development of the laboratory facilities, the University of Tampere built the new, state of the art ARVO building, where clinicians, engineers and biologists all work under the same roof.

Joining European LIfe Science **Ecosystems**

Life science research is profoundly international, and both researchers and their institutions must play a part in international life science ecosystems. BioMediTech has been active in establishing connections with European life science

area of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany. BioMediTech has a base in BioVille, Deepenbeek, Belgium, to anchor the institute to the local ecosystem.

Currently, the Council of Tampere region supports the internationalization of BioMediTech through the ERDF. "This type of support is boosting our possibilities to collaborate with the research groups and companies located in the central Europe", says Professor Minna Kellomäki, director of BioMediTech.

The innovative spirit of the Tampere Region from an outsider's perspective

Before coming to Tampere I was not sure about what lies ahead. Several meetings and study visits later we all were impressed by the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit. Building platforms for collaboration and creating trust seems to be a success model for increasing the innovative capacities within a region.



- Joachim Haumann Technology and Innovation Partner, Economic Chamber of Lower Austria



The widespread image of Tampere Region as an innovation hub has triggered my interest. I was truly amazed how the innovation ecosystem is developing dynamically, through constant reflection and learning by doing. Tampere Region has been brave to redefine its innovation fostering activities and pilot the open innovation platforms approach.

- Sevdalina Voynova Director of Programs for Sofia Development Association, Bulgaria

Joachim Haumann and Sevdalina Voynova visited Tampere in March 2017 for a peer review in the framework of the Interreg Europe co-funded project "Innobridge"

Innovation Voucher

- digital, easy and effective

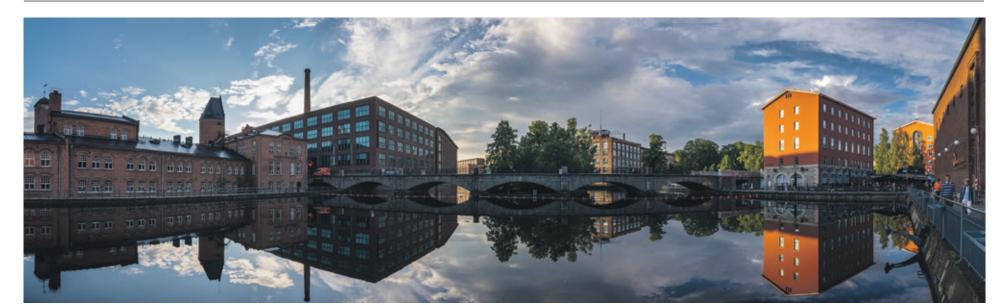
The entire process both for service providers and Voucher users happens on a digital platform.

This makes this tool exceptionally simple and quick, says Jukka Reunavuori, Project Manager of the ERDF co-funded Innovation Voucher project.

In addition to praising the easiness, the first feedback from the companies and preliminary results are extremely encouraging. Voucher lowers the risk of investing to innovation activities and in best case, opens totally new doors for or Smart City Solutions. a small company. First results show

that 75 % of the companies believe they will enlarge their business to a new market area due to actions made with the Voucher, and 30 % are expecting a remarkable growth of their turnover.

The maximum amount of a Voucher is 5.000 €/company, and the purpose of the use has to be linked to certain themes: IoT, Renewing industry, Wellbeing and Health, Smart Traffic and Mobility,



Softer than cotton, flowing like viscose

- new wood based products amaze

he Tampere Region is among the most dynamic and intensively growing bio- and circular economy regions in Finland. Through ECO3 nationally significant hub of bio- and circular economy companies - region will offer both multitude business opportunities as well as services in cleantech, nutrient and waste recycling, biogas production and sludge treatment

One of the ECO3's companies Ecolan Ltd is a frontrunner in biofuel ash utilization in Finland and offers ash-fertilizers and materials to infrastructure construction. ECO3 is also found in Finland's circular economy road map that describes the concrete actions that can accelerate the transfer to a competitive circular economy.

Throughout Tampere's industrial history, our national green gold, forests, have been an essential source of wealth and growth. Today, this valuable resource brings new wave of wood based products to the market.

Our leading research institutes Tampere University of Technology and VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland in



■ Biocelsol-method will give one solution to increasing demand of sustainable textile fibers."

the lead are introducing cutting edge solutions. Multilayered packaging technologies enable more preservability for food and smart solutions that enable you to check if your food is still edible.

Biocelsol-method, developed by the scientists of Tampere University of Technology, will give one solution to continuously increasing demand of sustainable textile fibers. These new textiles made from cellulose will be softer than cotton and flowing like viscose, a perfect material for a beanie to cover your head

Council of Tampere Region is promoting area's bio- and circular economy and is operating two international circular economy Interreg and Horizon 2020 cofunded projects: BSR Stars S3 and SCREEN





WORLD'S ONLY Moomin Museum opens at Tampere in 2017! The construction is on the way, and much of the art Tove Jansson donated to the city of Tampere will be exhibited in the new premises at Tampere Hall.

MOOMIN MUSEUM makes the visitor's experience whole with a Moomin themed restaurant, a reading room and a shop.

How to make a difference in educational technology

s education is shifting in an enormous pace towards technologyenhanced methods, we still lack a coherent understanding about the impact of these technologies. At the same time, educational technology vendors are more or less struggling to meet the needs of teachers, learners and educational leaders with their educational technology (EdTech) products.

Inno-Oppiva ERDF project is all about making a difference for the benefit of the company. on how to assess the EdTech products added value for the teachers and students which can

be from all respective grades and levels of education. Tampere Research Center for Information and Media (TRIM) conducts a series of piloting periods with 15 EdTech companies from Tampere region.

The project is based on a concept of an innovation platform in which the companies hand out their product for the assumed end-users for free and research group conducts pre- and postassessment of the product usage





IN THE MIDDLE **OF POSITIVE** TURBULENCE

MAKE IT openly, do it smartly, use your intelligence, be sophisticated, use most modern technology, be open to new ideas and don't waste your time. That is the modern mood in Pirkanmaa, Tampere Region.

WHY THAT is so normal to us? The region has gone through continuous industrial reforms for decades. The last was the new re-orientation of mobile-phone industry to something even more advanced.

OUR HALF a million region grows with 4000 inhabitants annually. The growth in based on talented young who move to study in the region and later to start new enterprises. One third of the growth comes from abroad. This all has created a smart and heavily investing time.

IT IS so much fun to be in the middle of positive turbulence. Come and join us.

Esa Halme Region Mayor Council of Tampere Region

TAMPERE REGION

• 22 municipalities

 Population 509 356 (31.12.2016)

 Number of workplaces 201 971 (2014)

• 70,7 % of the population aged 15 elementary school (2015)

 University students 21 825 (2016)

• R&D expenditures per capita (2015) EUR 1,653/resident





or the locals, the lake is a beloved mindscape and a thriving environment. For tourists, it is a wonderfully memorable experience. Lake Saimaa is the hub and foundation of tourism in the Saimaa region that covers South Karelia and South Savo. Tourism is an increasingly important livelihood in the region, and has also generated interregional cooperation. The aim is that the Saimaa region will be among the three most important travel destinations in Finland by 2020.

Developing tourism

Development measures centred on tourism began in South Karelia in the early 2000s. The attractiveness of two local cities, Lappeenranta and Imatra, was developed simultaneously. The measures included renovating harbours and historical destinations. The Saimaa have also been developed to allow as many people as possible to enjoy Saimaa

Tourism was boosted when Russians became interested in the offerings of the Saimaa Region, which is only around 200 km from St. Petersburg. Over the years, development of tourism has become more systematic. This process has been supported by the formation of a tourist cluster at the border of Lappeenranta and Imatra in the Rauha-Ukonniemi area, known for its spa activities since the turn of the 19th and the 20th centuries. The cluster was partially supported with structural funds.

There are two large spa hotels and diverse opportunities for nature and sports

tourism in the Rauha-Ukonniemi area, on the shores of Lake Saimaa. Many of the visitors come from St. Petersburg, as they did a century ago. Back then, the free-flowing Imatrankoski rapids were the main attraction for European tourists, and had been so since the

Funding from structural and rural development funds have also been used to develop tourism-related marketing and services. The aim has been to support entrepreneurship and growth opportunities of companies in the structural change that pose various challenges in the region.

Clean water

Today, the water in Lake Saimaa is so clean that it could even be drunk safely. This is a globally unique standard of water quality. Saimaa provides

days by boating and swimming, while admiring the diversity of the surrounding natural world. Lucky visitors may even spot a Saimaa ringed seal, which have returned to southern parts of Lake Saimaa. With only 320 seals left, the species, which is endemic to Lake Saimaa, is extremely endangered.

The quality of water in Lake Saimaa has not always been this good. Industrialization and other human activities left their mark before water conservation efforts were started in Finland in the 1970s. Today, South Karelia is among the world's largest forest industry clusters, with the largest

factory complexes on the shores of Lake Saimaa. However, this no longer affects the quality of the water.

Joint environmental achievements

The locals in the Lake Saimaa region agree that a clean lake environment is a treasure that needs to be cherished. Green Campus, by the Lappeenranta University of Technology (LUT), is a research and teaching environment that aims to create sustainable environmental and energy solutions of the future. LUT's Green Campus won the Excellence in Campus category of the global Sustainable Campus Excellence Award competition.

Saimaa is a nature experience that we want to offer everyone."

a safe setting for enjoying long summer Lappeenranta has several times made it to the finals of WWF's Earth Hour City Challenge. And in 2016, it was appointed the climate capital of Finland. Of the waste generated in Lappeenranta, 90% is recycled, in addition to which the city has the Finland's first green leisure boating harbour.

Kivisalmi pumping station in and the hospitality of the locals! Lappeenranta improves water circulation in the part of Saimaa known as Small Saimaa, where the slow replenishment of water caused by embankments is a problem. Seven rain and drainage water collection pools that work similarly to nature's own filtration systems remove sediment and nutrients from the drainage

water. These measures have quickly improved the water quality of Small Saimaa.

Welcome to Saimaa

Tourism is booming in Finland. In 2017, Lonely Planet judged Finland to be the world's third best travel destination, and National Geographic Traveler placed the country among the world's 21 best tourist destinations. We are proud of the fact that Finland also has the most water in the whole world in relation to its size. We also have the world's fifthlowest water consumption rate in relation to renewable water resources.

But despite these strengths, we must still take good care of all of our water resources. Saimaa is a nature experience that we want to offer everyone. Saimaa is equally enchanting all year round, even though the experience changes with the seasons. Exploring the area on a crisp autumn day feels very different from a relaxed kayaking trip in the height of summer, or a hike or even a car cruise on the frozen lake in winter. You can feel safe here, as there is less risk of natural disasters than anywhere else in the world. Welcome to South Karelia to enjoy the pristine waters of Saimaa

Firmatiimi is a group of students from Saimaa UAS and LUT

students from the Saimaa University of Applied Sciences (Saimaa UAS) and the Lappeenranta University of Technology (LUT) that contacts and visits small- and mediumsized companies and markets opportunities for cooperation between students and companies. In 2017 and 2018, Firmatiimi focuses specially on the international students of Saimaa UAS and LUT.

Among Firmatiimi's areas of emphasis are company topics, real-life problems, and internships that aim to develop students' working life skills and employability. The brand of "Firmatiimi" is well known among companies in the South Karelia Region. Students of Saimaa UAS and LUT have a high opinion of Firmatiimi, both of the work it does and the skills that participating in the activities gives the students.

Saimaa UAS is an institute of higher education in Lappeenranta and Imatra in Southeastern Finland. Saimaa



LUT Firmatiimi/Jami Pankakari

UAS offers degrees in five fields. Saima UAS has about 260 staff and 3000 students, including 200 international degree students.

Lappeenranta University

of Technology creates solutions for many purposes, such as ensuring sufficient supplies of energy, clean water, and raw materials. LUT scores high on several university rankings. For example, in its report the higher

education consulting company Firetail listed LUT among the world's 20 most promising challenger universities. In industry collaboration, the Times Higher Education supplement (THE) ranks LUT in the top 20 percent of the world's universities. One-third of incoming students are international, from 70 different countries.

"Making it easier to cope at home"

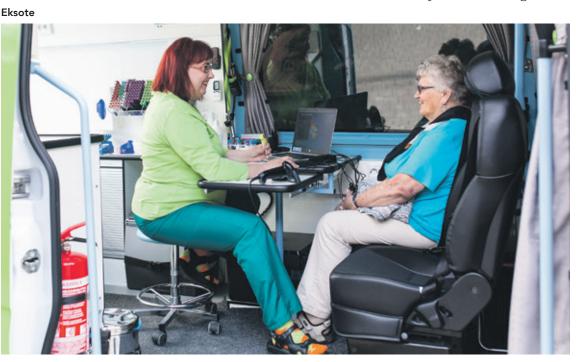
"Making it easier to cope at home" is the vision of the South Karelia Social and Health Care District (Eksote).

by an integrated digitalization in developing customer-oriented service

Eksote's outpatient care models include a mobile clinic Mallu and a mobile laboratory unit Malla. The mobile clinic Mallu provides dental healthcare and nurse consultation services. The laboratory unit Malla provides laboratory services such as blood tests and EKG.

Both units have participated in influenza vaccination campaigns, in addition to which Labour Force Service Centre has utilized them in the provision of multiprofessional services.

Mobile services support the operation of the wellbeing and low-threshold service centres by extending their services to the more remote areas of the district. A vehicle with supporting ICT solutions can serve as a platform for providing a variety of mobile social and healthcare services flexibly around the region.





WORLD CLASS BIO-FOREST INDUSTRY AND RENEWABLE **ENERGY**

SOUTH KARELIA is one of Finland's eighteen regions. It is in South-East Finland, on the southern shores of Lake Saimaa and on the Russian border not so far from St. Petersburg.

OUR BIO-FOREST cluster is the world's second largest. All the major Finnish global companies, including UPM, Stora-Enso, and Metsä Board, have significant production and RID activities in the region's two largest centres, Lappeenranta and Imatra.

THANKS TO the global forest industry and the famous Vuoksi River, South Karelia is the leader of renewable energy production in Finland. The share of renewable energy sources (bioenergy and hydropower) is almost 80 %, which is double the current EU requirement for Finland.

THE LAPPEENRANTA University of Technologies (LUT) has high level cleantech research, innovation activities, and business education. With students from 70 countries, our university has the most international campus in Finland.

YOU ARE warmly welcome to visit, invest, or live and study in South Karelia. Here industry, research, and beautiful lake views and sceneries are united in harmony. We'll make life easy and rewarding.

Matti Viialainen Regional Mayor

SOUTH KARELIA

- 130,506 residents, of whom 72,872 live in Lappeenranta.
- GDP per capita is EUR 37,234 (in 2014), the fourth highest of all Finnish regions.
- The number of border crossings to and from Russia 4,169,443 (in 2016). This accounts for nearly half of all the border crossings.
- Every fourth higher education student comes from abroad.
- 8,283 km of shoreline
- 2,184 islands

Strategic choices of the region are WATER, FOREST and FOOD.

hese smart choices of the region are based on natural strengths and opportunities, furthermore, combining R&D skills and innovative entrepreneurs and firms. EU structural funds and other financial instruments strengthen the region's resource base and play significant role in region's smart specialization. All these three choices create fundamental base for region's bioeconomy and low-carbon ecosystem. The aim is to create new jobs, competitiveness and solutions for worldwide problems concerning water, forest and food questions.

WHY - WATER? Clean water is one of the most important questions of worldwide future. We have innovative and smart solutions for water treatment that can be used for everyday life solutions and industrial processes. Laboratory of green chemistry located in South Savo research and develop waste water solutions and clean water analytics that can be commercialized by companies.

WHY - FOREST? South Savo has the biggest forest resources in Finland. Moreover, the forest is growing faster than in any other region in Finland. Sustainability and innovative solutions are the core of forest utilization. Forest cluster's added value is based on low carbon solutions and innovations. In the future, wood is still used as material for paper, pulp and saw-material. However, future focus will concentrate on bioenergy, biofuels and -chemicals and valueadded products.

WHY - FOOD? South Savo's agriculture and food industry are based on premium quality and local organic food production. Our principle is to secure pure agricultural raw materials and safety of food chain from cultivated land all the way to consumers. Digital solutions are vital element of strategic choices, for example in food sector traceability of products and safety of food supply chain.

SOUTH SAVO

SAIMAA REGION



STRATEGY 2030

What smart specialization means for South Savo region?

All the core actors of the region including research institutes, cities, municipalities and citizens have molded the shared vision of South Savo's smart specialization strategy. The quadruple helix approach was the key method through the process smart specialization strategy goal is to is purely best!

achieve green and sustainable growth in all sectors! All the elements to succeed are in our own hands but it requires global networks, cooperation, investment

and further implementation. The region's Therefore, South Savo's future vision

Organic quality products from fields and forests

nnish Organic Renetwork operating under the Natural Resources Institute Finland and the University of Helsinki. The coordination unit of the Institute is located in Mikkeli, South Savo. Institute promotes organic food production and consumption throughout the Finnish food chain by the means of research, science communication, education and development projects.

South Savo region has a longtime tradition in organic production. Nowadays it is the main production area for organic carrots, onions and cabbages in Finland. This situation has been reached by the committed development work and cooperation of farmers, researchers and other stakeholders in the food chain. This co-operation has been supported in many ways by numerous EU-funded projects.

The market size for organic foods is steadily increasing globally. This growing consumption of organics offers new business opportunities for

rural entrepreneurs, restaurants and for the Finnish companies exporting organic products. Boreal non-wood forest products such as wild berries, mushrooms, tree sap waters, resin and wild herbs are raw materials gaining more interest in the global food and cosmetic market. The organic label is more often needed for international marketing to assure the purity of the product. Finnish Organic Research Institute is promoting the utilization of

organic certification scheme of forest in South Savo region. The development of more efficient supply-chain of organic nonwood products and development of added value organic products to export market are needed. EU-funding is supporting the communication of these new possibilities to diversify the forest product portfolio of the region by utilizing organic certification scheme.



esignation of Origin label. The slogan of the label is: Designation of Origin Saimaa – 100% good from Lake Saimaa area. The word 'good' means taste and high quality. It has also a positive impact for the environment, for the food culture and the vitality of the region and society.

Brand of

Saimaa

Designation of Origin

renowned brand. The

South Savo was the first

in Finland who began

regional council of

Origin Saimaa.

Product-specific the D.O. Saimaa label has been given to 12 producers during the first year when using the new brand. Labelled products are for example spices,

wines, berries, different kind of meat and fish-products, sweets, carrots and cereal products. In Lake Saimaa region there are a large number of small producers and food processing companies. They have developed for years high-quality products. The D.O.Saimaa label adds value for the products and distinguishes them from competitors. D.O. Saimaa sign-labeled products are both gastronomically and ethically a very good choice. Restaurants may use the D.O. Saimaa label in individual doses or create menus around the D.O. Saimaa-menus

theme. It is also possible to apply the D.O.Saimaa label for design and art crafts products.

The interest of food products and the manufacturing of food is growing constantly. Reliable information of the origin of food and the methods of manufacturing is increasingly important factor when making purchasing decision. D.O. Saimaa label tells to the consumer that the product is produced environmentally friendly in Lake Saimaa area. The label also tells us that the entire production chain is short and traceable.

Research and piloting environment for bioeconomy innovations

he FiberLaboratory is South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences bio product technology innovation center located in Savonlinna. The laboratory develops technology and innovations for the processing and forestry industry, as well as for chemical, measurement, control and automation system manufacturers. The FiberLaboratory conducts research and development of an international standard and trains process engineers.

FIBERLABORATORY'S GOAL is that results and new solutions underpin the competitiveness of companies in the South Savo region as well as in whole Finland and also globally. The FiberLaboratory offers an extensive range of services that are tailored to customer requirements. These include expert services, as well as test-run and laboratory services. The laboratory supports forest technology-business ecosystem development and leading bio-economy projects, further, boosts the Finnish economy by increasing export income. The FiberLaboratory would not have seen the light of day without the support of the European Structural Funds.

COOPERATION NETWORK includes about 100 companies from all over Finland and other countries.

THE FIBERLABORATORY has fiber, water, wastewater and sludge laboratories, piloting equipment up to production scale and portable piloting equipment



THE MAIN ISSUES IN COOPERATION WITH COMPANIES ARE:

- Technology development of big scale industrial forest base bio refinery processes
- Research activities focusing on rapid mixing phenomena boosting the efficiency of industrial processes
- Commercialization of carbon dioxide capture process patented by Xamk in cooperation with a start-up company in Savonlinna
- New measurement applications for bio refinery processes; NMR, imaging, refractive index etc.
- Development work of production and applications of Micro Crystallized Cellulose.
- Practical equipment testing



SOUTH SAVO SAIMAA REGION

- The southernmost region in East Finland, just a couple of hours drive from the Finnish capital Helsinki and around four hours by train from Saint Petersburg
- Sparsely populated area with most ageing population in Finland
- The region's total area around 19,000 km² (25% of which is water) with approximately 150,000 inhabitants
- National institute for health and welfare region survey 2016: South Savo region 3rd concern happiness indicator
- Consists of fourteen municipalities and three towns largest city Mikkeli (54 517), Pieksämäki (18 475) and Savonlinna (35 242)
- Wood, technology and service industries are the most important branches of industry and largest employers in South Savo
- The population of South Savo nearly doubles every summer when summer residents and vacationers come to the region to enjoy of the wide range of cultural attractions and international festivals and games or just easy living in a clean, safe and pleasant environment
- Well-known for the lake Saimaa (the fourth largest lake in Europe), with its countless islands, vendace and rare species of Saimaa ringed seal. The region has over 30,000 kilometres of shoreline, and the lake Saimaa is connected to the Baltic Sea by Saimaa Channel

Machine and equipment manufacturers from northern parts of Pohjois-Savo develop their products and services based on the needs of their clients. Local trust in companies, competitive R&D environments and competitive development funding enable successful growth for enterprises.

ohjois-Savo supports the world's leading ecosystem for he manufacturing of forest and mining machinery. The industry is very significant, since the annual export value for these companies is close to a billion euros. The growth has been fueled by broad-minded and active cooperation in development. Machine manufacturers Normet and Ponsse have both played a significant role in this.

POHJOIS-SAVO

REGION

The roots of Normet lie in the Itikka farm in Iisalmi, where Jaakko and Jussi Sarvela developed accessories for tractors in the 1960's. The story of Ponsse began in the 1970's when Einari Vidgren built a forest machine of his own to increase working efficiency.

By the beginning of the 21st century, Normet and Ponsse were both highly respected internationally in their fields, but both wanted to grow to become the leaders of their industries. The companies chose network cooperation as one of their strategies to ensure growth.

Normet started cooperation with their subcontractors by launching a development project with the aim of improving their network's cost efficiency. At the same time they outsourced some of their functions, such as the preparation and processing

Ponsse wanted their subcontractors close to their production facilities, so a village of their partner enterprises formed around them. Today, that village is a hot spot of know-how and employs over 250



people. The world's leading companies, both internationally and domestically, serve as clients for these partner enterprises.

Normet and Ponsse have been involved

in multiple development projects, first heading them and later on as mentors and sparring partners. Today, small and medium-sized enterprises develop their operations alongside their peers. R&D environments of public organizations have also participated in the development projects and processes, offering equipment and expertise that answer the ever evolving needs of the companies with flexibility. All parties benefit from cooperative development and the improvement in

The development of machine and energy industry in Pohjois-Savo have

been supported through EU structural funds by nearly 10 million euros in the last 10 years (overall expenses around 13 M €).

PONSSE produces forest machines for the cut-to-length method.

NORMET provides advanced solutions for selected customer processes in undergroundmining and tunneling. Both companies are one of the world's leading manufacturers in their fields.

www.ponsse.com/fi www.normet.com

Technology renews healthcare services

ealth technology refers not only to equipment but also to diagnostic methods and support systems. In addition, digitalization and the Internet of Things allow the use of applications in personal care and health monitoring, as well as remote care services. The development of health technology is supported not only by the pressure on innovation, but also by the pressure on the health care field: Technology will help to curb health costs, especially when investing in health promotion and disease prevention.

Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis visited Kuopio in November 2016. He got a speedy glimpse of health game

Gamification mixes health technology with entertainment and creates traction and adoption that leads to sustainable patient behavior modifications and better health outcomes.

goals, proper challenges and rules that motivates, commits and inspires users to better life management and self-help.

Health cluster, including health technology is one area of Gamification gives us clear smart specialization of PohjoisSavo. Within it cross-sectoral collaboration in health technology, its know-how and gamification creates innovative and user friendly solutions.



Jari Sihvonen

Finland's first European **Region of Gastronomy**

internationally. ProAgria, Regional Council of Pohjois-Savo, the city of Kuopio and Savonia University of Applied Sciences are bidding for the prestigious European Region of Gastronomy title for the Kuopio region for 2020.

The title is awarded to 2–3 different regions each year, for one year at a time. The gastronomical regions for 2017 are the Aarhus region in Denmark, the Lombardy region in Italy and the Riga-Gauja region in Latvia.

The European Region of Gastronomy Platform is a cooperative network of European regions that aims to stimulate

the local food industry.





Top level water expertise network

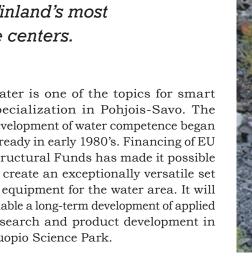
in Kuopio, Pohjois-Savo

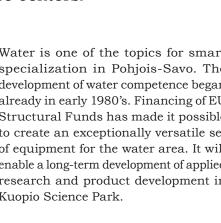
Kuopio Science Park is one of Finland's most comprehensive water expertise centers.

t brings together multidisciplinary expertise in product development and practice testing for technical applications related to water purification and monitoring, water chemistry and microbiology, knowledge on the special features of mining and groundwater as well as on risk management. Collaboration with industry and SMEs from different parts of Finland is an Kuopio Science Park. essential part of RDI-activites. The network's special strength is the ability to carry out challenging pilot-scale test runs and product development testing in concrete industrial sites. Pilots have also been conducted abroad in co-operation with local partners.

In recent years, the network has also sparked start-ups for the water field. The network includes a university, a polytechnic and two sector research institutes. The experts do active collaboration also with both national and international networks.

Water is one of the topics for smart specialization in Pohjois-Savo. The development of water competence began already in early 1980's. Financing of EU Structural Funds has made it possible to create an exceptionally versatile set of equipment for the water area. It will enable a long-term development of applied research and product development in





Water treatment

technologies and

Pilot-scale testing

Savonia University

of Applied Sciences

Water level and process water cycle management

Geological Survey of Finland, GTK

Environment and process monitoring

University of Eastern Finland, UEF

risk management National Institute for

Health and Welfare THL

Comprehensive

P. Forsman, GTK

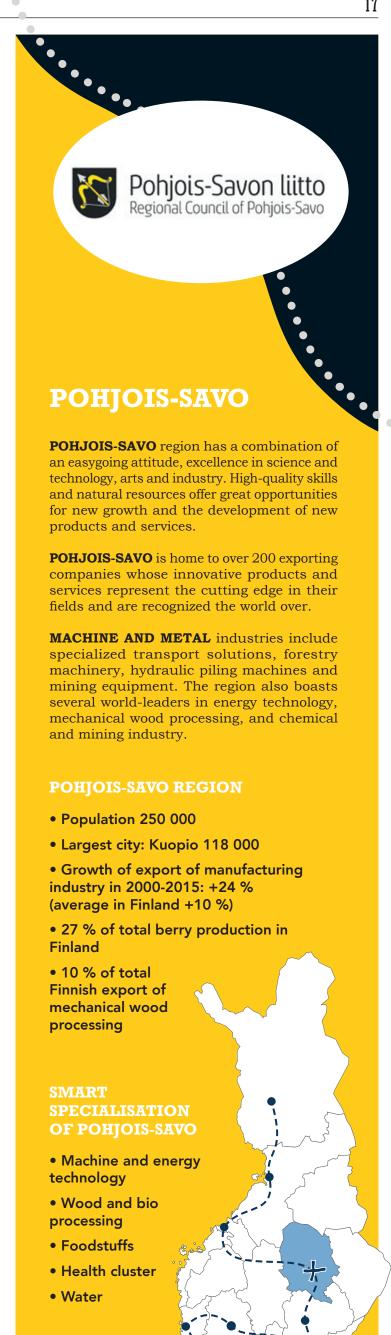


collaboration in the fields of gastronomy, tourism, urban culture and art. The title brings with it international visibility for the region as well as an influx of tourism and events. It is hoped to also have a positive effect on

In order to bid for the title, the applicant must deliver a bid book that presents the region's food, traveling, agriculture and cultural activities from education possibilities to entrepreneurs,

be completed in June 2017. An international panel of experts will visit Kuopio during the SATOA goes wild food festival in mid June. The panel will estimate the readiness of the region to hold

The SATOA Food Festival in Kuopio was named as one of the most important products of Finland's food tourism industry. This means the festival will also gain additional visibility from Visit Finland's marketing



CENTRAL OSTROBOTHNIA REGION

The **Biovalley** region aims high

- A new kind of industrial concept in the pipeline for Kokkola

ver the next few years, the bioeconomy is predicted to create a lot of new jobs, especially in the industrial integrates where new biorefinery concepts are being developed. The Central Ostrobothnia region around Kokkola known as Biovalley is the heartland of business and expertise in the natural resources sector. It includes the valleys of Kalajoki, Lestijoki and Perhonjoki rivers, as well as the Kokkola and Pietarsaari regions. What makes the area important both nationally and internationally is its strong industrial profile combined with vital primary production in agriculture and forestry. There are also well-functioning logistics, a high-quality research community and an emerging mining industry.

"Biovalley is number one in the regional development programme. We have found a system that brings operators together and is based on raw materials sourced in the region," says Planning Manager Teppo Rekilä from the Regional Council for Central Ostrobothnia

The government has recognised the potential of the region's industry and natural resources and its long-term research cooperation. The Kokkola biorefinery concept is one of the projects for which Finland has sought innovation funding from the EU.

The Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) is also planning to open a strategic office in Kokkola when remodelling its network of facilities by 2016.

"The region's focuses in its development work are similar to Luke's own aims," says Bio-based Business and Industry Director Leena Paavilainen from Luke.

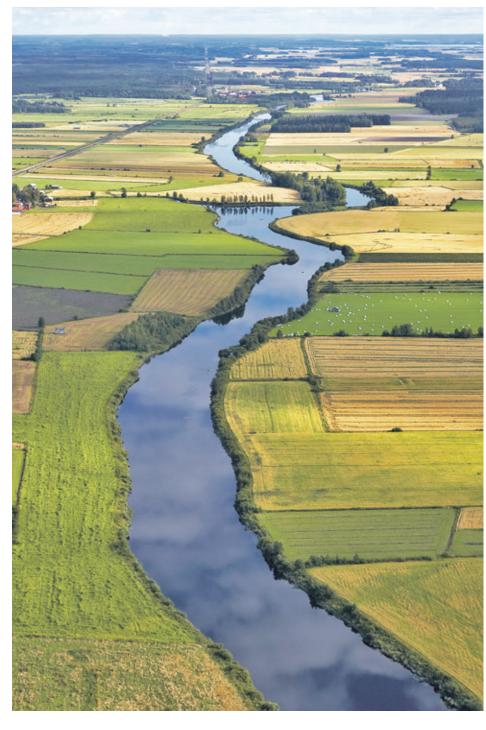
Kokkola is home to the largest cluster of inorganic chemistry companies in the Nordic countries; a cluster that offers an interface where the business activities of the biorefinery can be integrated into the chemistry cluster. New products and raw-material can be devolped, and some of the heavy fuel oil used in the Kokkola Industrial Park can be replaced with energy produced through gasification of wood biomass, thus reducing dependency on fossil fuels

The research performed in Biovalley aims at highly processed products where biomass replaces fossil carbon. Olli Breilin, Tiina Ylä-Kero, Jana Holm, Tanja Risikko, Teppo Rekilä and Anne Pesola are members of the Biovalley network.

"The interface of the inorganic and the bioeconomy will bring added value to the competitiveness and regeneration of the export industry," says the Chair of the Biovalley Advisory Committee, Director Tanja Risikko from Kokkola



In the picture from the left: Olli Breilin, GSF, Tiina Ylä-Kero, Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius, Jana Holm, Centria University of applied sciences, Teppo Rekilä, Regional Council of Central Ostrobothnia, Tanja Risikko, Kokkola University Consortium, and Anne Pesola, Kosek. Photo: Jan Sandvik.



The Kokkola Industrial Park currently has 70 hectares of industrial area zoned ready for businesses in the chemical industry."

University Consortium Chydenius.

What does the collaboration between chemistry and bioeconomy actually mean? Let's take forest biomass, converted into chips, as an example. By gasifying the chips using heat, synthesis gas is created, which can be processed into various chemical products, such as methanol or the raw material for plastics, olefines.

The carbonised residue created through gasification can be processed into new products by extracting activated carbon, which is suitable for water and gas purification. The carbonised residue can be used in lithium-ion batteries.

"One company's waste is another's raw material," says Operative Units Director Olli Breilin from the Geological Survey of Finland.

The chemistry research performed at the Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius aims at highly processed products. The research team lead by professor Ulla Lassi works in close cooperation with the chemical industry businesses in the Kokkola Industrial

The lithium cluster that has grown in Central Ostrobothnia aims to specialise in the production of battery chemicals, and its operations rely on a chain of value from raw material to chemical processing, product applications and recycling. The battery laboratory at

Kokkola Campus is unique in Europe. The laboratory focuses on finding solutions for the region's chemical industry to capitalise on.

"Lithium is included in practically all modern chemical combinations for batteries," Olli Breilin points out.

The Kokkola Industrial Park currently has 70 hectares of industrial area zoned ready for businesses in the chemical industry.

"Thanks to the infrastructure offered by the park, businesses will be able to do much more and act in a productive and lucrative way," Risikko says

The bioeconomy is only waiting for the markets to open. Commercialisation of research results is also a challenge.

"We need more research and advances in legislation. The industrial infrastructure is already there, ready to be plugged into. Now we need financing for new companies," says Anne Pesola from the regional development company

Article was originally published in Coastline 2016 - 2017 magazine.

Production of novel battery chemicals and precursors for industrial use as a part of lithium value chain

largest cluster of inorganic chemistry in the Nordic countries. In KIP area several different metals and chemicals are already being prepared by utilizing hydrometallurgical unit processes, such as dissolution of metal ore concentrates, purification of solutions and chemical precipitation. Management of these core processes enables the production and upgrading of current high-tech chemicals in the area.

The research aims at producing new information on the preparation and thermal stability of lithium ion battery chemicals (electrode materials). Novel Li-ion battery chemicals tailored for full-scale industrial production are developed. First aim is in the chemical processing methods (high-temperature processes, hydrometallurgical processes) with high yields and purity of Li-ion battery chemicals. Dissolution as well as chemical precipitation are significant unit processes in hydrometallurgy industry. Industrial chemical precipitation processes are used for the preparation of new

and metal based chemicals. Thus it is essential to understand the phenomena of chemical precipitation, the factors affecting

The research will strengthen the intelligent spesialization of the area."

chemicals, for the purification of water and wastewater, and for the treatment of process solutions e.g. by removal of impurities.

The knowledge of dissolution and precipitation is needed e.g. to face the new challenges of circular economy, such as recovery and recycling of metals dissolution and precipitation processes, and the interactions

Laboratory-scale research and development environment is used prior to the pilot-scale Chemplant reactors. The chemicals prepared in the laboratory will subsequently

oven. The battery cells prepared from the synthetized chemicals will be tested in the battery testing laboratory. The research aims not only to increase the competence of the participating universities and the international networking, but may also enhance the business opportunities of the participating industrial companies. Furthermore, the research will strengthen the intelligent spesialization of the area since there are no corresponding research and learning infrastructures in any other university in Finland.

treated thermally in a CVD





CENTRAL **OSTROBOTHNIA** – **BIOVALLEY REGION**

IN THE 21ST CENTURY, Central Ostrobothnia has been successfully compared to other regions in Finland. The versatile, export-oriented economic structure has increased employment and unemployment has remained below the national average.

THE LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRY operating on the coast of Kokkola, has invested in new prosesses and production lines in recent years. Kokkola port is the third largest general port in Finland and the number one port for the minerals industry. It is also a significant operator in the Russian transit traffic.

CENTRAL OSTROBOTHNIA can be called a Biovalley region which means the area has strong industrial profile combined with vital primary production in agriculture and forestry. Biovalley activities include chemistry and bioeconomy research, education and business hub.

THE SIGNIFICANCE of Central Ostrobothnia is a greater than its size. The Central Ostrobohnian expertice is always held in high regard when challenging changes are on the horizon.

- Jukka Ylikarjula Regional governor
- Population of Central Ostrobothnia is 69 000
- Largest population cluster is Kokkola 47 720
- 9% of the population is swedish speaking
- Strong in inorganic chemistry industry, agriculture and entrepreneurship
- 80% increase in GDP per capita during the 21st century
- Export comprises 68% of the value of the GDP
- The total budget of Biovalley related RDI projects is 37 million euros



OuluHealth

- Systems and know-how integration

patient data is digital patient data management systems. The key to successful and high-quality care lies in integration between systems. OYS TestLab, one of OuluHealth's test environments, allows system integration to be tested in a genuine environment with systems such as Tieto's Lifecare and Oulu University Hospital's Esko system.

OuluHealth ecosystem, part of Oulu Innovation Alliance, is home to three versatile test environments for testing both health technology and services with the help of professionals. The significant network of health technology companies are also part of OuluHealth.

OuluHealth ecosystem is internationally recognised for its ability to produce innovative solutions to global healthcare challenges. Patient data management systems' integration with one another will surely be a global challenge for healthcare, according to Tieto Healthcare's Kimmo Alaniska.

"The future is in open architecture, open interfaces and in selecting the best solution providers for different needs



Export turnover for Life Science companies grew by 41% in five years and overall turnover was 640 MEUR."

instead of opting for a single provider for all of them", Alaniska says.

OYS TestLab, a test environment for specialised healthcare products embedded at Oulu University Hospital (OYS), is one of OuluHealth's test environments that allow the testing of healthcare products

and services with authentic users and in modular environments.

At OYS TestLab, Tieto Healthcare has participated in testing the integration of several patient data management systems, e.g. a testing version of OYS's proprietary patient data system, Esko,

and Tieto's Lifecare, with promising results. OYS TestLab enables such testing with actual hospital staff, who work with companies, such as Tieto, to improve the healthcare of the future.

BusinessOulu's Life Science Key Accounts Director Heidi Tikanmäki says that the OuluHealth ecosystem is much more than just a platform for testing healthcare products and services. The principal idea is to facilitate open collaboration and to accelerate innovation by bringing together various partners able to contribute to the needs of the health care sector.

The ecosystem approach enables the combination of expertise from wireless information technologies and Life Science to introduce smart ICT solutions for delivering advanced, personalised, connected health service solutions.

OuluHealth set a goal in 2012 to generate 700 new jobs in health sector companies over five years. The target was met in just four years. Additionally, in the Oulu region, export turnover for Life Science companies grew by 41% in five years and overall turnover was 640 MEUR. Obviously, Oulu's health ecosystem is doing something right then.

ERDF boosted metal and mechanical engineering industry

Metal and mechanical engineering industry is one of the focus areas of the Oulu Region smart specialization strategy.

the advanced steels and has great potential for new knowledge-of-steelbased business. Local metal industry and University of Oulu (UO) and Oulu University of Applied Sciences have a strong, decade's long research history. Centre for advanced steel research (CASR), which is part of UO, is especially focused on steel research in cooperation with the Northern Finland steel industry.

The Future Manufacturing Technologies (FMT) research group of the University of Oulu is a part of the Kerttu Saalasti Institute and also a part of the Centre for Advanced Steels Research (CASR). The group's focus areas include multiple points in the manufacturing process, from effective utilization of advanced steel grades to cost-efficient production automation and additive manufacturing.

FMT group main office is located in Nivala and group is a part of the RDI (Research-Development and Innovation) community of Nivala ELME Studio. ne region is well known of ELME Studio is a production studio its top level knowledge of organized by Industrial Park of Nivala, comprised of ELME Center and the metal training factory of Nivala Vocational College of The Federation of Education in Jokilaaksot (JEDU). Nivala up-todate RDI infrastructure includes unique fast steel heat treatment pilot line, laser processing, material testing and additive manufacturing laboratories. ERDF funding has been a significant role in financing infrastructure.

> The group is funded solely with project funding. The most important financiers include European Union (ERDF), The Council of Oulu Region and Tekes. Since 2004, FMT has released over 16 publicly-funded projects, and nearly as many businesses commissioned research



projects. In the Oulu Southern area, the Nivala-Haapajärvi region NIHAK, The City of Nivala, and Industrial Park in Nivala are also considerable financiers.

FMT research group is specialized in utilizing environments outside the main campus area in scientific research. FMT represents the highest level of understanding within its own area of expertise in the University of Oulu and is an active member of the international science community. The keystone of the FMT operation is the close cooperation

with businesses, and the group's yield an advantage to enterprises. Academic research and regional benefit are combined in the group's actions. Annually, FMT cooperates with about 50 enterprises, most of them are SME sized like Miilux Oy, Randax Oy, NtCAB Oy, Champion Door Oy, KoneStar Oy, Vuolux Oy and HT Laser Oy. There is also cooperation with large companies like SSAB, Outokumpu, Wärtsilä, Valmet and Nokia.

Ten years of Smart Specialization with PrintoCent

rintoCent provides a world class design, environment for Printed Intelligence with a special focus on Roll-to-Roll (R2R) and hybrid manufacturing and optical measurements for quality assurance. PrintoCent creates novel components, products and solutions enabled by printed intelligence technologies and combine them with other rising technologies such as 3D printing and textile manufacturing.

products and to disrupt existing

In PrintoCent, companies business development and pilot manufacturing resources for the introduction of printed intelligence components, systems and products, from pilot production to early market trials. Application focus areas range from rapid disposable diagnostics, smart flexible lighting and wearables to Internet-of-Things with sensors and energy harvesting. The multitude of possibilities offer great opportunities to new

value chains in all industries.

PrintoCent has wide global reach with its international member companies and partners. In Oulu region more than 300 experts are available in research and in industry. The funding to start-up companies has exceeded 40 M€ and the turnover of companies in the field is over 25 M€.

PRINTOCENT

- Pilot scale manufacturing trials
- Factory planning and construction, machinery selection
- Product technical design and device integration
- Production ramp-up
- support
- Quality and performance audits



The Oulu region tourism destinations

Every visit to Ruka and Kuusamo is the beginning of a new adventure.

xplore the Rukaunique experiences come to life to the rhythm of the changing seasons. Europe's last wilderness and the cleanest air in the world combined with sauna, local wild food and services in high standard are the recipe for a successful holiday.

Syöte, the southernmost fell in Finland provides lapland-like

scenery, attractive accommodation and a range of year-round activities in Syöte National Park. Syöte offers 120 kilometers of well maintained, scenic tracks for cross-country skiers. The designated campfire spots in Syöte National Park help the skiers enjoy their breaks. Syöte is a traditional skiing resort in the best possible sense. In summer time, you can explore the region by bike, during a hike or by mountain bike.

Kalajoki with its sand dunes is a well know and popular holiday area in northern Finland. Kalajoki is situated on the seaside of the Bothnian Bay. You will fall in love with unique sea nature.

Let the sea wind tousle your hair. Conquer the dunes as the sun rises. Listen to the seagulls screeching and the wind whistling in the birch trees on the shore. Feel safe in the middle of the sea nature and walk through the shoreline landscape of the sand dunes.

Rokua is the only UNESCO Global Geopark in Finland, designated because of its unique and clearly visible Ice Age landforms combined with good tourism infrastructure. The Geoparks special arctic character, long winter and Finnish traditions make it an interesting area for a variety of visitors. During the winter months, in the middle of a snowy landscape and frozen lakes, you are able to get a feel for a way of life and scenery of which characterized the last Ice Age.



THE VIBRANT AND PROSPEROUS OULU REGION

THE OULU REGION is characterized by high competence, international outlook and cooperative attitude. With the city of Oulu as its flagship, the strong expertise and versatile development activities of the region strengthen the significance of Northern Finland and the Barents region from both the national and the European perspective.

THE OULU REGION is strong by virtue of its high level of competence, utilization of natural resources and wide networks. Education, research, industries and authorities work in cooperation to create an internationally active and prosperous region.

THE OULU REGION is an area of well-being and quality environment, where the wellbeing of individuals is the starting point for all development.

Jussi Rämet Region Mayor

OULU REGION

- 410 000 inhabitants, 4th largest population in Finland
- Youngest region in Finland, average age 39,6 years
- 44 000 km², second largest area in
- Highest gross domestic expenditure on R&D (6 %) in Finland
- 28,4 % population have degree on higher education

SMART SPECIALISATION OF THE OULU REGION

- ICT, software and digitalization
- Industry: metal industries, refinement of timber raw material and cleantech (incl. energy)
- Healthcare and wellness technology



LAPLAND **REGION**

Play the game, throw the dice

- become regionally wise!

RULES

- 1. Start the game in the middle of the board.
- 2. Throw the dice and move as shown by the score of the dice.
- 3. You gain tools for developing your business from each visit to a cluster.
- 4. If you land in a special circle, follow the instructions it gives.
- 5. The game ends when the developed player has contacted at least three clusters and returned to the middle with an even number.

Arctic Smartness

rctic Smartness with its five modern clusters, each awarded the European Cluster Management Excellence label (BRONZE)* in 2016, of Arctic Industry and Circular Economy, Arctic Smart Rural Communities, Arctic Design, Arctic Safety and Security and Arctic Development Environments, are looking beyond conventional operational boundaries, endorse cross-fertilisation, make the best use of the regional expertise and actively network over the borders.

* awarded by the European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (www.clusteranalysis.org)

Arctic Design

mart regional specialisation makes the world class design. The main purpose of the Arctic Design Cluster is to make local businesses, products and services nationally and internationally competitive by utilising smart specialisation. The heart of the cluster is Arctic Design Centre of Expertise created by the Faculty of Art and Design of the University of Lapland.



Arctic Development Arctic Industry Environments cluster

rctic Development Environments cluster is serving as a supporting network to all clusters with i.e. enabling technologies to all industries and especially SMEs. The tool for measuring the performance and effectiveness of innovations is Technology readiness level (TRL). TRL is used as a meter to indicate the level of cluster's readiness to produce development services to the market.

and Circular **Economy cluster**

rctic Industry and Circular Economy cluster aims to develop it's leading position in exploiting and commercialising Arctic natural resources and conditions while maintaining balance of sustainable development. Mix of industrial expertise and commitment to sustainable development are at the core of refining natural resources in the Lapland region. We are reaching the vision by promoting regional clusters and ecosystems of emerging industries that focus on refining natural resources throughout the value chains.

Arctic Safety

afety through regional and interregional cooperation.

The aim of the Arctic safety

cluster is to strengthen

interregional networks and

safety business opportunities. The cluster

brings together companies, authorities,

research and educational organisations,

NGOs, regions and towns. The cooperation

is carried out in civil and tourism

Arctic **Smart Rural Communities** cluster

ase for our business is nature. The mission of Arctic Smart Rural Community is to avoid capital outflow from rural Lapland and create new innovative enterprises based on circular economy. The cleanest corner of Europe offers a surplus of raw-materials to wide-range smart resource-intensive business. Our goal is to transfer the added value of local natural resources for a benefit of the communities.





Lapland – the Arctic beacon of Europe

Lapland is the northernmost region of EU where unique nature consists of abundant natural resources and it creates strong accumulation of northern expertise.

his Global hotspot of the Arctic has high standards for infrastructure and outstanding knowledge of sustainable utilisation of resources and circumstances. Lapland is a melting pot of industries and it is one of the Finland's fastest growing regions with it's backbones in forestry, mining and tourism. Specific characteristics of the businesses are the existence of the multinational corporations, few medium size businesses and huge number of small and micro companies. Lapland has a great

potential to decrease European dependency on imports trough bioeconomy, critical raw materials and sustainable tourism. Strategic investments to emerging cost and material efficient industries are in the core of the development. Lapland is a gateway to the Arctics and through the North East corridor access to Asian markets can be guaranteed. Accessibility for business and leisure is priority for the region. Also, innovations in the fields like tourism safety, locally produced food, self-sufficient bioenergy or wood construction are great platforms for long term interregional cooperation. Good example of the public support are the investments to tourism during past few decades. They have been only few percentages of total, but targeting them to right spots has created strong impact.

Seeking after Arctic **Smartness**

Lapland was one of the first regions in Finland adapting Smart Specialisation (S3). The systematic approach and strong strategic focus has led to recognition in good practice of governance. The vision of the Lapland's smart specialisation is to enjoy a leading position in exploiting and commercialising Arctic natural resources and conditions. Despite the remarkable large-scale industrial development, Lapland is actively fostering the clean nature and new possibilities from the crosssectoral collaboration, to develop common approaches towards regional development and to be active in seeking international collaboration. In putting the smart specialisation into practise, Lapland developed a systematic regional development approach based on Arctic Smartness brand and cooperation.

Arctic Smartness is reaching towards it's vision by having focus on regional clusters and ecosystems supporting the co-creation, developing new regional value chains generating growth and innovation activities of SMEs. The implementation of the Lapland S3 focuses on bringing in the crosscutting intervention, which will stimulate the finding of the interfaces where cross-fertilisation appears and innovations based on Arctic supporting the small scale creativity will be born. With

Cluster approach has evolved as a key driver for successful regional and interregional cooperation."

refining industry development, the modern cluster of Arctic which is providing solid income industry and circular economy, throughout the region.

From the beginning S3 was seen as a very practical concept, bringing new insights into the regional development. S3 approach has been used in Lapland not only, as a tool to become attractive and knowledgeable partner in the EU, but also to implement more efficient regional development having direct impact on growth. By applying S3 in the Lapland context, partners have found new ways of working together. It has encouraged them to seek

Arctic smart rural communities, Arctic design, Arctic safety and Arctic development environments, Lapland is looking beyond the boundaries, the best use of the regional expertise and strategic partnerships over the borders.

Cluster approach has evolved as a key driver for successful regional and interregional cooperation. All five regional clusters and partners are implementing new local and European initiatives and projects creating stable breeding ground for the regional economy.





LAPLAND IS seeking to become the most innovated sparsely populated region in EU by 2022. By then the region has gained visibility and a firm foothold in many international forums. Based on Lapland's strategy for Arctic specialisation, to reach the vision, Lapland has made the regional modern cluster approach and the strategic partnerships the regional focus.

LAPLAND HAS got an excellent start: with joint effort of the regional stakeholders, Lapland has become wanted and acknowledge actor in the EU. At the same time new businesses have been established throughout the region. The goal is to support the competitiveness and growth of business clusters that are genuinely market-based and strive to be international.

CLUSTER ACTIVITIES provide new operating models for the business life of Lapland and they strengthen, for example, our public and private funding opportunities. Now is the time to seize the opportunity and get busy.

Mika Riipi

County Governor

- Total area 100 369 km² 180 200 inhabitants A bit more reindeers as people
- 3800 M€ export revenues 7 % of the national export
- Forestry 1410 M€
- Metal and mining industry 2200 M€
- Total demand of tourism annually

~ 1 000 M€

- Agrofood 300 M€
- World's cleanest air and Europe's purest
- World's largest organic harvesting area





MENU OF TASTES OF THE REGIONS

Street food bars at the Social event of the Smart Regions 2.0 conference Helsinki 1.6.2017

STREET FOOD

Freshwater fish burger

- Finnish sour cream sauce, salad and multigrain bun

Finnish flatbread wrap

- fried Puruvesi vendace and Finnish sour cream sauce

Finnish flatbread wrap

- Karelian pulled stew with marinated onions and wild berry syrup

Finnish flatbread wrap hotdog

- sausages to choose, wild Arctic vinegar marinated red onions and berry syrup

Finnish forest pizza

- lingonberry, wild mushroom mix, smoked reindeer, emmentaler and blue cheese, wild herbs on the top

Broad bean veggie burger

- Finnish mayo-sauce, soft red onions and multigrain bun

STREET SWEETS

Variety of handmade chocolate Handmade marshmallow

- wild spruce sprout and angelica, wild blueberry and crowberry Sweet and bitter liquorice

STREET DRINKS

Water and soft drinks Variety of Finnish craft beer, ciders and long drinks

TAMPERE REGION

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SATAKUNTA

SOUTHWEST FINLAND

Ten dynamic regions from Finland are offering you an evening full of Finnish flavours and innovations. Social event experience of Smart Regions Conference 2.0 in Helsinki is consisting of tangible results of ERDF projects and delicious local street food and drinks. All the ingredients used are hand-picked from dedicated producers from the regions. Enjoy while grabbing tasty bite with a cold drink!

SEE YOU AT NOSTURI 1ST JUNE 19.00 - 23.00 O'CLOCK, **TELAKKAKATU 8, 00150 HELSINKI**

LAPLAND

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