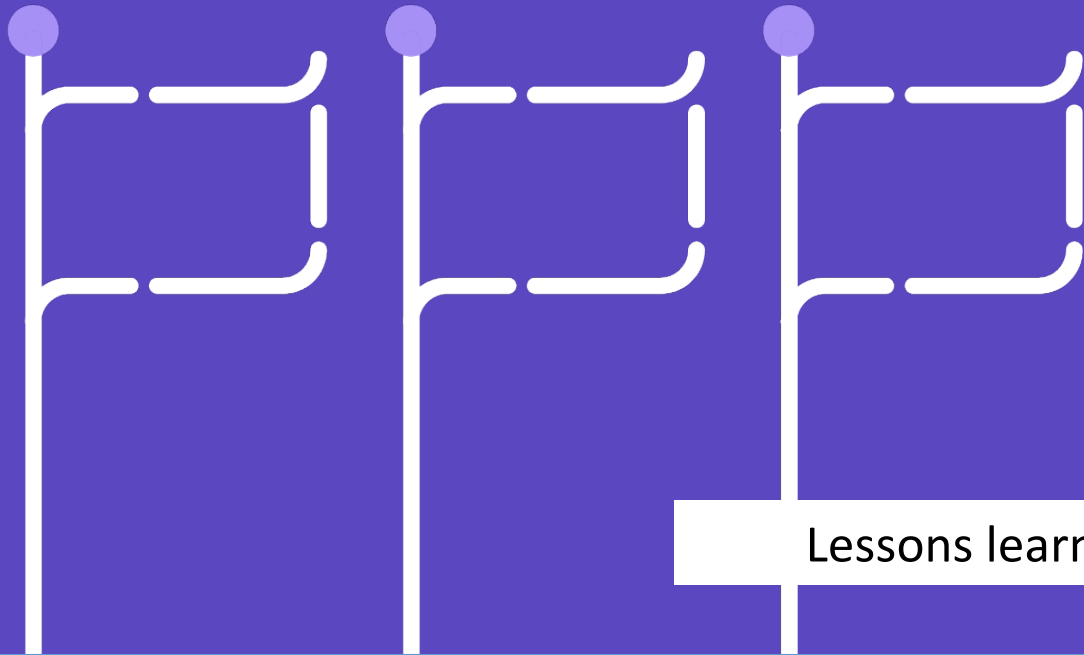


science
meets
regions

2022

#EUSci4Regio

Helsinki-Uusimaa report to JRC
20.1.2023



Helsinki Region Science
Meets Regions Process



Helsinki-Uusimaa
Regional Council



European
Commission



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Science Meets Regions in Helsinki-Uusimaa

In spring 2022, the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council launched a process called Science Meets Regions (SMR) in Helsinki-Uusimaa to implement the new Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Programme and its main strategic targets. The Council strives to develop the region and its wellbeing in a new way, both nationally and internationally.

The programme, in cooperation with the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, was planned to promote the spearheading of the objectives in the current Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Programme by decision-making based on various data.

The SMR process was planned to support broad collaboration and new partnerships with science, arts and businesses to find solutions to the structural challenges of the region and implement the strategies.

– ***“Our research, development and innovations produce solutions to be utilized to meet many challenges in synergy with political, legislative and cultural changes.”***

Mr **Ossi Savolainen**, Regional Mayor in Helsinki-Uusimaa



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Science Meets Regions in Helsinki-Uusimaa - Top ranking with many events – aiming at innovations

The SMR programme continued with three innovation camps, with themes from the spearheading objectives in the Regional Strategy for 2030. The launching of the Science Meets Regions Programme in the Helsinki Music Centre on 4 April 2022 brought EU actors and decision-makers of Helsinki-Uusimaa together with representatives of science, art, business, and the public and private sector. The programme culminated with the final seminar in October.

The long-term objective of the SMR programme is to support innovativeness combining scientific and artistic, that is, experience-based and data from various fields.

– “We have invited regional businesses, scientific communities and municipalities to achieve climate neutrality, attract investments and create jobs together. We have approached comprehensive issues by bringing different actors together to find new innovative solutions.”

Mr Markku Markkula, President of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Board



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Science Meets Regions in Helsinki-Uusimaa 2022:

Opening seminar: Science, art and business joining forces for world-class future



First innovation camp: R&D expenditure to 5 per cent of GDP in Helsinki-Uusimaa



Second innovation camp: Climate neutral Helsinki-Uusimaa by 2030



Third innovation camp: Employment rate of 80 % in Helsinki-Uusimaa by 2030



Closing seminar: How to move on?





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Opening seminar 4.4.2022: Science, art and businesses joining forces to be world-class forerunners in Europe

We invited regional businesses, scientific and art communities, as well as municipalities to join us in the Science Meets Regions policy-maker conference. The opening conference offered some cross-cutting of the three spearheads of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Programme, as well as of the themes for all three innovation camps: **To increase the research and development expenditure of Helsinki-Uusimaa to 5 per cent of the region's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030, to be a climate neutral region in 2030, and to achieve an employment rate of 80 per cent in Helsinki-Uusimaa by 2030.**

The SMR process viewed comprehensive issues focusing on the region's ambitious goals from many angles. Target was to build the frame for doing things differently, and in a new way – bringing together scientists, artists and businesses.

– *“The Science Meets Regions Programme has ambitious goals indeed. But, in addition, we need **art and cultural innovations**. We need to get hope, and we have to discuss what kind of a world we truly wish to live in.”*

Mr **Kaarlo Hildén**, Rector at University of the Arts Helsinki

–*“Europe needs cities, companies and research institutions to be **pioneers**. Companies, scientific communities and municipalities in the Helsinki-Uusimaa region can show **how to make the transition to a new level in research, development and innovation activities.**”*

Mr **Mikel Landabaso**, Director of Growth and Innovation, JRC



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First Innovation Camp Day 4.5.2022: R&D of 5 % in Helsinki-Uusimaa by 2030

Helsinki-Uusimaa has set a goal **to increase the research and development expenditure of the region to 5 percent of the region's gross domestic product GDP by 2030, to be able to support the green and digital transition, to find solutions to increase health and wellbeing, along with regional vitality.** Together with representatives of regional actors, the regional council looked for new ways to reach our goal during the first Science Meets Regions innovation camp.

- *“Focus on innovation-driven **economic transformation** to the new global economic paradigm (energy, digital, resilience). Strengthen your local innovation ecosystems. Take targeted action to **higher impact on the R&D investment** through synergies of investment and go beyond a pure focus on growth towards **sustainability.**”*

Dr **Johan Stierna**, JRC, European Commission

- *“It is important for us to tell our own success stories – still, many of them remain unheard. Let us, therefore, be proud of our achievements, as they certainly inspire and bring new competence to our region, along with funding. In this way, we are one step closer to our ambitious goals to increase wellbeing in Helsinki-Uusimaa.”*

Mr **Ilmari Lastikka**, VP for International Affairs, VTT

CRISES INNOVATION

WELLBEING By 2030
Helsinki-Uusimaa carbon neutral
R&D investment 5 % of GDP
employment 80 %

INTANGIBLES

TALENT

SOCIETAL & ENTREPRENEURIAL PROBLEMS

ATTRACT + RETAIN
FIT FOR 55

GREEN TRANSITION
DRIVER ECOSYSTEMS

RISK TAKING ABILITY
ROCK BOX

ENVIRONMENT
CHANGING RAPIDLY

cooperation

BETTER

UNIVERSITIES
PUBLIC SECTOR
CROSS-SECTORAL
COMPANIES

FORSIGHT

TRUST

science meets regions 2022 #EUsci4Regio

Uudenmaan Science Meets Regions Innovation Camp 4.5.22

European Commission

PERSEVERANCE



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Second Innovation Camp Day 1.6.2022: Climate-Neutral Helsinki-Uusimaa by 2030

We aim to make the **Helsinki-Uusimaa Region climate neutral by 2030**. On our way to this ambitious goal, first and foremost, we need target-oriented collaboration. To achieve climate neutrality, we have to strengthen carbon dioxide sinks and decrease emissions in all sectors in collaboration with all stakeholders.

How to reach the climate target of Helsinki-Uusimaa? was the main question of the second Science Meets Regions innovation camp.

– “Everyone can make a difference, make impact and collaborate with other stakeholders. Besides making the carbon footprint smaller, we need to increasingly emphasize the positive impacts of our actions to our environment, including carbon handprints.

The question of responsibility should be clear to all organisations by now. We should focus on mitigating climate change, and put that in the centre of our activities, impact and carbon handprints. It is vital to support decision-making”.

Mr **Kai Öistämö**, CEO for Vaisala

Raquel Benmergui, Raakku & Co

strengthen carbon sinks

IRTAUTUMINEN FOSSIILI ENERGIASTA

LAKI TUET

SKAALAU

NOPEA KEHITYS

liikenne

GREEN POWER

Solidarity Collaboration SYNERGY

CITIZENS' NEEDS

CO-CREATION

CITIES' SPECIFIC NEEDS

SMART CLIMATE NEUTRAL

TOGETHER TAILOR MADE SUPPORT

UNITY

HOLISTIC VIEW

UUSIMAA

FAST

MOVE FORWARD

CRISIS

OPPORTUNITY

URGENCY

Cross pollination

VIIKKI INNOVATION PLATFORM #COOONSTAGE together

OUR INNOVATION SYSTEM IS IN ITS INITIAL STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

CREATE ENERGY

PEOPLE PLANET PROFIT POLITICS

WILL TO TAKE ACTION

SMART ENERGY

FINLAND = HAPPIEST COUNTRY

GLOBALI HAASTE

GLOBAL MARKET

COMPANY VIT

CRISIS

CROSS POLLINATION

FACT-BASED KNOWLEDGE

MEASURED

INVESTMENT

RE100

CC

VAISALA

IN HOUSE APPLIED RESEARCH

CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

STABLE STRUCTURES

RIGHT DIRECTION

INNOVATIONS

BUSINESS

GLOBAL COMPACT



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Uudenmaan Science Meets Regions Innovation Camp 1.6.22





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Third Innovation Camp Day 17.8.2022: Employment rate to 80 % in Helsinki-Uusimaa by 2030

We aim for a **80% employment rate and wellbeing in the whole Helsinki-Uusimaa Region by 2030**. We need to work together to make this happen.

Internationalisation, international talent, and how to turn brain-drain to our success are important issues. How can we improve actions together? The answer is clear: **Continuous learning, cooperation, the new ways to operate** are important for the success.

– *“Solving the problem of supply and demand, and a smooth transition from studies to working life are vital”.*

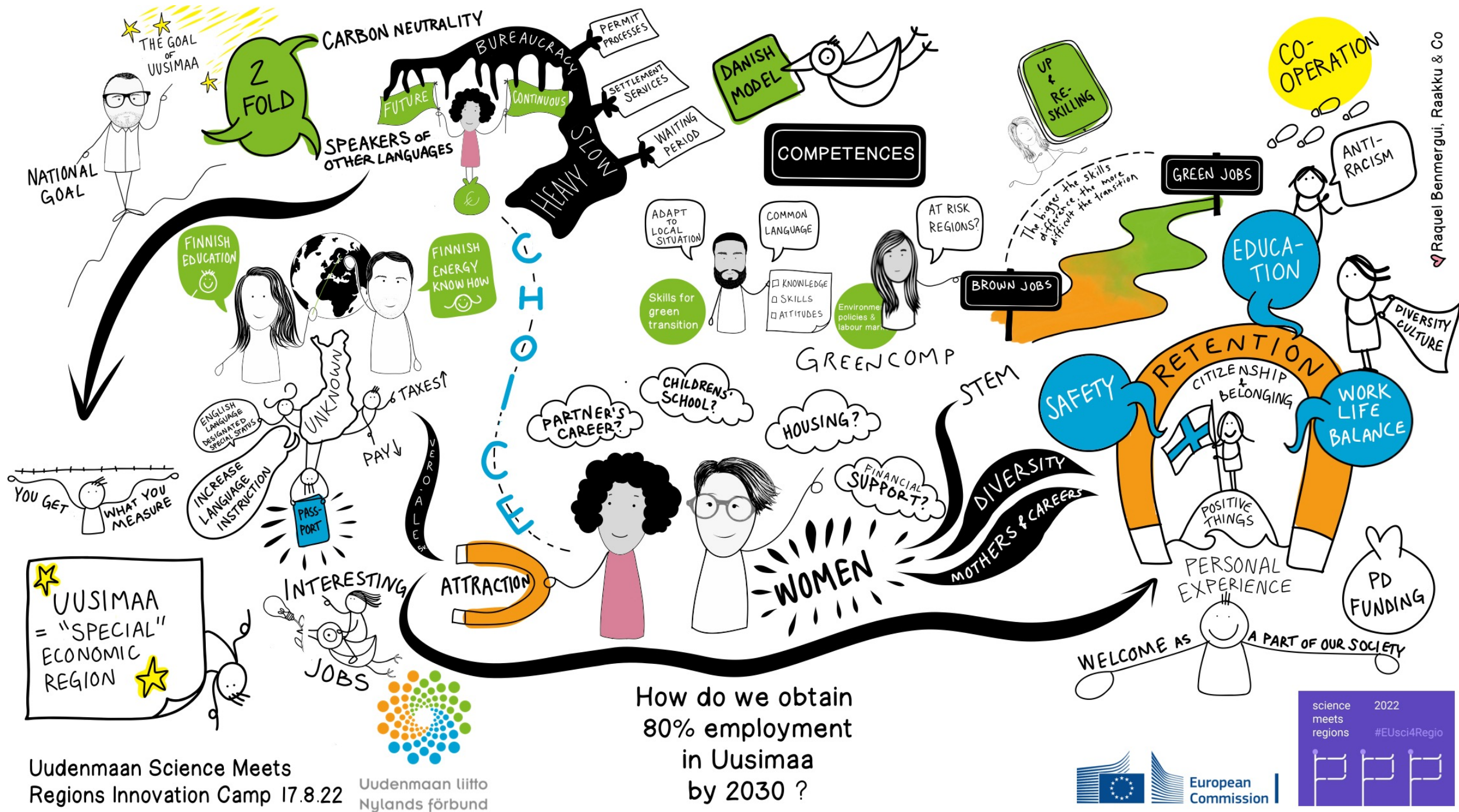
Mr Ossi Savolainen, Regional Mayor

– *“We have a well-functioning top society, and it should be possible for everyone to experience it. This is how we can keep our international talents here”.*

Mr Rasmus Roiha, CEO for Software E-business Finland

– *“It should be easy to come to Finland. If the personal experience is good, you like it, you promote the country, even though you are not staying there. You envy those who can live in Finland”.*

Ms Fatim Diarra, The Chairperson for the Feminist Association Union and the Chair of Helsinki City Council



Raquel Benmergui, Raakku & Co

How do we obtain
 80% employment
 in Uusimaa
 by 2030 ?



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Closing seminar 6.10.2022: How to move on?

The chain of events of the Science Meets Regions process culminated in a closing seminar, where the new possibilities of science, art, technology, innovation and smart specialisation were highlighted, as well as actions that can regionally meet the biggest challenges of our time.

– *“The needs are evident. They are around us – we have climate crises, energy crises, food crises, etc. This Science Meets Regions process has shown that regional collaboration can create and offer a platform to reach the results. **Solutions can be found – co-created.** We from VTT and our other actors can bring technology-related instruments and solutions. During my seven years at VTT, I have too often talked about the need to start to act. **Let us now commit to moving to action. The change needs to begin in people's minds; this is a human transformation.**”*

Dr **Antti Vasara**, CEO and President VTT, Technical Research Centre of Finland

– *“The Regional Council has given a concrete political promise: our three measurable strategic goals for 2030. We, the Board and our staff, need to keep that promise – to co-create the ways to reach these goals by mobilizing and supporting regional researchers, experts and others in making the required transformation a reality. How? The SMR process has brought tens of concrete promises and even more commitments to moving to action. In addition, we have the EU's full support, and we heard the JRC's promise to give us the support and knowledge of their hundreds of experts.”*

Mr **Markku Markkula**, President of Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Board

– *“We can look back at these excellent Science Meets Regions events and move on with the process. Fruitful collaboration is needed among all regional actors. **Already through this SMR process, we have hundreds of people who are ready to join us in the implementation of this systemic level change. We are all very committed to working together to reach the goals.**”*

Mr **Ossi Savolainen**, Regional Mayor

New European Innovation Agenda:

“Now we need to focus on action, the 5 Flagship areas. The EU is determined to spearhead the next wave of innovation, with its own deep tech innovation and start-ups. The Commission will support the strengthening of regional ecosystems and better interconnect them to a true Pan-European innovation ecosystem. Our potential is on our regions.”

Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner





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How to move on ?

Helsinki-Uusimaa Science Meets Regions: **towards a better future via collaboration with all stakeholders and changing the direction for regional policy.** The Science Meets Regions was a good starting point for the process of further enhancing wellbeing across Finland while generating sustainable growth. According to many global and European top rankings, the Helsinki-Uusimaa region has unique strengths and potential in science, technology, innovations, education, sustainability and wellbeing.

– “The Science Meets Regions process helped to achieve the regional objectives. The Science Meets Regions process has made it clear that the objectives of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Programme are realistic and work well for the future of our region. By working more systematically and in long-term collaboration, with the guidance of the Science Meets Regions process, we can also set an excellent forerunner example for the rest of the world”.

Mr **Ossi Savolainen**, Regional Mayor



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Number of participants in the events

Opening seminar: 55 (live), 216 (via livestream), (149 viewings on YouTube afterwards)

First Innovation Camp: 54 (live)

Second Innovation Camp: 65 (live)

Third Innovation Camp: 66 (live)

Closing seminar: 72 (live), 44 (via livestream), (57 viewings on YouTube afterwards)

In addition to livestreams, other video releases were also made during the program, and their visibility was excellent with almost 120 500 viewings.

– “The regionals objectives are ambitious, and new ways of cooperation are needed to achieve them. In 2022, we brought influencers together: a wide range of organisations and individuals from the EU and our region.”
Mr Ossi Savolainen, Regional Mayor



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Speakers

The high-level speakers in the program included among others: Minister of Economic Affairs Mika Lintilä, Chairs of the main Parliamentary Groups Antti Lindtman and Kai Mykkänen, other MPs Atte Harjanne, Mari Holopainen, Pia Lohikoski, Matias Mäkynen and Joakim Strand, Chancellor of the University of Helsinki Kaarle Hämeri, Rector at University of the Arts Helsinki Kaarlo Hildén, Rector of Metropolia University of Applied Sciences Riitta Konkola, President of the Academy of Finland Paula Eerola, President & CEO of the Technical Research Center of Finland (VTT) Antti Vasara, Director of the Confederation of Finnish Industries, Green growth Riikka Heikinheimo, President & CEO at Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) Johanna Buchert, Director General of the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) Leif Schulman, Mayor of Vantaa Ritva Viljanen, The Chairperson for the Feminist Association Fatim Diarra, Tietoevry Managing Director Satu Kiiskinen, Managing Director at Finnish Software and E-business Association Rasmus Roiha and Chairman of the Board of Baltic Sea Action Group & Carbon Action Saara Kankaanrinta.

European Commission speakers (most of them virtually) included Director for Growth and Innovation JRC Mikel Landabaso, Mission Manager Climate Adaptation and Deputy Director General DG CLIMA Clara de la Torre, Deputy Mission Manager 100 Climate Neutral Cities and Director of the Clean Planet DG RTD Rosalinde van der Vlies and Senior Research Manager Stavroula Demetriades Eurofound. Others from JRC Stijn Verleyen, Johan Stierna, Abdel Pitat, and Xabier Goenaga. In addition, a video message from Commissioner Mariya Gabriel was presented in the Closing seminar.

COMPANIES & RDI ACTIVITIES

QUALITY RDI PROJECTS

WE SUPPORT

+5%

RDI INVESTMENT OF UUSIMAA

Training RDI expertise

Break silos

Driver Challenge continues

PROMISES

young & mature students'

SHARING

VISIBILITY

theses

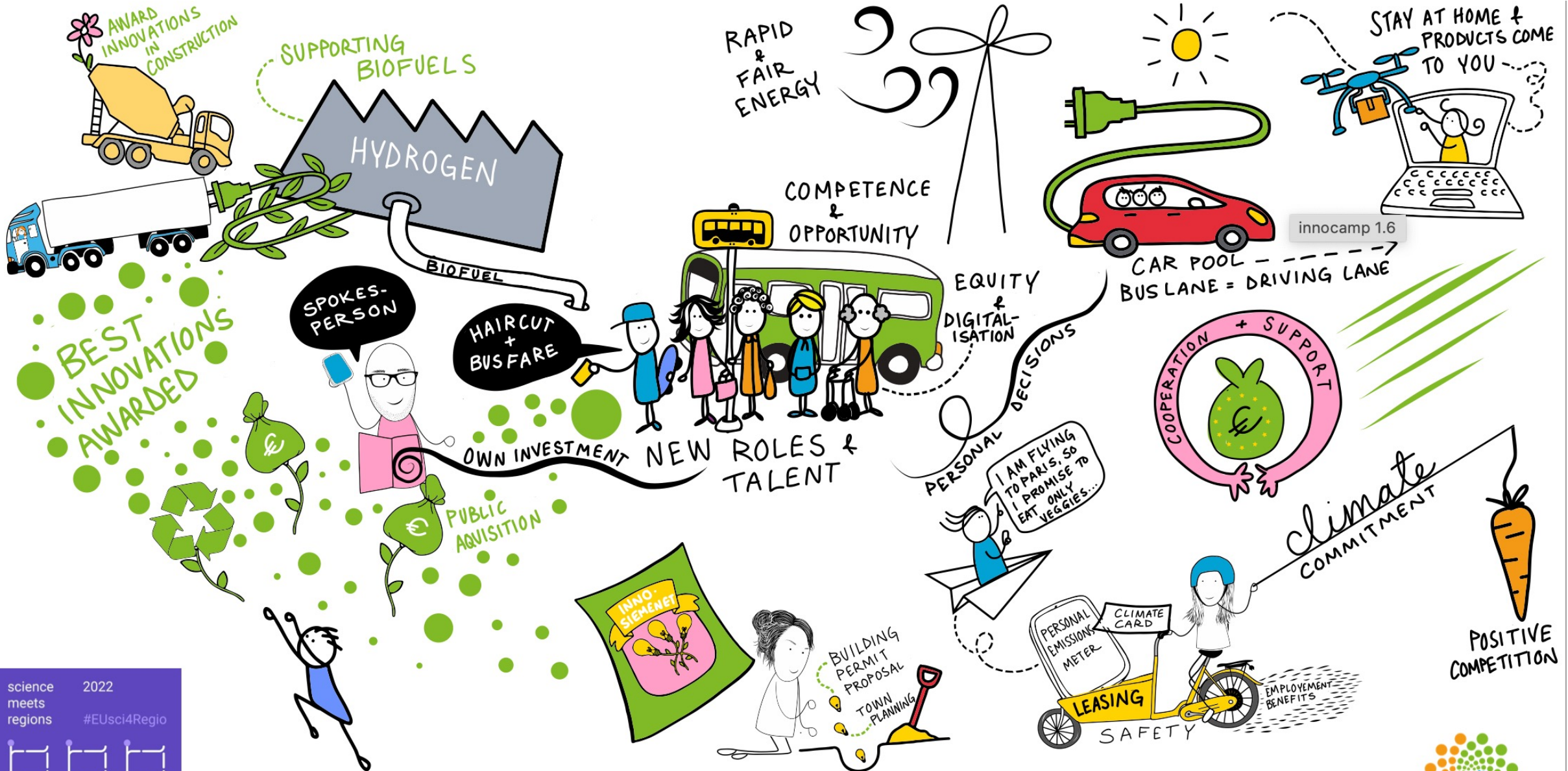
Espoo Innovation Capital

Uudenmaan Science Meets
Regions Innovation Camp 4.5.22



science meets regions 2022

#EUsci4Regio



Uudenmaan Science Meets Regions Innovation Camp 1.6.22

To which priorities should climate work be directed and what additional measures could we identify?
 What can you and your organization commit to?
 What political decisions are needed for things to move forward?
 What solutions can researchers make? And what is the role of citizens?



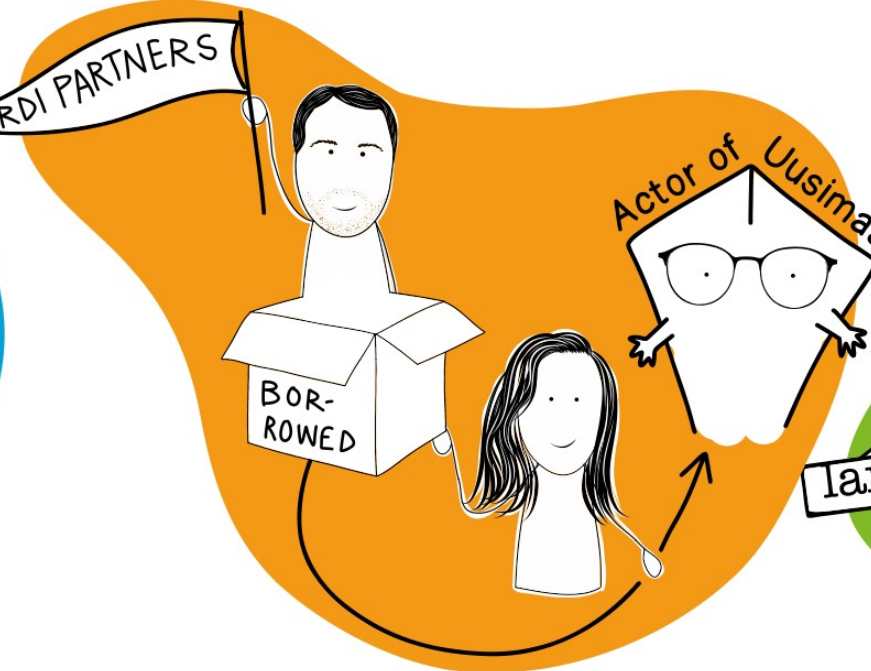
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set funding goals



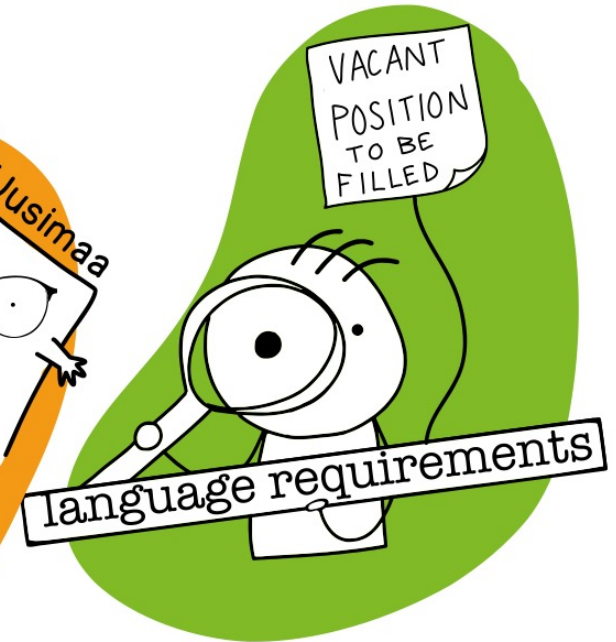
strong increase of EU-competences in network



RDI PARTNERS

BORROWED

Actor of Uusimaa



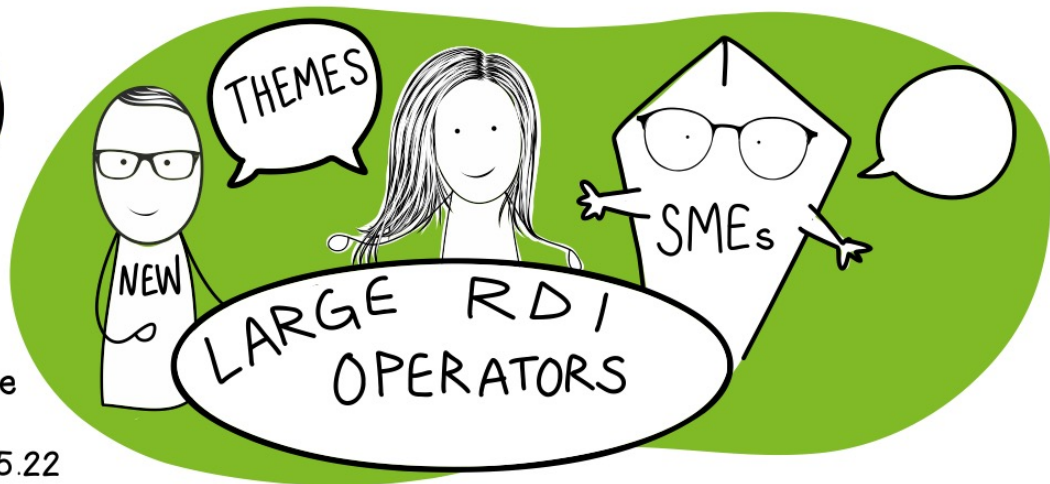
VACANT POSITION TO BE FILLED

language requirements

PROMISES



Anonymous recruitment



THEMES

NEW

SMEs

LARGE RDI OPERATORS

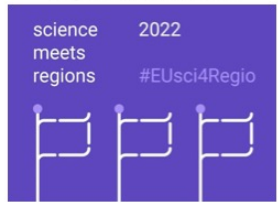


Welcome trainees

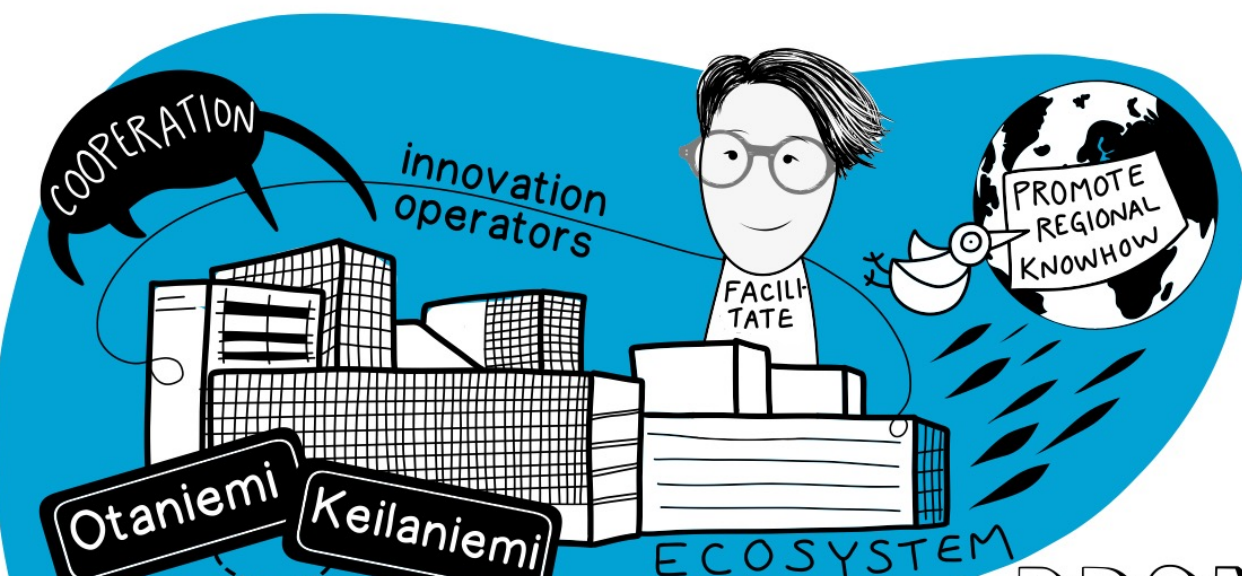
international talent



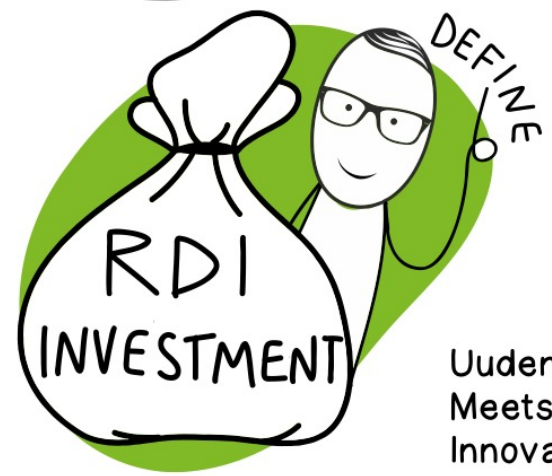
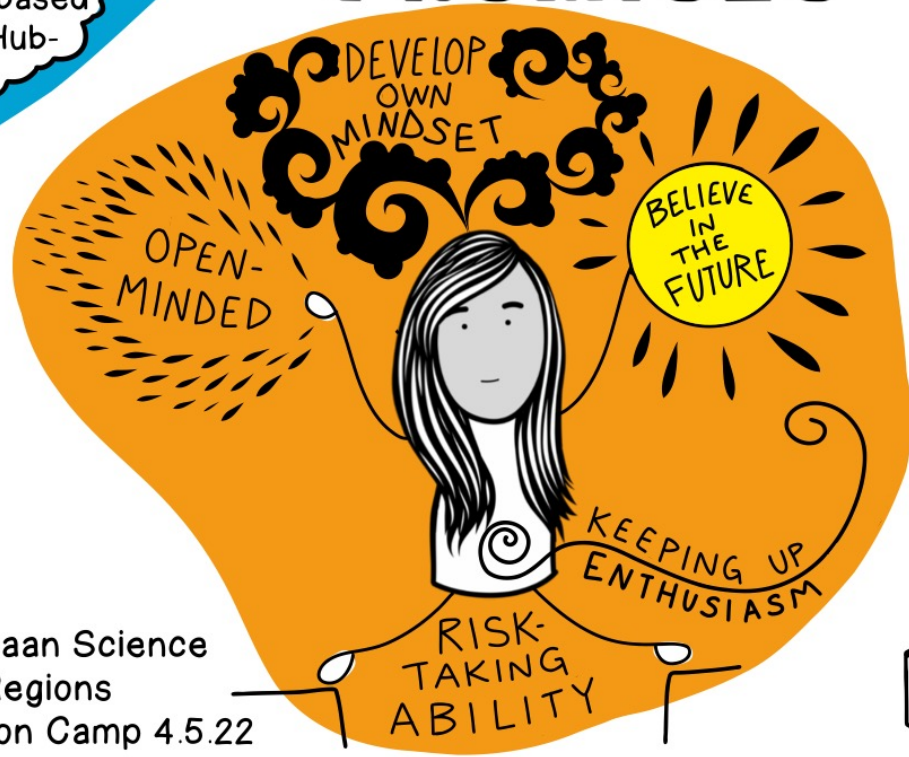
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Innovation Camp 4.5.22



PROMISES



Uudenmaan Science Meets Regions Innovation Camp 4.5.22



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Major outcomes, lessons learned and proposals for further action

For the RDI actors in the Helsinki-Uusimaa region

- Concerning the main regional strategy targets, the process, and its content convinced main regional innovator actors that a) **there is a joint commitment to reach the targets**, b) **there are enough knowledge and innovation resources**, c) **deeper and broader collaboration than so far is needed**, d) **the targets cannot be reached without synergic collaboration and integrating main actions to a well-planned and well-documented roadmap of each of the three main targets**.
- The process increased evidence that **the main targets are**, compared to other EU regions, **ambitious but reachable, and they are well integrated with each other**. **Helsinki-Uusimaa can be by 2030 carbon neutral Helsinki-Uusimaa focusing on sustainable growth and well-being and based on high employment (over 80 % of the potential labour force) and increased research and development investments (over 5 % of the GDP)**.
- Concerning the EU targets, the **Helsinki-Uusimaa knowledge and innovation resources are of high quality and can offer much more than so far to the EU policy and other regions**; however, requiring more jointly defined **target-oriented collaboration inside the region and partnerships with other EU regions**.



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Major outcomes, lessons learned and proposals for further action

For the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council

- The SMR process showed that **the region has all keys to tackle and solve most of the grand societal challenges.** The region has inside its borders **high-quality academic and practical competencies, RDI-intensive actions, active citizens, and the region is internationally attractive.**
- To reach the ambitious targets, the Regional Council **needs to co-create new higher quality collaborative working culture with all the regional actors and co-define a joint systemic transformation process.** The Carbon Neutrality Roadmap is an excellent example of measurable targets. **The high EU quality level needs to be set as a guiding framework for the roadmaps and action plans.**
- **The motivation of individuals and organizations to collaborate is high.** Still, it requires that **the Regional Council is ready to co-create processes in experimenting, testing and risk-taking to support the implementation so that it is based on shared innovative structures and responsibilities. As a target to be the EU forerunner and co-created with the EU JRC,** which has shown a strong interest in this kind of forerunner activities.



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Major outcomes, lessons learned and proposals for further action

For JRC & EU

- This SMR process showed **clear evidence of the usefulness and importance of science meets regions activities, process and collaboration of the different stakeholders, which we should continue. This experience should be used to develop similar EU activities in the future.**
- JRC may use this experience as a feasibility phase for the **next practical step in the evidence-informed regional policy development process.** JRC should consider collaboration with the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region in co-creation the EU regional concept of achieving the EU Green, Digital and Innovation Policy targets.
- The relevance and motivation for this kind of concept creation must be **based on the concrete needs and targets of the region, municipalities and all their stakeholders, as well as development interests documented in this SMR process report.** This collaboration can use the JRC existing material and JRC support mechanisms, such as Smart Specialisation Platform, European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews, Partnerships for Regional Collaboration Playbook, Innovation Camp Methodology Handbook, and EIT Climate-KIC Motion Handbook Developing a Transformative Theory of Change. **The outcomes can also be used for showcasing the potential of bottom-up implementation of the main EU instruments, such as the EU Missions and the New European Innovation Agenda.**



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Uudenmaan science meets regions

Lessons learned & How to move on

#sciencemeetsregions, #Uusimaa, #EUsci4Regio