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RIS3 Strategy in South Ostrobothnia

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Point of departure



Main objectives of RIS3

- The aim is to **increase international co-operation**, effective use of available human resources and intellectual capacity.
- The European structural funds have decreased in South Ostrobothnia, and there is **a need to finance R&D actions by international funding**. There is a clear societal need for the actions.
- Increased international project financing and foreign investments as well as smart growth are the key goals.
 - The idea has been to triple the transnational co-operation funds that are allowed to South Ostrobothnia
 - Analysis on international project funding opportunities was a part of the strategy process.



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SOUTH
SMART

OSTROBOTHNIA
OUTSTANDING



Strategy for Smart Specialisation



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Strategy process



Strategy process (1/2)

- RIS3 design process was coordinated by Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia.
 - University of Tampere and University of Helsinki (units in Seinäjoki) took care of the strategy process and drafting the strategy document in collaboration with the strategy owner
- There was wide partnership and participation within the preparation process.
 - The idea was to use the existing key policy groups to create genuine ownership for the strategy among the different actors of South Ostrobothnia.
 - The task of these groups was to identify and analyse the key factors and strengths of South Ostrobothnia, and with these identified strengths to outline supporting operational entities and activities



Strategy process (2/2)

- Data and evidence backing up the strategy:
 - Statistical analysis on the strengths and growing sectors of the region (personnel, work places, turnover, location quotient)
 - The strategy preparation work has given particular weighting to the viewpoint of business, entrepreneurial approach to the strategy:
 - An **electronic survey** for companies employing more than 10 people → views on entrepreneurial growth, investment, training, R&D and internationalization
 - **Thematic interviews with companies located in South Ostrobothnia**, which were represented in the preliminary thematic business sectors → more policy-oriented approach
 - **Thematic interviews with companies located outside the region** → outside views concerning the strengths and possibilities of the thematic business sectors of South Ostrobothnia. Company views were
- RIS3 priorities are based on wide acceptance in the region!



Evidence base for RIS3 (1/2)

SURFACE AREA 13 444 km²
percentage of the total surface area of Finland 4,4 %

POPULATION 193 977
percentage of the total population of Finland 3,6 %

POPULATION DENSITY 14,43/km²
in the whole of Finland 17,9 /km²

FINANCIAL DEPENDENCY RATIO 1,4
in the whole of Finland 1,3

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 7,6 %
in the whole of Finland 8,2 %

POST SECONDARY SCHOOL QUALIFICATION
has been completed by 65,8 % of the province's over 15 years olds
in the whole of Finland 68,5 %

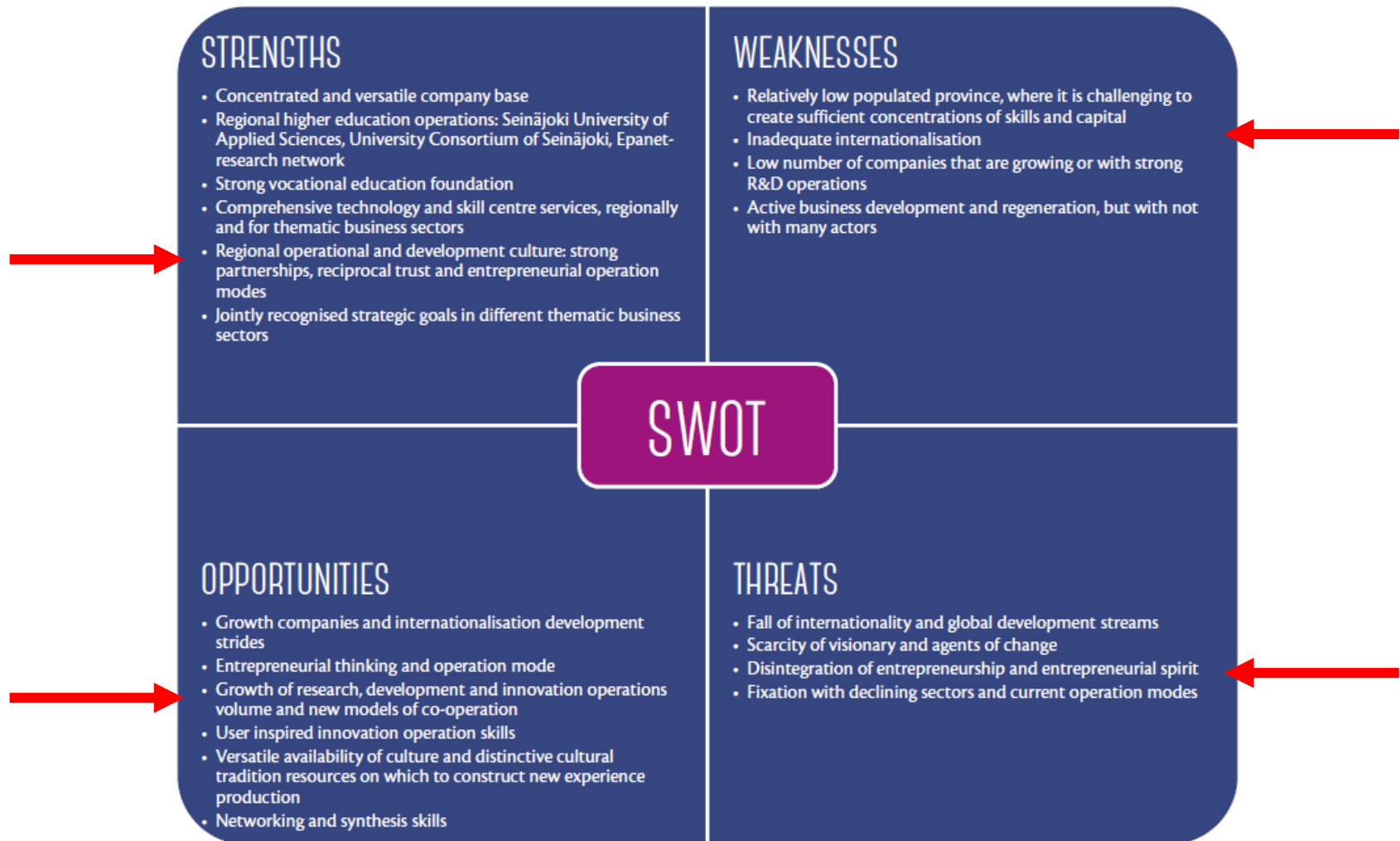
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT 28 234 €
in the whole of Finland 35 017 € per capita

8,2 **COMPANIES** per 100 residents
in the whole of Finland 5,9

R&D EXPENDITURE AS A SHARE OF GDP 0,8 %
in the whole of Finland 3,7 %



Evidence base for RIS3 (2/2)





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Thematic business sectors

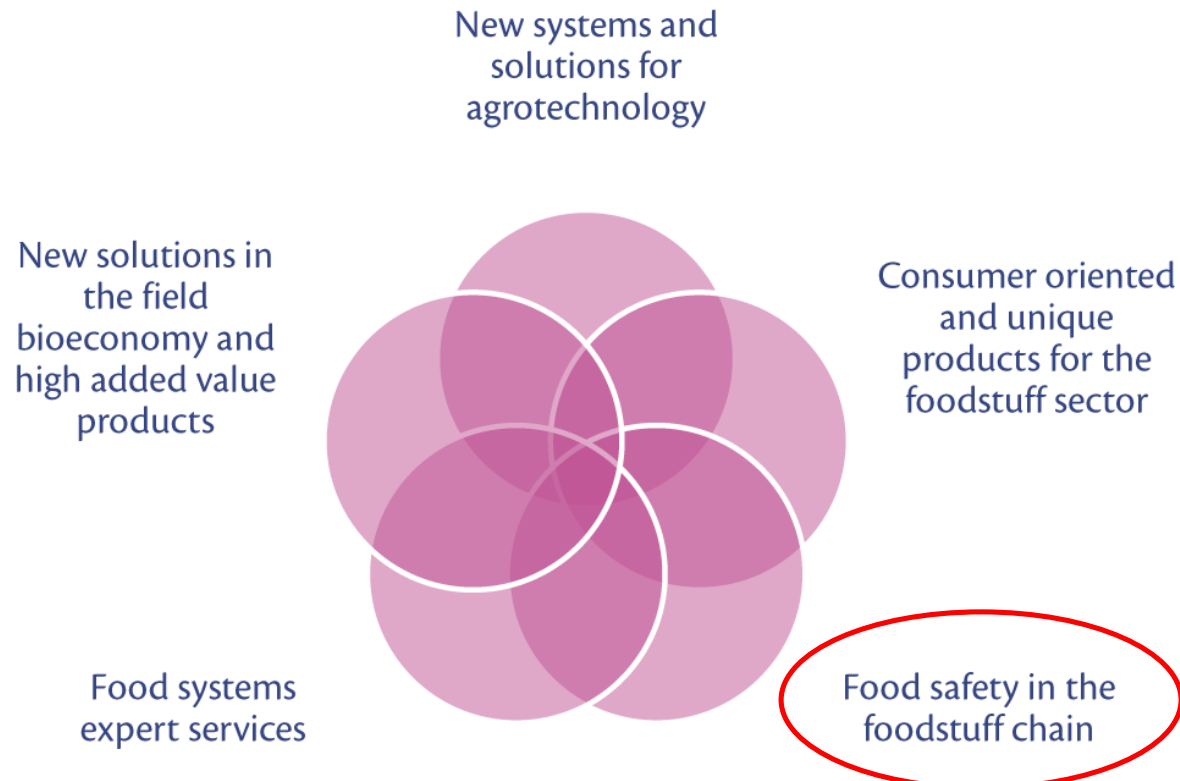


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SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND THE REGENERATION OF THE BIOECONOMY

POTENTIAL FOCUS SECTORS



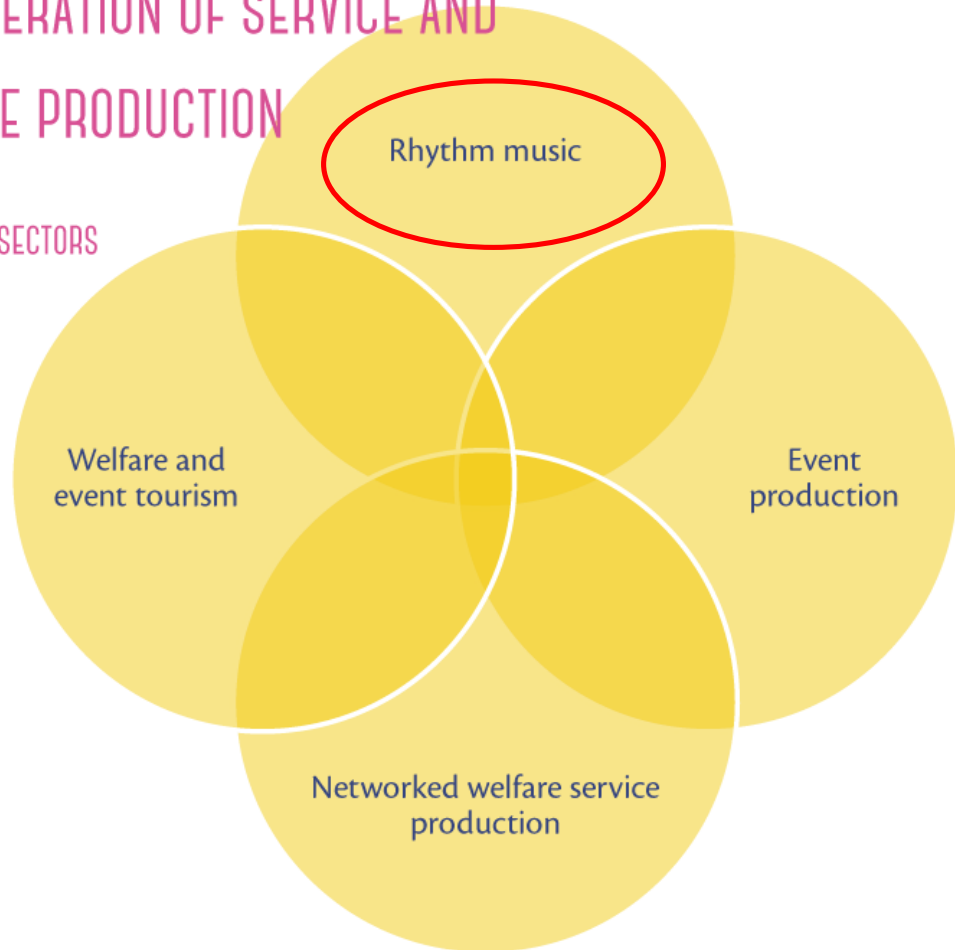


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THE REGENERATION OF SERVICE AND EXPERIENCE PRODUCTION

POTENTIAL FOCUS SECTORS





SMART AND ENERGY EFFICIENT SYSTEMS

POTENTIAL FOCUS SECTORS

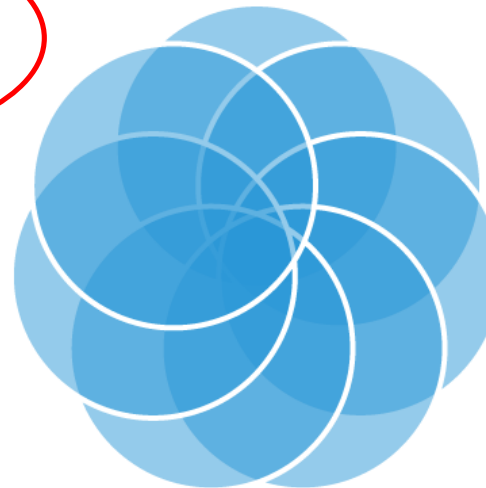
New health
technology
applications

User friendly and
smart machines
and instruments

New solutions of
metal and
wooden
construction

Thermal
management

Agile industrial
solutions



Smart and efficient
logistical systems

Smart customer
service and logistic
systems



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Operational entities



START UP AND GROW UP!

South Ostrobothnia seeks firm international interactions in order to create operations and policies which support the creation and growth of new companies.

INNOVATE!

South Ostrobothnia wants to contribute to the construction of the European Innovation Union.

GO GLOBAL!

South Ostrobothnia commits to sustainable bidirectional international co-operation in thematic business sectors and to the improvement of its prerequisites.

GET TALENT!

South Ostrobothnia invests in education at all its levels as a prerequisite for the improvement of the skill level of the province and through that also smart specialisation.

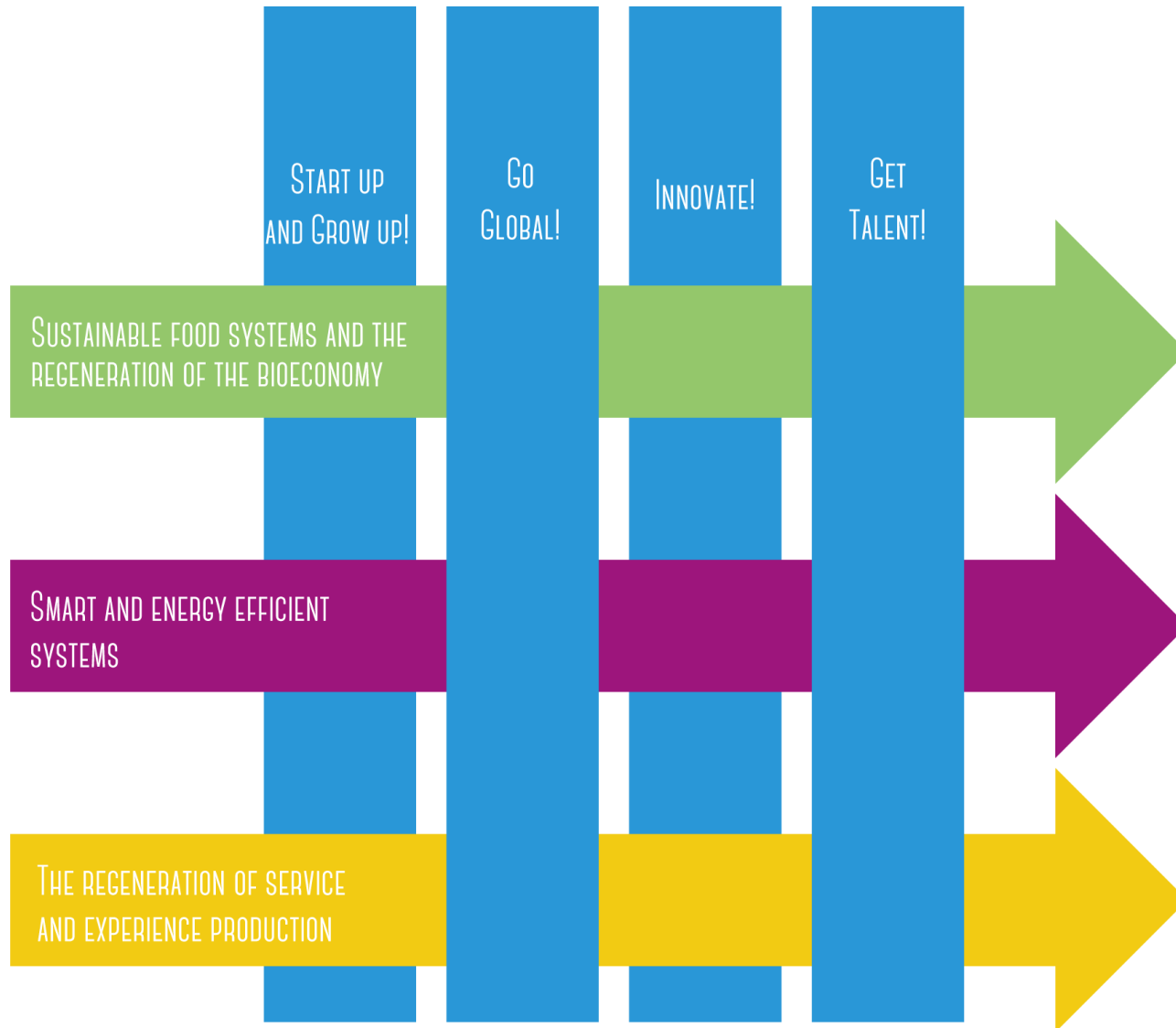


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Strategy matrix and principles



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BILATERAL COMPARATIVE LEARNING

South Ostrobothnia utilises dense synergy and learning potentials, which are made possible by the close-knit province, as efficiently as possible.

EFFECTIVE RESOURCE UTILISATION

Development policies and development tools are combined efficiently, creatively and intelligently.

SPEED, FLEXIBILITY AND IMPARTIALITY

All possibilities are grasped with an entrepreneurial spirit.

FAIRNESS AND RELIABILITY

South Ostrobothnia refines the principles of fairness and reliability into a competitive advantage in smart specialisation, which penetrates business operations and also business development and higher education operations



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Concluding remarks and questions



Concluding remarks

- The RIS3 strategy of South Ostrobothnia has quite strong external focus.
- The key choices of the strategy are widely accepted in South Ostrobothnia
 - Thematic business sectors
 - Operational entities
 - Principles
- The actual entrepreneurial spirit of the RIS3 strategy has not realised, but it has been beneficial in other ways.



Questions

- The RIS3 strategy has quite clear, but narrow role in the policy processes related to knowledge-based regional development:
 - What do you think about this kind of approach?
- There is not yet clear picture whether there will be a separate RIS3 strategy or will it be merged with the Regional Programme that is well-recognised and important strategy document.
 - Which are your views on this matter?



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Thank you!

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