



REGIONAL COUNCIL OF
North Karelia

North Karelia as a mining region

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North Karelia in a nutshell

- › Population 162 087 (2019)
- › 13 municipalities, of which 5 towns
- › Regional centre Joensuu
- › Distance to Helsinki 450 km, one hour flight
- › Distance to St Petersburg 407 km by train
- › 89 % of land area covered by forests



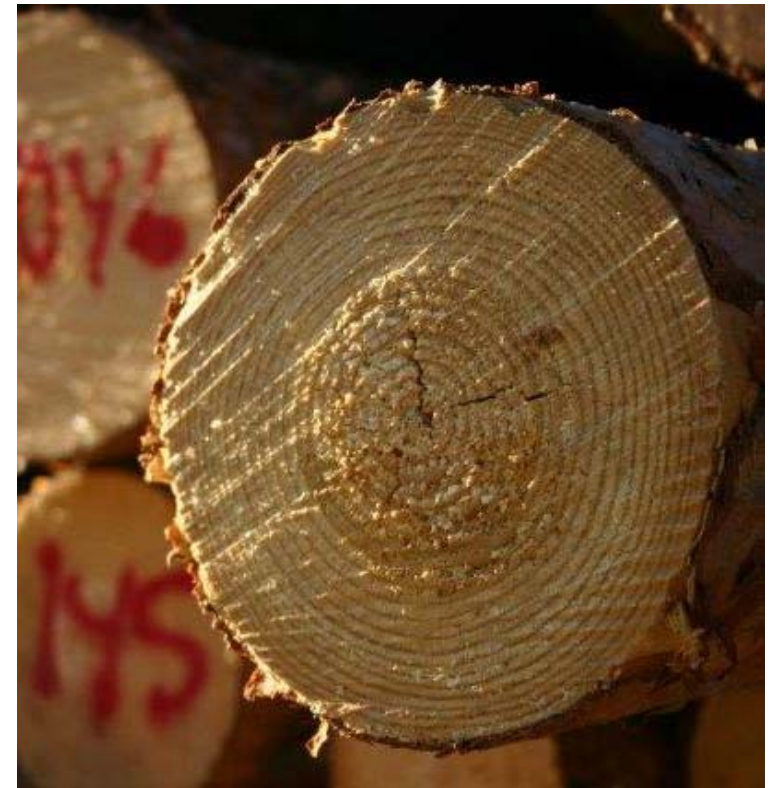
East and west meet

- › 300 km frontier with Russia
- › Over 1.2 million border crossings per year in Niirala
- › Inland waterway connection through Saimaa canal to Russia and the Baltic Sea



World-class knowledge hub

- › Unique collaboration and expertise
 - › European Forest Institute – EFI HQ
 - › Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)
 - › Finnish Forest Centre
 - › Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
 - › Business development: Business Joensuu, regional Business Development Organisations
 - › Educational institutions



Educational institutions

- › University of Eastern Finland – UEF
- › Karelia University of Applied Sciences
- › Riveria Vocational Education & Training
- › Over 20 000 students in the region

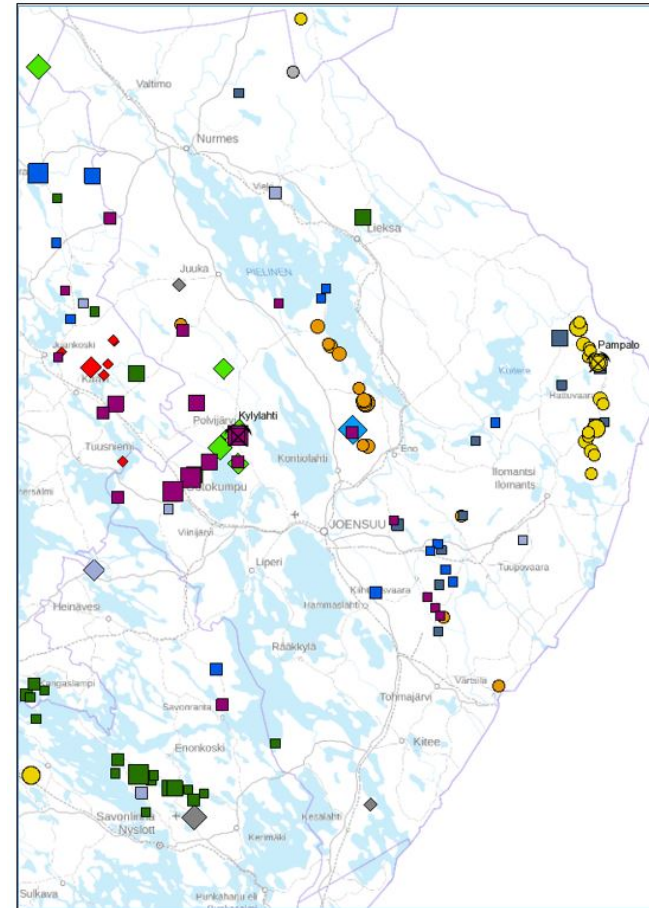












High-quality R&D and business

- 6 000 companies, 33 000 employers, 5,7 billion € turnover
- Top business areas: metal products, machinery, forest industry and technology, bioeconomy, plastics, mining, trade and services



Mineral deposits of North Karelia



| | Mineral Deposits |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <u>Gold</u> |
|  | <u>Copper</u> |
|  | <u>Talc</u> |
|  | <u>Kyanite</u> |
|  | <u>Uranium</u> |
|  | <u>Molybdenum</u> |
|  | <u>Nickel</u> |
|  | <u>Zinc</u> |
|  | <u>Dolomite</u> |
|  | <u>Iron</u> |
| Source | https://gtkdata.gtk.fi/mdae/index.html |

13.6.2019

Strengths and weaknesses of North Karelia

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- Significant natural resources
- World-class high level expertise (forest bioeconomy)
- Strong cooperation between different actors
- Russia as an opportunity
- Strong culture and regional identity
- Clean and healthy environment

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- Ageing population structure
- High unemployment but also lack of skilled labour force
- Decline of infrastructure (roads)
- Geographical handicaps: long distances, harsh climate and scattered settlement structure

Vision of the POKAT 2021 Programme

Smart Specialisation – Smart Growth

North Karelia invests in selected productive sectors. The goal is to increase region's enterprises' international competitiveness

Oil free region – Sustainable Growth

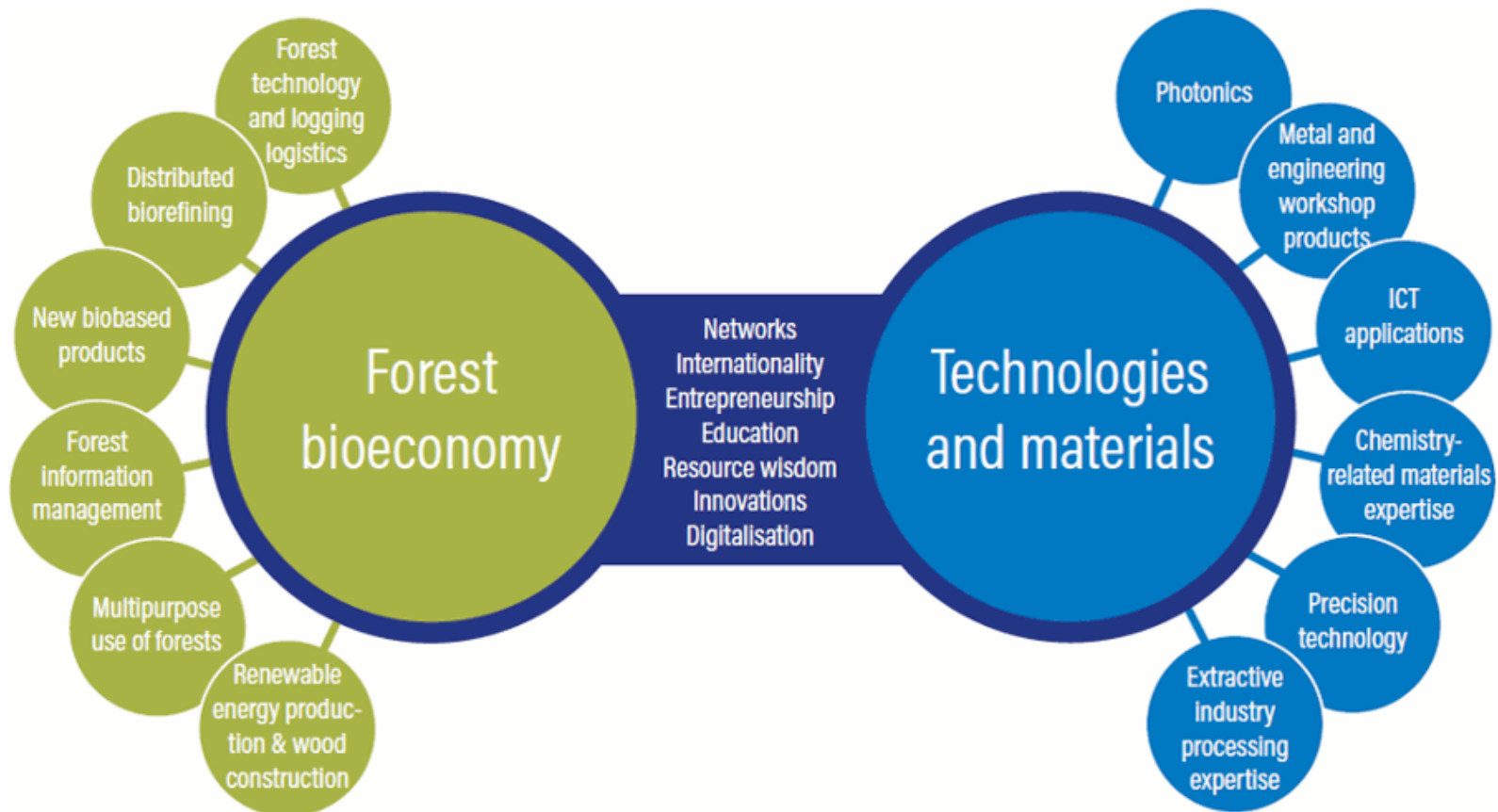
Emerging bioeconomy and climate change consideration provide good opportunities for resource efficient activities in North Karelia. The objective to become a region that is free from fossil oil is demanding but realistic

Life-long participation – Inclusive Growth

Population ageing is both a challenge and an opportunity for the region. By activating people of different age groups the region wishes to be recognized as the home region of people of all ages



Smart specialisation in North Karelia



Thematic development entities

- Key areas of expertise for smart specialisation have been assessed through more extensive societal change factors
- These changes are national and/or global in nature and present opportunities as well as renewal challenges for the creation of business that is based on expertise



Strategic objectives: stone processing and mining

- › Updating of geological data and ensuring its availability
- › Development of the region into a hub of operational education for stone processing and mining
- › Expansion of the production of rock mass material, construction aggregates and industrial minerals
- › Sustainable use of bio-based mineral products, groundwater reservoirs and geothermal resources
- › Utilisation of findings from social and environmental studies and improving the public image of the mining industry





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Thank You!

www.pohjois-karjala.fi