



# Regional SMEs as drivers in the development of the Industrial Circular Economy

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### **Lapland - POLICY INSTRUMENT**



#### Sustainable growth and jobs 2014-2020. Finland's structural funds programme,

Priority axis 2: Producing and using the latest knowledge and skills (ERDF) Specific

**Objective 4.1:** Developing research, competence and innovation clusters that draw from regional strengths

#### Lapland –what was the starting point

- one of the most prominent regions for the mining industries at global level including the Critical Raw Materials
- pioneer to development industrial circular economy throughout the value chain
- ecosystem enabling the industrial service SMEs and technological solutions development –innovation platforms at place

#### Lapland - What was needed?

- > the practices improving the translation of the industrial needs into the regional planning, policy and decision making and vice versa to promote the improvement of the operational environment for the mining industry
- better use of the RDI capacity in the development of the SMEs capacity and services
- facilitated co-creation to support the development of the emerging industries in the management of the industrial symposia processes



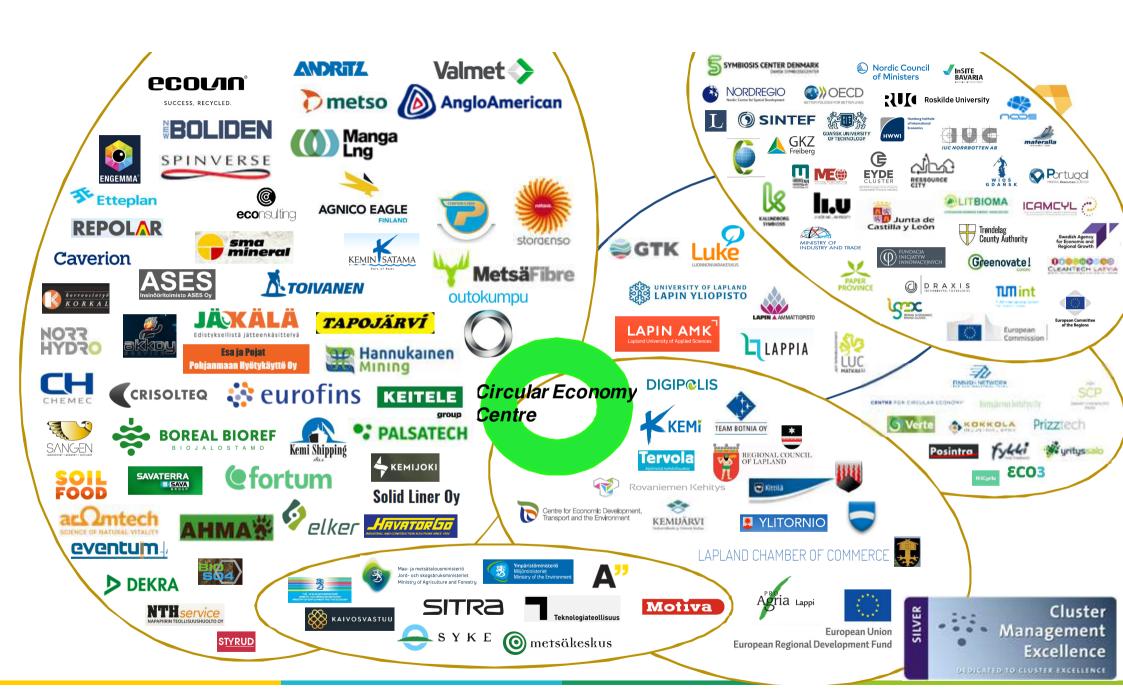
## Lapland action plan

#### **Objectives**

- innovation and research action for mining and metallurgy Boosting research and innovation based industrial circular economy in Lapland through interregional learning - SMEs as a driver for sustainable growth
- Arctic Circular Economy Innovation Concept Research and innovation based circular economy products, services and business models for SMEs in Lapland

#### Realisation

- Industrial Circular Economy in Lapland 2.0 Reinforcement of circular economy activities
- strengthens the regional competitiveness of the industrial circular economy in Lapland
- supports the operations of the *Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Centre* established in Kemi in 2017
- paves way for new investments and business models in the field of circular economy
- strengthens the R&D, knowledge and innovation infrastructure, cooperation and networking
  - → operations in practise through The Circular and Bioeconomy Centre →



# Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Centre- practical way



- It is not only policy!
- Couple very practical examples of Centre's work in co-operation with local SME's
  - Dust binders made of region's side streams for roads in mines
  - Region's side streams usage as cover material for waste rock pile
  - Geopolymer made of region's slag as cover material for waste rock pile
  - Fertilizers made of region's side streams to boost growth on waste rock pile
- SME's as a driver
- For them there is a potential to grow bigger and get more business also abroad



### A MESSAGE FOR THE FUTURE

# CLEAR NEED FOR STRONG SUPPOR TO GET RESULTS!

**THINK BIG!** 





European Union European Regional Development Fund

**THANK YOU** 

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