Part I – General information

Project: Exploiting digitisation to increase B2B e-commerce

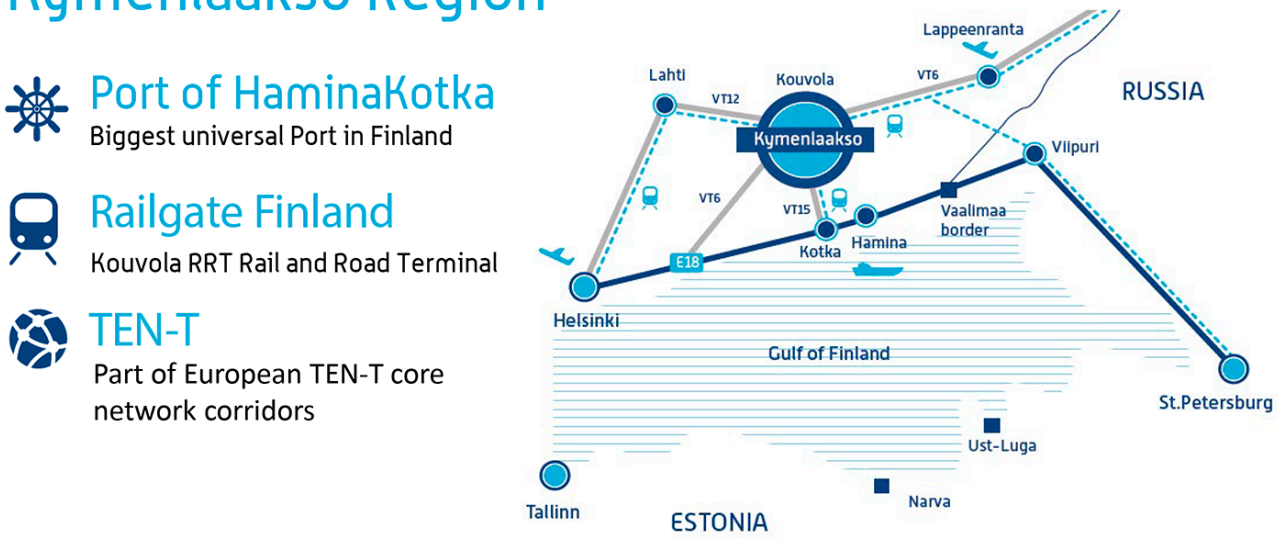
Future Ecom project addresses policy makers and business support agencies across EU who need to fully understand the key barriers for SMEs to exploit and benefit from a global internet driven marketplace in general and enhance digitisation and automation in particular. This is done by the exchange of experiences and good practices across 8 EU regions in Future Ecom.

Country: Finland

NUTS2 region: South-East Finland

NUTS3 region: Kymenlaakso Region

Description of the region:



Kymenlaakso is a region in South-East Finland. It borders the regions of Uusimaa, Päijät-Häme, South Savo and South Karelia and Russia (Leningrad Oblast). The region of Kymenlaakso is made up of seven municipalities, of which three have city status (Kotka, Hamina, Kouvola). Kotka is the second largest city in Kymenlaakso region with population of circa 52.000 people. It is located on the coast of the Baltic Sea, the Gulf of Finland, at the delta of River Kymijoki. Other cities are Kouvola further in the inland with population of circa 83.000 people and in the south Hamina -Finland's oldest garrison town.

Kymenlaakso has approximately 172 000 inhabitants. It is one of the most significant forest industry clusters in Europe and an international hub of logistics and logistics related business and knowhow in the Baltic Sea region with Finland´s largest universal export and transshipment port, Port of HaminaKotka. In the northern part of the region in the city of Kouvola lies Finland´s largest railway hub.

One special feature of the region is that Kymenlaakso has the most eastern and the primary border crossing point called Vaalimaa between the European Union and Russia.

Partner organisations involved: The Regional Council of Kymenlaakso and Cursor Oy, Kotka-Hamina Regional Development Company

Description of partners

The Regional Council of Kymenlaakso is a statutory joint municipal authority responsible for regional development, regional spatial planning and regional interest promotion. Kymenlaakso region consists of Kouvola- and Kotka-Hamina subregions and it is located in South-East Finland.

The Regional Council is responsible for the elaboration of the Regional Program and co-ordination of the programming process. The Regional Program is a document which defines the main priorities for regional development. Different stakeholders carry out projects which aim at achieving the defined goals. The Regional Council is able to co-fund these projects via European Union Structural Funds Programmes. The Regional Program is a guideline for all authorities dealing with regional development funding.

Contact person: Petri Tolmunen

Email address: petri.tolmunen@kymenlaakso.fi

Phone number: +358 44 747 8512

The regional development company for Kotka-Hamina region, Cursor Oy, reinforces the region's expertise, competitiveness, and attractiveness by developing corporate business. Cursor Oy serves all businesspeople in South Kymenlaakso as well as people with start-ups and companies relocating in the region with matters regarding starting and developing companies.

Contact person: Marja Holopainen

Email address: marja.holopainen@cursor.fi

Phone number: +358 40 190 2514

Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact Investment for Growth and Jobs programme.

Name of the policy instrument addressed is Sustainable growth and jobs 2014-2020 - Structural Funds Programme of Finland (CCI number: 2014FI16M2OP001)

Programme Description

Main objectives

The Finnish Operational Programme “Sustainable growth and jobs 2014-2020 – Finland's structural funds programme” (OP) receives a combined amount of EUR 1,299,461,095 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) under the Investment Package for growth and jobs in Finland. The OP will contribute to Finland reaching the key EU and national development priorities along with the "Europe2020" objectives.

Funding priorities

- Improving the competitiveness of SMEs will receive about 20% of the total OP allocations.
- Around 24% of programme investments will promote research and innovation activities.
- The shift to a low-carbon economy is a high priority in Finland. 15% of programme funding is allocated to this thematic objective.
- 18% of OP allocation will focus on reducing unemployment.
- About 12% of the OP resources are dedicated to investment in education.
- Almost 8% of funding is aimed at investments to fight social exclusion.

Expected impacts

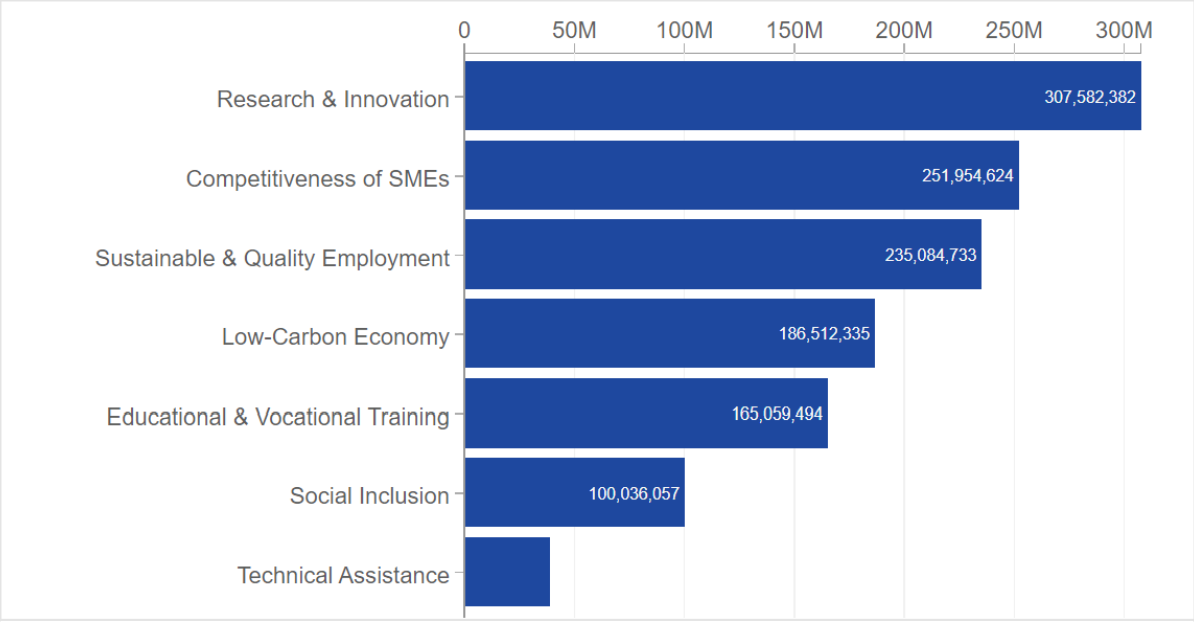
Increase in R&I investments from 3.73% of GDP (2011) to 4.0% of GDP (2020).

- 5 660 SMEs will be supported in developing new business opportunities based on regional strengths
- 12 700 new jobs will be created
- Increase the share of use of renewable energy from 33% (2011) to 38% (2020)
- Youth unemployment is tackled, and National Youth Guarantee is supported
- Skills and competences of the workforce are upgraded
- Fight against social exclusion is supported

Funds

Regional Development Fund (ERDF): 769,653,671.00 €
European Social Fund (ESF): 515,560,930.00 €

Thematic Priorities



Southern Finland's development priorities

During the 2014–2020 structural fund programme period, the regional plan for the major regions of Southern and Western Finland will be implemented in Southern Finland, Finland's structural funds programme Sustainable Growth and Labour 2014-2020 will steer the selection of development projects and investments, but the each region's own intelligent specialisation policies will be in a key role. These policies are outlined in each region's strategy. Southern Finland comprises six regions, each of which has its own development priorities approved by its regional management committee. In addition to regional funding that Southern Finland receives, national development programmes are an alternative source of funding projects.

Southern Finland intends to use structural funds to diversify its economic structure and increase the number of growing, innovative and internationalising companies located there. Companies are encouraged to develop new products and services especially for the international market and to adopt the use of innovations that will promote productivity. SMEs are also supported in developing their growth potential and new business, in specialisation and increasing network-like cooperation. The Innovative Cities Programme plays a key role in the development of the products and services of SMEs and development of activities that will broaden their innovation base.

In order to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse emissions, the programme aims to increase the share of renewable energy and local energy sources and improve energy and material efficiency. In Southern Finland, promoting bioeconomy is one part of the key procedures implemented to promote low carbon activities. Similarly, energy efficiency and resource wisdom are listed as priorities in the programme. Structural and functional changes, which will not only promote low carbon emissions, but also open up pioneer markets for the area's companies, must be promoted in urban areas.

Southern Finland's structural funds will finance activities for the good of young people and others, who find it difficult to find employment. Groups that have a hard time finding employment in Southern Finland include immigrants and people with a foreign background.

Key targets throughout Finland include promotion of employment and prevention of social exclusion among young people... The objective is to ensure that the quality and amount of education offered meet with what is needed in the labour market. As many young people as possible enter a degree programme immediately after

they graduate from comprehensive school. They then enter the labour market as smoothly as possible after a vocational or university education. The professional expertise of those in danger of falling into social exclusion and those, who learn in different ways, will also be taken into account.

Structural funds are used in the pursuit to decrease social disparity by influencing e.g. education and employment possibilities and supporting social networks and those in a vulnerable position and by developing uniform accessibility to and quality of services. Special focus will be given to the wellbeing and improved health of unemployed persons and those unable to work fulltime. Successful immersion into the jobs market and working are the primary and most sustainable methods to prevent poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.

Regional management committees

Each region's regional management committee coordinates structural fund activities throughout their own region. The committee also monitors and supervises the systematic realisation of structural fund programmes. The members of a regional management committee comprise representatives from different trade unions, the region's authorities and the region's largest municipalities. The minutes for regional management committee meetings can be found under the section that lists each region's priorities.

Partnership a theme throughout Southwest Finland's regional strategy

Southwest Finland's regional strategy includes the regional plan for 2035+ and the regional programme for 2014-2017. The regional plan is a strategic long-term plan, which highlights the objectives and strategy for development of the region. It is a comprehensive description of the regions factors of success and is based discussions on values that incorporated different points of view.

The region's vision is "southwest Finland's quality of life is the best in all of Finland. A successful region characterised by wellbeing is built through cooperation and partnership".

A common theme throughout is partnership and teamwork between the area's actors. The regional plan includes key projects and procedures for development. The programme is the desired state shared by the entire region. The strategy has been named the partnership strategy,

- There are four priority axes for the strategy:
- Responsibility – the future is made of today's choices
- Cooperation skills – crossing boundaries together
- Accessibility – an accessible gateway to the Baltic Sea
- Resource wisdom – innovative forerunner

The regional plans four priority axes form a clear explanation on how responsibility, cooperation skills, accessibility and resource wisdom have been realised and how they will be evident in Southwest Finland in 2035.

Kymenlaakso regional program 2018–2021: New vitality for a renewable region

The guiding principle of the Kymenlaakso regional program is a strong economic policy emphasis. The program bases the goals for the opportunities, needs and special features of Kymenlaakso, such as a strong industrial tradition and culture. The program reconciles the state of mind of the region with national and EU regional development goals.

The region’s vision is: Kymenlaakso is a vibrant and eco-efficient residential, hobby and business environment. The goal is for the province to be carbon neutral by 2040.

Development priorities:

- Reliable business environment.
  - Provide a reliable business environment, between major market areas, the EU and Russia, and actively seek partnerships in global markets.
- High quality residential and cultural environment
  - We invest in the quality, cleanliness, safety and comfort of the living environment. Make the area interesting and attractive for future professionals
- An attractive knowledge and innovation environment
  - Develop competitive and attractive innovation ecosystems, focus on increasing research, development and innovation, and achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Well-functioning transport connections and transport system

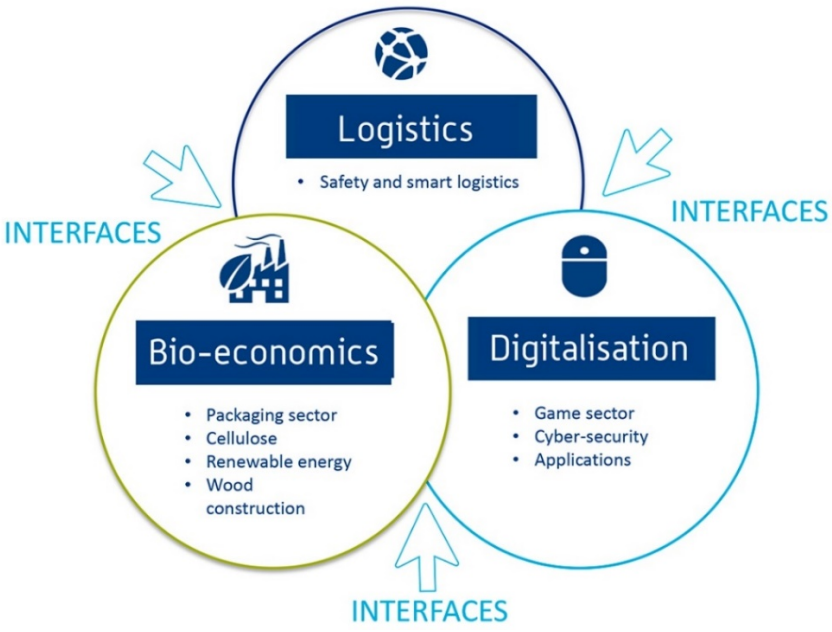
Supporting well-being and everyday life through well-functioning transport connections. Maintaining the competitiveness of companies by developing Finland's domestic and international transport routes. Use TEN-T funding to improve road, rail and port competitiveness.

The cross-cutting themes of development are sustainable development and internationality. In addition, the goal in all decision-making is to promote the realization of equality.

Kymenlaakso RIS3 Strategy

The smart specialization strategy 2016-2020 complements the regional program. The spearheads of Kymenlaakso smart specialization are presented in the province's RIS3 strategy. The chosen priorities are:

1. Logistics
   - Security and intelligent logistics
2. Bioeconomy
   - A resource-efficient and low-carbon bio- and circular economy for energy, new products, and business
3. Digitization
   - Cybersecurity and gaming, as well as digital applications in logistics, bioeconomy, tourism, and well-being and healthcare



The experience and information gained in the Future Ecom project has been able to be utilized in the implementation of projects during the current Structural Funds period.

The challenge has been the end of the Structural Funds period in 2020. As a result, launching new development projects based on the good practices gained from the Future Ecom project has been challenging. In practice, the launch of new projects will be postponed to the next Structural Funds period, which will start in 2021.

The Regional Council of Kymenlaakso has launched an update of the RIS3 strategy in 2020, and the strategy update has been worked on at the same time as the implementation of the Future Ecom project. This has brought significant synergies and facilitated the search for a common vision and the planning of the Kymenlaakso Action Plan. In addition, the update process of the RIS3 strategy has been a good testbed for the new insights and best practices gained from the Future Ecom project. The updated strategy will be completed by the end of 2020 and published in early 2021.

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

All the actions described in this action plan aim at supporting region´s digital transformation, increasing investments in ICT and RDI and boosting sustainable 4th industrial revolution. According to forecasting data, the operating environment in Kymenlaakso will be particularly affected by environmental and technological trends, the most important of which are automation and robotization, digitalisation and artificial intelligence.

Interregional exchange of experience

Future Ecom project´s interregional partner meetings have been demonstrating numerous interesting presentations and good practices addressing different themes relating to digitalization.

For this action plan the most thought-provoking source of inspiration has been the partner meeting held in Detmold Germany in May 2019. The quality and relevance of presented facts and information were overwhelmingly impressive. Lots of things are be learned and taken into action from Detmold meeting´s experiences and observations.

Detmold meeting addressed the theme of options within smart production and smart factory. The theme was addressed in a variety of ways, both in theory and in practice. Partners e.g. got to hear excellent presentations on options on Industry 4.0 in region Ostwestfalen-Lippe (OWL) by Weidmüller-Akademie, on Innovation Campus Lemgo. Partners also enjoyed guided site visits to SmartFactoryOWL and InnoZent OWL.

Lessons learnt from Future Ecom project and particularly from Detmold partner meeting have been the basis and inspiration for Kymenlaakso region´s action plan which will initiate smart factory-based ecosystem development and closer collaboration between stakeholders and already running development projects and initiatives in the region. With our action plan we are striving to maximize the utilization of already allocated funding and add value and impact to already running regional projects. We aim to contribute to projects which have similar goals of fostering and boosting digitalization in region´s SMEs.

ACTION 1 Creation of an Ecosystem for Smart Factory Actors

Inspiration for action

The inspiration for this action comes from the partner meeting held in Detmold Germany in May 2019. Detmold meeting addressed the theme of options within smart production and smart factory. The theme was addressed in a variety of ways, both in theory and in practice. For this action the most striking and stimulating source of inspiration was the presentation of SmartFactoryOWL and guided site visit to SmartFactoryOWL itself and a visit to innovation campus Lemgo.

SmartFactoryOWL is a real-life laboratory on Industry 4.0 and a research factory for intelligent automation. It is a joint initiative of the Fraunhofer-Society and the OWL University of Applied Sciences. SmartFactoryOWL is a test field for enterprises with special programs for SMEs. Its research topics include industrial internet, intelligent automation, human-machine interaction and IT-security for production. SmartFactoryOWL empowers SMEs for efficient and effective processes along the entire value chain through digitization and networking in line with Industry 4.0.

Lemgo is an ecosystem for smart production. It is a Smart City where Internet of Things (IoT) solutions for daily issues are presented in a midsized town. This innovation ecosystem is situated in the middle of an old Hansa town Lemgo. Topics fostered in Lemgo Innovation Campus for automation ecosystem are e.g. intelligent automation (SmartFactoryOWL is situated in the campus area), industrial internet, machine learning for production and cybersecurity.

The key takeaways and learnings are as follows:

- The future of production and work is smart production and smart factory.
- An innovation ecosystem that provides a real-life testing and demonstration environment creates favourable conditions which promotes and fosters smart production and smart factory development efficiently. This is specifically important for SMEs which can e.g. develop and test new prototypes with lower costs and manageable risks.
- There are plenty of advantages relating to smart production/ smart factory compared to traditional production processes and manufacturing facilities. Greatest opportunities come from sustainable business growth, more efficient processes, more ergonomic workplaces and environments and efficient quality assurance. In more detail the benefits can be such as leaner and automated processes, lower production costs, greater flexibility and shorter production times, increased productivity, lower warehousing costs, transparent supply chains, agility and shorter time-to-market for new products, fast implementation of innovations.
- All relevant innovation actors need to share a common vision and will to take the digital leap. Research institutions, universities, companies, development agencies, local authorities together need to have the right mindset in order to take the full advantage of the digital transformation which will bring about massive changes to production processes, trade and services in the near future.
- Especially for smaller companies it is critical to be able to recognize technological and social changes through digitization and the associated changes affecting their business at an early stage and react to them in good time.

The need for smart production/ smart factory related development and supporting ecosystem similar to what was demonstrated in Detmold has been clearly identified. This is a must to do in order to keep up with the digital and industrial transformation.

Activities

This action will initiate the development process of collaborative, goal-oriented and awareness rising smart factory operations development with supporting ecosystem in the region. Sustainability and circular economy aspects will also be regarded in the same context. The envisaged main activity with which to reach this goal is to apply and achieve the status of a European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for Kymenlaakso region´s innovation actors. The role of EDIH is to support companies and the public sector in the utilization and deployment of digital solutions. EDIHs are part of the EU's new Digital Europe program and act as service centres to boost digital investment. The EDIH status can be applied for by organizations and consortia that are able to produce and deliver services that support digital business renewal.

With the establishment of EDIH, we are pursuing the opportunity to provide EDIH-related services, which serve i.e. the goal of developing an ecosystem for region´s smart factory actors. Services provided may include:

- Test before invest: Services enabling test before invest could include awareness raising, digital maturity assessment, demonstration activities, visioning for digital transformation, fostering the integration,

adaptation and customisation of various technologies, testing and experimentation with digital technologies, knowledge and technology transfer.

- Skills and training: Services ensuring the appropriate level of digital skills could include advertising, hosting or providing of training, boot-camps, traineeships, supporting the implementation of advanced digital skills training courses.
- Support to find investments: Services could include access to financial institutions and investors and supporting the use of relevant financing mechanisms.
- Innovation ecosystem and networking: EDIHs should bring e.g. end-users and potential suppliers of technological solutions into contact with each other for e.g. experimentation and testing, or public administrations and companies to promote co-creation. EDIHs could promote local companies to improve the overall economic wellbeing of local economy. EDIHs can also network with other EDIHs to find a matching partner nationally or Europe-wide. Establishing good relations with regional authorities, industrial clusters, SME associations, business development companies, incubators, accelerators, chambers of commerce etc. are also needed.

EDIH status would enable the participation in a nationwide EDIH network as well as participation in an EU-wide network which supports businesses and the public sector in the exploitation and deployment of digital solutions. This action will support the implementation of a digital spearhead of Kymenlaakso region´s RIS3 strategy as well.

Players involved

South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (Xamk) in Kymenlaakso region, Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology LUT (LUT University) and LAB University of Applied Sciences (LAB University) in South Karelia region and in Päijät-Häme region form a basis of a consortium from Kymenlaakso, South-Karelia and Päijät-Häme regions that takes part in a call for Finnish candidates to be selected as European Digital Innovation Hubs.

The basis of a consortium is like this because at the core of the EDIH normally is a research and technology organisation or university offering technology services. These actors then work in collaboration with regional partners with complementary expertise like business development companies, public sector, chamber of commerce, companies, clusters, entrepreneur associations, incubators/accelerators, vocational institutions etc. At this stage additional envisaged players in this action are Empower Oyj, a regional forerunner in smart factory development, who also participated in Detmold partner meeting, other companies, regional development companies Cursor Oy and Kouvola Innovation Ltd., Kotka Maritime Research Center, vocational institutions Joint Educational Authority of Kotka – Hamina Region (EKAMI), Kouvola Region Vocational College (KSAO) and Global Education Services Taitaja (GEST), the city of Kotka and Regional Council of Kymenlaakso.

- In Kymenlaakso region some steps and actions have already been implemented which support the development of an ecosystem for smart factory actors and enhance the deployment and utilization of e.g. artificial intelligence, robotics, big data and the internet of things.
- the establishment of Kymenlaakso Higher Educational Institutions Association in spring 2020
- RIS3 strategy update process during 2020 (current spearheads are digitalisation, bioeconomy, and logistics)
- South-East Finland University of Applied Sciences (Xamk) provides engineer education in cybersecurity using cloud service platform VirtualLab unique in the scale of Finland.
- South-East Finland University of Applied Sciences (Xamk) will start in Kymenlaakso in the autumn of 2021 a completely new education focusing on robotics and artificial intelligence leading to an engineering degree.

Timeframe

- Earlier this year the applicants have scouted through companies from the point of view of digitalisation. Studies have been made on the starting level/competence level of digitalisation in companies.
- During late summer 2020 the Ministry of Employment and the Economy launched a questionnaire of intent to find out the preliminary interest of potential applicants for European digital innovation hubs in Finland.
- The representative of the city of Kotka participated in EDIH webinar on 23rd June 2020 arranged by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy.
- The Ministry of Employment and the Economy conducted on 11th and 12th November 2020 two workshops on health and well-being and the manufacturing industry to share information among actors interested in acting as EDIHs, to help identify overlaps and synergies between plans, and to support the development of plans. Representatives of Cursor Oy and South-East Finland University of Applied Sciences Xamk participated in the manufacturing industry workshop held on 12th November.
- The Ministry of Employment and the Economy organized a public and open call for proposals to become Finland´s candidates for EDIHs. The call is open from 17th November 2020 - 15th January 2021. In the first, national phase of the selection process EU Member States propose candidate entities based on an open and competitive process.
- South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (Xamk) in Kymenlaakso region, Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology LUT (LUT University) and LAB University of Applied Sciences (LAB University) in South Karelia region and in Päijät-Häme from South-Karelia and Päijät-Häme regions had a planning meeting on applying for Finnish EDIH status on 18th November 2020.
- Another planning meeting was held on 24th November 2020 amongst Xamk, LUT University and LAB University.
- Submission of an indicative proposal by 27th November 2020 to the Ministry of Employment and the Economy by
- The Commission's virtual EDIH networking event (tentatively 14th January -15th January 2021).
- The European Commission will issue a restricted call for the nationally pre-selected candidates. The indicative timetable for the European call is from 28th January to 27th April 2021. The final selection of hubs will be made by the European Commission. The Commission has proposed the establishment of two to four innovation hubs in Finland.

Costs

Possible costs incurring from EDIH planning and application process will be funded by current ongoing operations.

Funding sources

The currently proposed sum for Finnish EDIHs from the Digital Europe programme 2021–27 is about 14,8 Meur. The programme covers 50 % of the costs, and the other half must be covered with funding from the Member States (e.g. ERDF, national, local, private or EDIHs' and its members' own funding). Currently there is no dedicated national budget funding for EDIHs.

- Digital Europe: Support to the facilities and personnel of the European Digital Innovation Hubs, to build capacity in Europe. Funding is in the form of a grant, for a duration of 3 years (possibility of reapplying for an additional period of 4 years). The Digital Europe grant will fund 50 % of the requested amount. Member States (or regions) should contribute at least an equal amount, either in-kind or in-cash, leveraging private funding if necessary. The grant can be used for facilities and personnel to work in the hub.
- Horizon Europe: Support to SMEs and mid-caps to experiment with highly innovative digital technologies in a cross-border setting. EDIHs and others may apply for these grants.

- ERDF programmes may support EDIHs as follows:
- construction and up-grading via investments in infrastructure, equipment, software and intangible assets
- research and innovation services for SMEs
- delivering digitalisation services to SMEs and public sector, etc.
- strengthen the regional and local innovation ecosystems including the participation in the entrepreneurial discovery processes for smart specialisation.

ACTION 2 Development of a Start-up and Innovation Platform for Smart Factory Actors with Collaboration of RISICO Project

Inspiration for action

The inspiration for this action comes also from the partner meeting held in Detmold Germany in May 2019. One of the introduced innovation ecosystem actors promoting digitalisation and technology transfer was InnoZent OWL. InnoZent OWL belongs to the 90 most efficient clusters and cluster management organisations in Germany. InnoZent OWL comprises of numerous renowned research institutions and universities. It brings upcoming new technologies and digitalisation to SMEs. It also produces use cases for SMEs. InnoZent OWL promotes cooperation by organizing events which brings together SMEs, researchers and students from research institutions and universities. This facilitates the creation and development of new products, services as well as new business models.

For this action, the most important learnings are:

- For smaller companies (SMEs) it is critical to be able to recognize the substantial role of digitization and associated changes affecting their business.
- Industrial revolution has drastic effects on production and work.
- Smarter way of producing/ manufacturing products and services offers competitive edge to SMEs.
- Cooperation between business and research is an effective way to create new products, services as well as business models.

The need for smart production/ smart factory related development and supporting ecosystem is evident to keep up with the fourth industrial revolution. It is also clear that communication and interaction between companies and research institutions/universities play a crucial role in creating innovations.

Activities

RISICO (Kymenlaakso's Innovation Ecosystems as Platforms for New Business Creation) is an already running project the foreseen activities of which this action intends to reshape and bring added value to.

The project is run and implemented by South-East Finland University of Applied Sciences (Xamk). Project´s goals are to create new business opportunities in the Kymenlaakso region, find new markets, innovate new products, create spin-offs, establish start-ups, and introduce start-up companies and spin-offs to relevant networks. The main instrument for RISICO project to innovate new solutions is hackathon. A hackathon is an event where a group of people gather for a pre-arranged time to work on solutions to given challenges. Hackathon is an inspiring way to work and it always teaches participants something new. Characteristic of hacks is the attitude and ability of the participants to create something new and interesting without forgetting their wildest ideas. The innovations produced during hackathons are intended to create novelty value for assigning companies.

RISICO project brings students and experts from many different fields together to solve problems from local companies and industries using innovation ecosystems. These innovation ecosystems offer the teams a platform to use, the tools and the process to aid them towards their solution to the problem at hand. The

innovation ecosystems also support the ideation phase, building the solution, testing it and applying for financing. RISICO project arranges Hackathon events four times a year.

In RISICO project the innovation pipeline starts with hackathon events. In the pipeline development work can also be done further by student teams which execute follow-up projects or do internships. Currently there are several companies waiting in the line for getting help with their challenges.

As an outcome around 15 product development projects with businesses and students from hackathons and assignments will be produced. About 70 % of the product development projects will lead to piloting programs for new products or services. Around 4 to 5 products or services a year go to financing stage and product/ service launch.

By cooperating with RISICO project we are aiming at bringing industry 4.0 and smart factory/ smart production viewpoints and current challenges visible and related companies participating in project´s hackathons, accelerator program and other possible activities. Without the inspiration from Future Ecom project the theme of smart factory/ smart production and industry 4.0 would not been introduced to either hackathon events or accelerator program. Future Ecom inspired actions will be added and adjusted to RISICO project and implemented taking into account project´s existing timeframe. At this stage exact timing of actions is not possible because it depends heavily on the whole progress of RISICO project and the effects caused by COVID-19 pandemic. Implemented measures and results of the RISICO project including Future Ecom inspired ones will be reported according to the implementation in Future Ecom project.

Players involved

South-East Finland University of Applied Sciences (Xamk), company Empower Oyj, other companies, regional development companies Cursor Oy and Kouvola Innovation Ltd., start-ups, Regional Council of Kymenlaakso.

Timeframe

- The project will run from 1st February 2020 – 30th April 2022.
- On 13th-15th May 2020 a Crisis Hack in Kymenlaakso was arranged. The goal was to jointly create new ways of developing business ideas to save local companies and communities in the middle of COVID-19 crisis. As an outcome innovative solution were created for five assignments.
- On 15th-17th October 2020 Digital business hackathon was organized. It was an open, online 48-hour event for participants interested in new ideas and boosting Kymenlaakso companies. As an outcome digital solution were developed for companies.
- In 2021 total number of four hackathon events will be arranged. The first hackathon event arranged in February 2021 will focus on circular economy theme.
- Inspired by Future Ecom project one of the hackathons will be arranged under the theme of smart factory/ industry 4.0. in the fall 2021.
- In the spring 2021 a joint accelerator program will be launched for all companies. Inspired by Future Ecom project the goal is to get at least one team with the theme of smart factory/ industry 4.0. to participate in accelerator program.

Funding sources

The total project budget is 342 614 €. Xamk's self-financing contribution to the project´s budget is 102 784 €. Financiers and main source of funding are Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council and European Regional Development Fund.

Date:_____

Signature: _____

Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____