



S3UNICA
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Case Study in South Karelia (Finland)

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REGIONAL
COUNCIL
OF SOUTH
KARELIA



LUT
University

20 April 2023 | S3UNICA Final Dissemination Event
“Regional Policies for efficient buildings”

Policy Instrument in South Karelia

Innovation and Skills in Finland 2021–2027 – EU regional and structural policy programme

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) | Structural funds
(rakennerahastot.fi)

Regional Council of South Karelia (PP7) is distributing funds from the program including ERDF and JTF funds.

LUT University (PP8) is one of the main project organisations in the region, and a scientific partner in various project consortia.

The Action Plan targets two specific objectives of the program

Innovative Finland (priority area 1)

1.1 Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies: The principal objective is to increase the RDI intensity and to promote business-oriented innovation activities, with due consideration given to the climate and sustainable development objectives.

Carbon neutral Finland (priority area 2)

2.1 Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions: The objective is to promote transformation in the energy system that aims at rapid and significant reduction of green-house gas emissions. Systemic transformation affects energy-intensive industry, building stock and energy production, among other things.

Role of Regional Council of South Karelia

We are an intermediary organisation in the distribution of EU funding, ERDF and JTF. Funds are allocated to development projects according to the Finnish OP.

- Funding to individual companies is not possible
- Direct energy investments, physical improvements are not possible

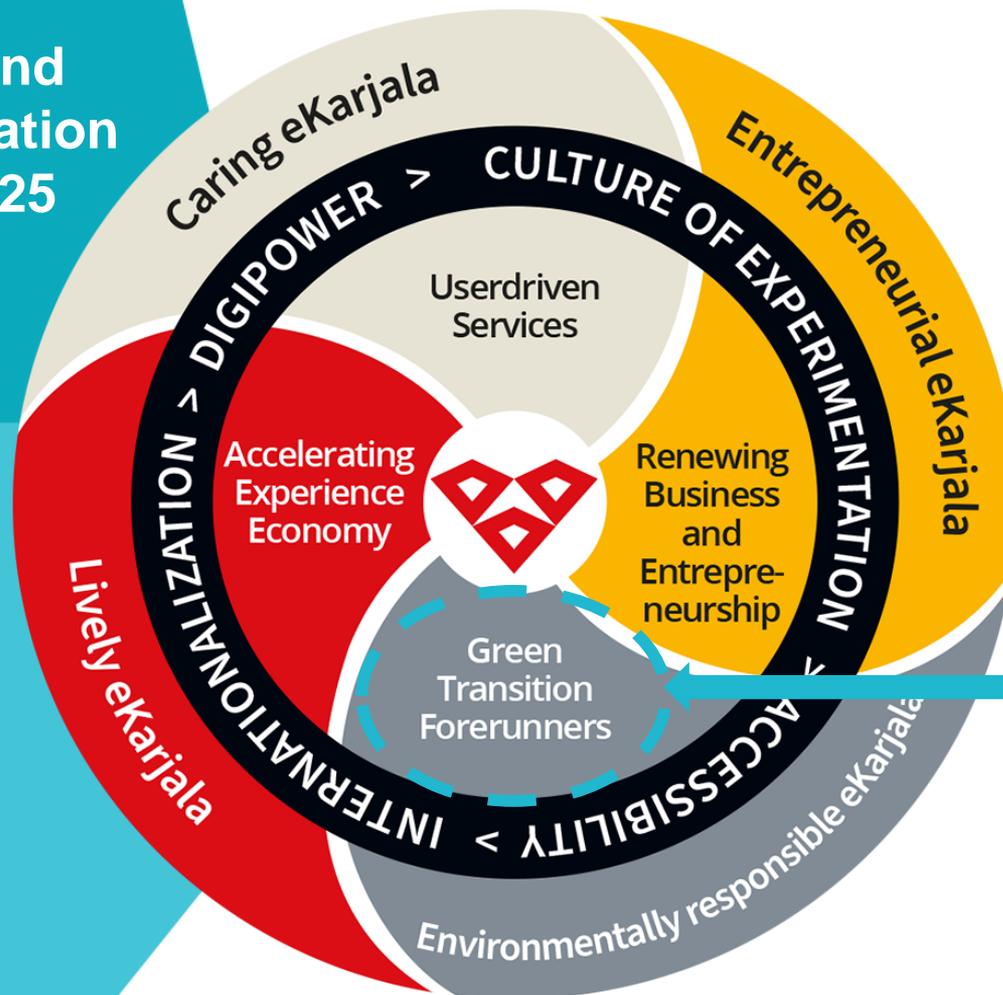
Focus on R&D oriented projects, scanning and planning of improvements potential, development of network activities to support energy efficiency goals.

Häme Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment is the other intermediary distributing ERDF funds for companies, ESF+ and JTF funds.

Action Plan in a Nutshell

- ✓ The action relates to the assessment and the evaluation of projects.
- ✓ The aim is to improve/ influence the evaluation criteria and methods when assessing project proposals and results of finished projects in energy efficiency and renewable energy related investments.
- ✓ Action Plan followup adheres to the quadruple helix principle.
- ✓ **The smart specialisation strategy of South Karelia 2022-2025 has been prepared during the course of S3UNICA project.**
 - The crosscutting role of sustainability has been improved from the previous round
 - Strategy includes a target to *”enhance regional, cross-regional and international RDI-cooperation in order to advance fast CO2 emission reductions on the building and real estate use sectors”*

Regional plan and smart specialisation (S3/S4) 2022-2025



The most relevant S3/S4 theme

Green Transition Forerunners & EE

During the Exchange of Experience events, it has been confirmed that the **Greenreality Network** activities already in place in South Karelia fulfill many of the aims of other regions, such as

- ✓ striving for energy efficient planning,
- ✓ adoption of new technologies, or
- ✓ providing a frame for international networking within green transition themes.

Due to the National OP implementation delay, *many new projects have been started in the region using other available financial instruments.* This poses a new challenge, to *target the ERDF wisely* in order to gain the best potential benefit or advance for the regional stakeholders.

Timeline for upcoming AP steps

- Policy change potential discussed with regional authorities in MYRS (Secretary of Regional Cooperation Group) meeting April 24.
- Workshop with Greenreality Network Real Estate Group May 3rd (LUT will take part in this event).
- Workshop with local municipalities May 2023
- Reflection for planning policy change, PP7 experts
- Wrapup for Action Plan results in June

(Upcoming next ERFD calls for SO 1.1. and SO 2.1, where policy changes implemented)



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Thank you!

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Project smedia