

Euregio Karelia

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POHJOIS-POHJANMAAN LIITTO
Council of Oulu Region



Kainuun liitto



EUREGIO KARELIA
ЕВРОРЕГИОН КАРЕЛИЯ

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EUREGIO KARELIA – A DRIVING FORCE FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Euregio Karelia is a cooperation area that includes the Finnish regions of Kainuu, North Karelia and Northern Ostrobothnia as well as the Republic of Karelia in Russia. The common aim is to promote the vitality of the area by strengthening cross-border cooperation through international collaboration programmes and projects.

By 2020, Euregio Karelia aspires to become a diverse area characterised by active cross-border interaction and cooperation. Due to the well-functioning and extended road network and increased capacity of the border-crossing checkpoints, traffic now flows smoothly across national borders. The efficient deployment of expertise and resources in the area contribute to people's wellbeing as well as economic growth.



Photo: Irina Romanova

Social wellbeing – Euregio Karelia works for good neighbourly relations and the harmonious interaction of cultures and languages in everyday life. The environment, health and social care, and culture are all important themes of cooperation. Special attention is being paid to young people's interests, education and work opportunities. The area must provide employment, a well-functioning service infrastructure and recreational activities for its inhabitants.



Photo: Jorma Antola

Euregio Karelia aspires to reduce prejudices, increase interaction and cooperation, and encourage people to learn more about the languages and cultures of their neighbours.

Economic life – Euregio Karelia desires to build a good operational environment for companies and clusters. The aim is to increase competitiveness, attract investments, promote innovations and diversify the economy. Euregio Karelia supports cooperation between techno parks and it promotes deployment of the latest technology in the area.



Photo: Laura Mäki

Infrastructure and connections – Euregio Karelia is connected by three international border-crossing checkpoints: Niirala-Värtsilä, Vartius-Lyttä and Kuusamo-Suonerä. The first two border-crossing checkpoints are also open for rail traffic. In addition to developing the existing border-crossing checkpoints and their facilities, the Republic of Karelia is promoting the internationalisation of a border-crossing checkpoint Parikkala-Syväoro. Euregio Karelia supports close cooperation between the border and customs officials. An important goal is to extend and diversify road, rail, water and air transportation networks and services and increase the optical fibre connection capacity across the border.

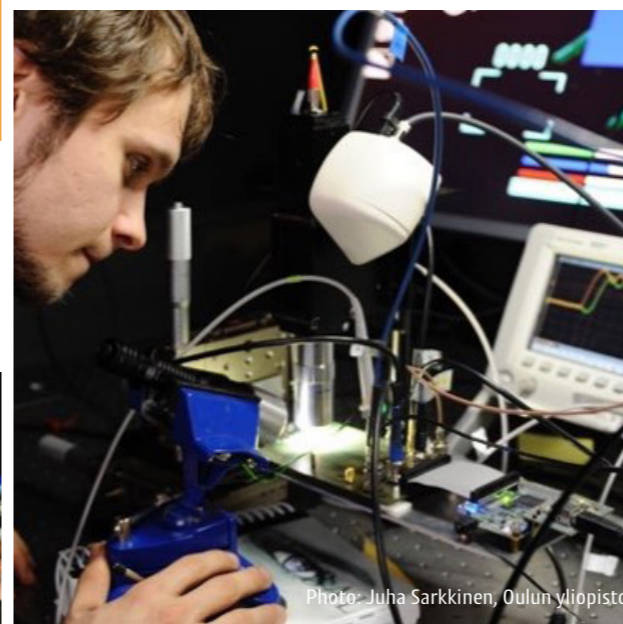


Photo: Juha Sarkkinen, Oulun yliopisto

Education and research support innovations and business life, and they bring vitality to the area. The environment and sustainable development are concerns in all cross-border cooperation efforts.



Photo: Ivan Sorokin, Petrozavodskmash

Promotion of interests – Euregio Karelia supports the wellbeing of its inhabitants and promotes the area's common interests at national and international forums. Euregio Karelia plays an important role in advancing cooperation between Finland, Russia and the European Union.



Photo: Suomen Ilmakuva Oy