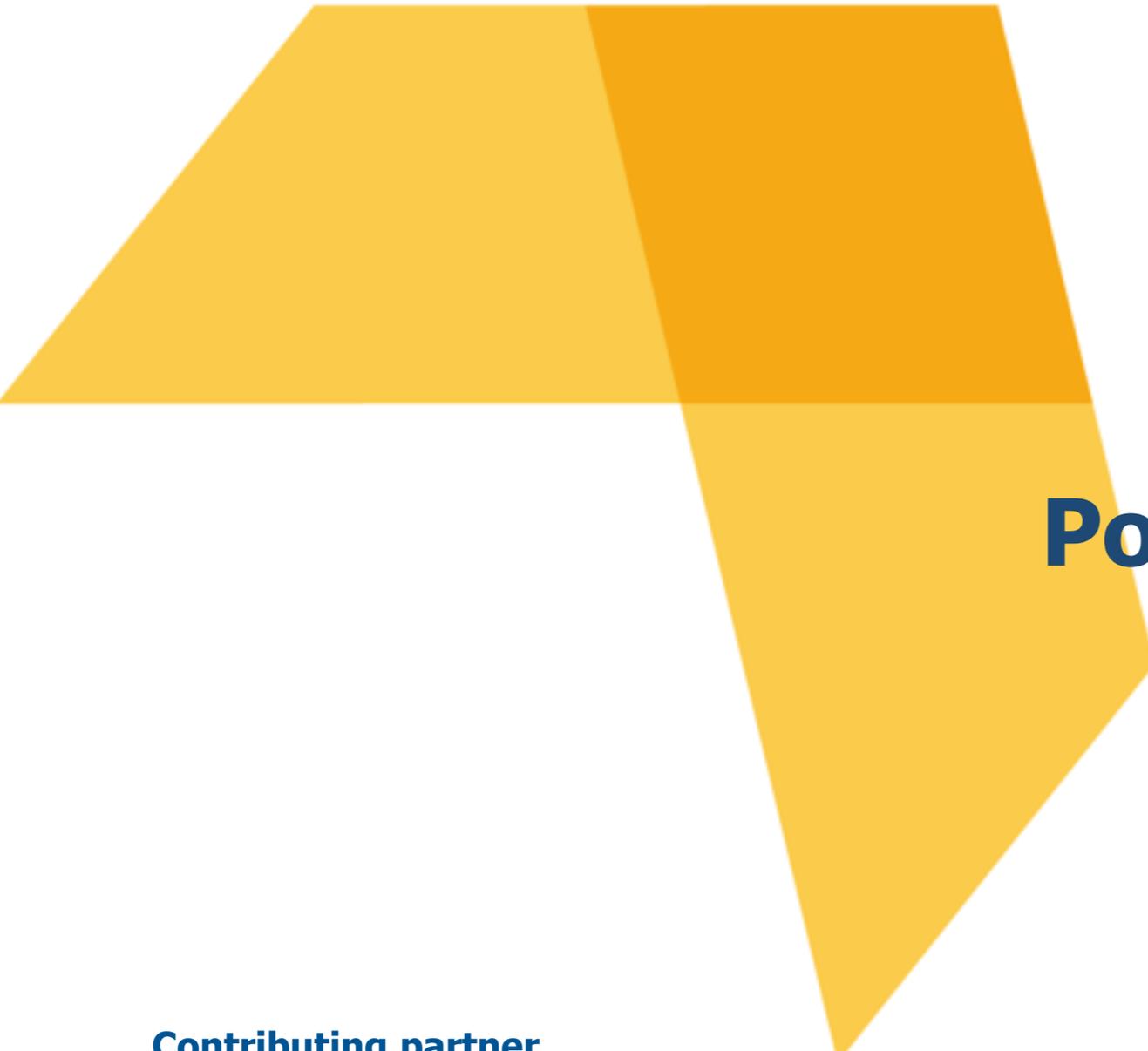


**PGI 00040 BRIDGES**  
**2nd interregional meeting**  
**November 3rd and 4h, Burgos, Spain**

Regional Council of Kainuu (PP2)  
Jouni Ponnikas



# Policy learning

## Policy review

**Overall state of play: from regional partner perspective project has progressed quite well without any dramatical problems: Regional stakeholder group have been formed and the first meeting held; the regional innovation map has proceeded; bilateral session between regional partner & advisory partner & LP, proved very useful; negotiation with TEKES about innovation voucher**

## Regional stakeholder group

- **Very useful tool for regional authority and will foster the permanent results of the project; 1. meeting went well and expectations for the project are high, 1. meeting was introductory**
- **1st BRIDGES regional stakeholder group meeting of Kainuu hosted by (PP2) kept at 16.9.2016 in Kajaani**
- **Agenda:**
  - **Opening of the Meeting and Registering the Participants**
  - **A Short Presentation of the Bridges Project and the Local stakeholder Group Involved**
  - **Discussion and brainstorming on directing the project activities**
- **Next Meeting in six months**
- **Good practice discussion in the region to start with the regional stakeholder group meeting in the second semester.**

## Regional stakeholder groups

- **1st BRIDGES regional stakeholder group meeting 16.9.2016 in Kajaani**
  - In Kainuu, the Bridges project activities focus on forest bio economy and the development activities have preliminarily been divided into two main areas:
    - 1) the rapid actions will focus on the targets requiring immediate measures and/ or those that may also produce fast results (eg. the bottlenecks of business and development of cooperation between companies and expert organizations) in growth seeking forest bio economy companies.
    - 2) The longer-term activities aim at identifying and developing the future opportunities of forest bio economy. Through the Bridges project, the implementation of development policies will be speeded up by help of international cooperation.
  - All the participants were interested in participating in the local stakeholder group in the future.

## **Contribution to the description of RIS3**

- **RIS3 Kainuu need to be updated; changes in circumstances ask for updating**
- **Bio economy, circular economy need to be more underlined**
- **Sharpen the focus of the regional Smart Specialisation Strategy on areas of absolute advantage (particularly related to forestry and other crucial nature resources of bio economy), and develop linkages for SMEs across different industry sectors to promote innovation and new product development (recommendation from OECD)**
  - **information collected in Bridges will help in this updating**
  - **Fits very well to objectives of Bridges**

# Smart Specialisation Choices of Kainuu Region

## ICT AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- MEASUREMENT TECHNOLOGY
- GAMES AND SIMULATORS
- DATA-CENTERS & DC eco systems

## NATURAL RESOURCES

- MINING
  - Green mining
  - Process and environmental applications
- BIO-ECONOMY INNOVATIONS
  - Forestry biomass
  - Bioenergy
  - Wood industry

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- ACTIVITY TOURISM
- INNOVATIONS OF NUTRITION, HEALTH AND SPORT & FITNESS

**NEW INVESTMENTS, FIRMS AND KNOW-HOW TO THE REGION**

**MEASUREMENT TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATIONS IN METAL INDUSTRY**

**GAMES (utility applications of games) AND SIMULATORS**

**NEW INNOVATIONS OF BIO-ECONOMY**

- Strategic objective of Kainuu bio economy strategy 2015 – 2020 is to create bio economy business ecosystems in which triple helix co-operation exists and create extra value to regional economy – in common with RIS3
- These business ecosystems are developed by attracting so called driver companies to the region (meaning big industrial investments to the region and creating triple helix co-operation around these companies)
- The idea of bio economy & RIS3 in Kainuu (Kainuu bio economy strategy & RIS3) is to produce highly refined products, which will create optimized benefits for regional economy. - the further processed products are, the less important is the distance from the market.
  - This is basis for new company which has been established to find investors for softwood processing and new bio-products. Discussions with investors have been started by the company and they still continue ( <http://www.kaicellfibers.net/> ). The plan for the project is to have investment decision by the end of 2018 (the construction of the factory from 2019 to 2020). **If investments comes true this is very valid base for one bioeconomy ecosystem – which Bridges can help to create**

## Good practices Contribution of good practices

- **Circular economy** as a part of bio economy & RIS3 is very important and growing business for Kainuu as well. An excellent example of realizing ideas of biotechnology and circular economy in Kainuu is the € 40 million investment by North European Biotech (NEB) to Renforsin Ranta business park in Kajaani, to build a bio-ethanol production facility. The facility will produce bio-ethanol suitable for traffic fuel, using sawdust from the nearby sawmill as raw material. The by-products of the process will be lignin, furfural and turpentine. The phasing in of the production plant will begin in 2016. The plant will create about 40 direct jobs. The company responsible for the plant technology and operations is St1 Biofuels Oy. Extension of production amounts is likely in the future, since the current EIA (environmental impact assessment) procedure does cover five times the production amounts of the planned industrial plant.
- One professor and research group will be nominated in 2017 to Kainuu in the field of bio economy (bio production) – co-operation with St1 Nordic bioethanol plant: Sustainable, sawdust-based production has high export potential especially in the Nordic countries. Ecosystem (triple helix cooperation) is under developing around the ST1 plant, including professor in bio production.
- **Kajaani University Consortium / University of Oulu is a member of Bridges local stakeholder group, when the professor is named he / she will be invited as well; Bridges supporting professor`s co-operation with firms within this ecosystem**

## Good practices / Contribution of good practices

- Wood industry is strong in Kainuu. In Kantola industrial area in Kuhmo have (2015) net sales of approximately € 100 million, in the district 12 companies and 240 jobs. In Kantola area started in December 2014 Kuhmo Oy CrossLam Ltd., CLT-factory, which employs 15 people. In 2016, the region began Kantola element-Sampo Oy, which employs 50 workers in the processing and equipped and CLT-plates. In addition, the element of Sampo is currently training 15 new employees recruited. Thus the year 2016 Kantola number of jobs will rise more than 250 jobs. By the year 2020 industrial turnover in Kantola is likely to double (EUR 170-200 million) which brings 50 to 70 new jobs. This is very valid base for one bioeconomy ecosystem; representatives of Kantola are members of Bridges regional stakeholder group

# KAINUU BIO ECONOMY STRATEGY 2015 - 2020

## COMMON OBJECTIVES OF BIO ECONOMY SECTORS

### Vision 2020

#### AIMs of BE strategy

- New investments, higher value products & services based on renewable nature resources & circular economy materials
- Agriculture products more profit, forest economy produces more economic benefits for the region
- Fostering the development from fossil economy to bio economy

#### GOALS (aimed results)

- Number of jobs
- Investments
- Potential of forest in use
- Agriculture remains & fosters

### Strategy actions

#### Kainuu bio economy sectors & the developing goals of the sectors

- 1) Food,
- 2) Products of bio economy – logging of raw materials,
- 3) Products of bio economy – refining,
- 4) Renewable energy,
- 5) Nature tourism & nature based well being services (Green Care)

## **Good practices / Contribution to the criteria of the good practices**

### **Innovation vouchers**

- **For SMEs starting innovation actions.**
- **Possible targets: Product & service strategy, pilots, product & service development, innovation projects, measurement & test services of innovation activities, R2B assessment services**
- **A firm wants to start innovation activities, needs external expertise for that, was not a custom of TEKES during last 2 years**
- **Firms have to have: will to develop innovations, product & service idea or innovation, problems with services & products and needs assistance to solve them**
- **Funding: 6 200 € ( 5000 € + evt), costs of service be higher than that – firm pays overhead to external expert; voucher can be used services from two expertise maximum, voucher is valid for six months since it has launched**
- **Firm and external expert both make a report to Tekes – Tekes will pay direct to external expert**

## **Good practices / Contribution to the criteria of the good practices**

### **Innovation vouchers**

- **TEKES IV ideas fit well to Bridges as well: they support R2B activities which are on the focus of Bridges as well**
- **What need to further elaborate is how Ivs can be used for international co-operation**
- **TEKES IVs can be a part of the funding; rest can covered from other sources**
- **RCK own national funding can used too**
- **Bridges can get R & B together and support them to aply TEKES funding**

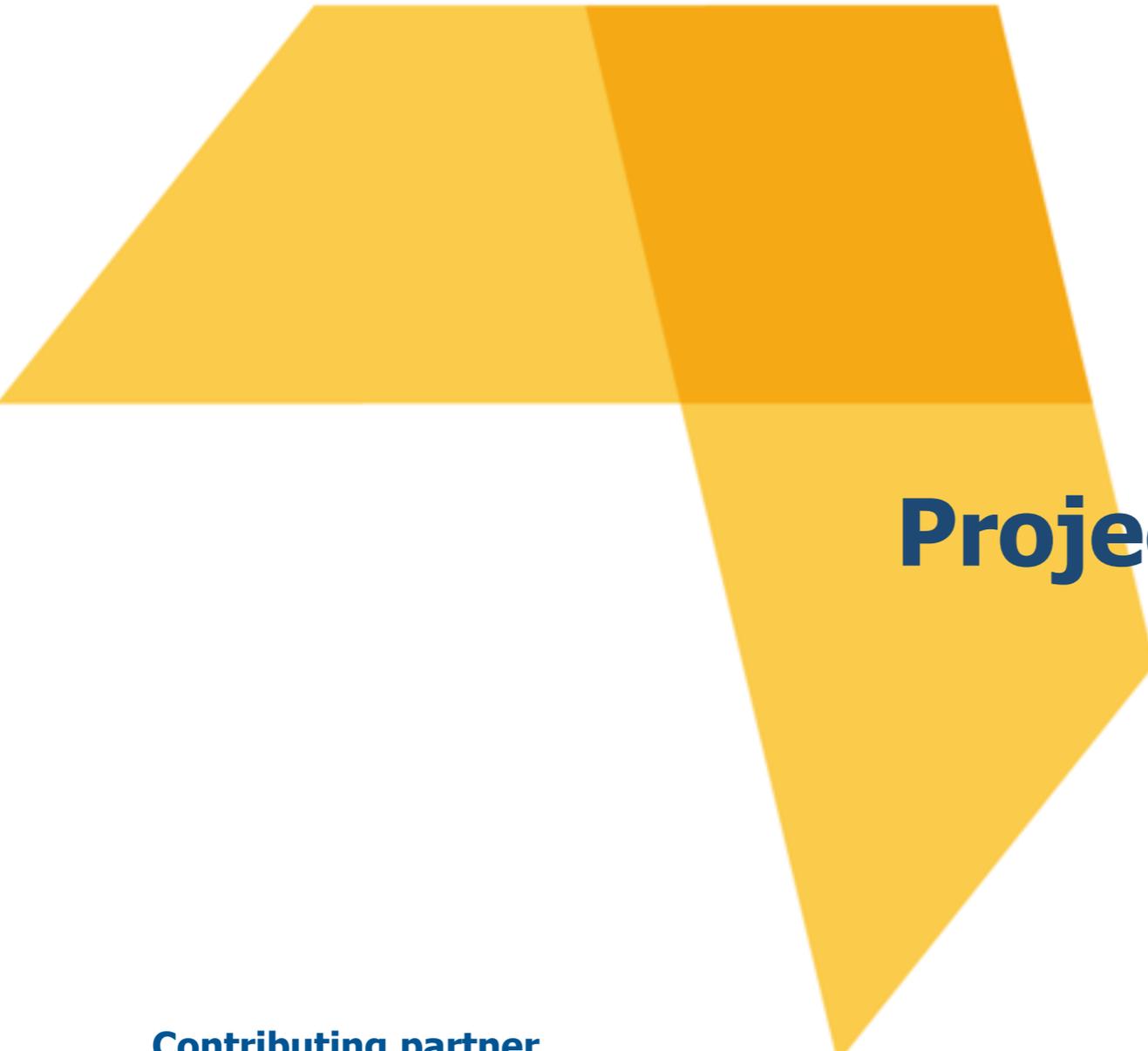
- **Innovation maps**
  - **Contribution to the criteria for making the innovation maps**
  - **Contribution to the innovation maps**

- **IWG1 / IWG2**
  - **contribution to the plan**

- **Any other issues**

# Communication dissemination

- **Communication and dissemination activities**
  - Bridges in the RCK web, in the action plan of Kainuu Regional Strategy



# Project management

- **Any issues that have created problems to the partner**
  - No



**Name of person and partner organisation**

[www.interregeurope.eu/BRIDGES](http://www.interregeurope.eu/BRIDGES)

**Contributing partner**