



COUNCIL OF TAMPERE REGION



## Developing the Innovation System in Tampere Region Seminar for RIS-actors in Tampere Region

Tampere, Hermia auditorium 26 October 2006

### Programme

13:00

Coffee

Regional Development Programmes and Structural Funds' Policy  
*Manager, Regional Development Planning Marko Mäkinen, Council of Tampere Region*

Innovative Environment and Structures as Development Challenges  
*Director, Regional Promotion Pentti Hämäläinen, Council of Tampere Region*

Innovation System and competitiveness, challenges and foresight of the changing environment  
*Professor Marjatta Maula, Tampere University of Technology*

VBN InnoReg –Project as a Tool to Develop Innovation System  
*Senior Officer, Regional Development Marja-Riitta Mattila-Nurmi, Council of Tampere Region*

16:00

Closing of the seminar

The seminar was chaired by Mr Pentti Hämäläinen.

### Short descriptions of the presentations

Mr. Marko Mäkinen from the Regional Development Unit at the Council of Tampere Region from the Council of Tampere Region briefed about the regional development programmes and gave an overview of the programmes, their linkages and of the major themes within the development programmes in Tampere Region. In addition, he provided the participants with the information about the new EU Structural Funds policy for the new programme period 2007-2013 including the objectives and priorities, the national centre of expertise programme and the forthcoming changes for the new period 2007-2013. For Tampere Region the new Structural Funds programme will mean that the whole region is eligible for funding. This is a major change compared to the present programme.

Pentti Hämäläinen from the Regional Promotion Unit at the Council of Tampere Region presented the innovation system in Tampere Region and the challenges to develop and restructure the system in order to ensure region's future competitiveness. In order to be able to define a competitive system, answers are needed on the key characteristics and development needs. It is important to consider the internal structure, procedures and activities (within the region) and the additional value from the cooperation in the wider context, e.g. within the Via Baltica Nordica macro region.

Professor Marjatta Maula from the Technical University of Tampere gave an interesting presentation about innovation system and competitiveness, challenges and foresight of the changing environment. She presented two interpretations about the geographical location and position of the VBN macro region: one of the most dynamically developing regions within EU or macro region in a more peripheral position in relation to EU. There are thus several geographical and economical levels for regional cooperation. She also presented scenarios about the future challenges for Tampere Region and potential effects on the compatibility of the region. She presented the innovations from the perspective of the region: the meaning/importance of the innovations to the region, innovation producers within the region, enabling the innovations and producing, improving and commercialising the innovations. These points are measured and quantified by using e.g. different indicators. In the presentation it's was emphasized the importance of selecting the right indicators to get the required information. In the VBN InnoReg project choosing the relevant indicators is an important part of the development of the joint innovation promotion approach for the VBN macro region.

Mrs. Marja-Riitta Mattila-Nurmi from the Council of Tampere Region presented the VBN InnoReg project, its objectives, activities and especially the planned development process of the regional innovation system. This work is done as one of the main activities in a transnational VBN InnoReg project that has 16 partners from the Via Baltica Nordica macro region. The questionnaire and frame of the interviews for the analysis were also presented. The objective of the project within the VBN macro region is to create a theoretically justified and feasible framework that enables the comparison between the analyses of partner regions and joint development activities. As a main objective the joint innovation promotion approach for the respective macro region will be achieved.

The last presentation was followed by the session of questions and discussion. Questions and discussion were raised e.g. on the correct timing of the innovations – in which phase are enterprises most active in making innovations? Are there innovations to be used also by the municipalities, e.g. to develop service systems and structures? These questions were yet not solved; instead they were left for the further reflection.

Mr Pentti Hämäläinen concluded the seminar as being a good forum for the joint discussion on developing the regional innovation system and to share the ideas and opinions with different stakeholders of the region. The participants were encouraged to give actively their inputs also in the future. Similar events will be organised later when the project proceeds with the activities and gains the first results.

All the presentations have been published on the web site of the Council of Tampere Region.