

Candidature of Helsinki-Uusimaa Region (Finland) for ERRIN Management Board

Helsinki-Uusimaa Region is one of the regions that established ERRIN in 2001 – Helsinki-Uusimaa has been closely involved in ERRIN's activities since then. Currently Helsinki EU Office is a Co-chair in two ERRIN working groups: Smart Specialisation and Design & Creativity. Helsinki-Uusimaa Region is represented in Brussels by Helsinki EU Office.

Helsinki-Uusimaa region is a European Innovation leader and an international innovation hub (European Innovation Scoreboard 2018, <http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/24171>). In Finland, Helsinki-Uusimaa region is a forerunner in research, technology and innovation. For instance, more than 70% of Finland's EU's Horizon 2020 funding is allocated to Helsinki-Uusimaa. This is because Helsinki Region has a very developed innovation ecosystem consisting of leading universities (University of Helsinki, Aalto University, several universities of applied sciences), research centers (VTT), companies and three major metropolitan cities. Helsinki-Uusimaa region plays an important role in coordination and facilitating innovation and research based economic growth by implementing "Smart Helsinki Region" smart specialisation strategy (RIS3). Major cities located in Helsinki metropolitan area - Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa – have very ambitious and impressive smart city action plans and track records.

Helsinki-Uusimaa region puts European and international collaboration very high on its agenda and that is an important reason, why we wish to become ERRIN Board member. We strongly believe, that in today's world added value is created by co-creation - sharing experience and knowledge with other European regions, learning from others and facilitating joint strategic projects.

Helsinki EU Office in Brussels is more than a regional office - it is de facto an integrated part of Smart Helsinki Innovation ecosystem in Brussels, since all the key players in Helsinki innovation platform have become individual members of Helsinki EU Office in the last years. All economic and performance indicators as well as member satisfaction of Helsinki EU Office are extremely good and our shareholder base is increased in the last two years by 40%.

I am personally very motivated to start working as a member of ERRIN Management Board and contribute to ERRIN's success now and in the coming years I have a very long work experience in regional innovation systems: already from the time (1990's) when the first innovation systems were introduced in Finland. I have worked in Brussels in several manager positions almost for 20 years. EU-influencing, regional innovation and research platforms as well as European collaboration have played an important role in all of my jobs. I have a track record in developing organisations: management, leadership and teams - as well as developing processes and indicators to maximise customer satisfaction. I wish that I can provide my expertise to ERRIN also from those fields.

I strongly believe in ERRIN and its future. I have seen its development from the very beginning. It is a real success story! ERRIN has a huge potential and it is an important factor in fostering economic growth and collaboration in European regions.

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