



North Savo
Regional Council

North Savo – Region of Thousands of Opportunities



Regional Mayor
TYTTI MÄÄTTÄ
@tyttimaatta

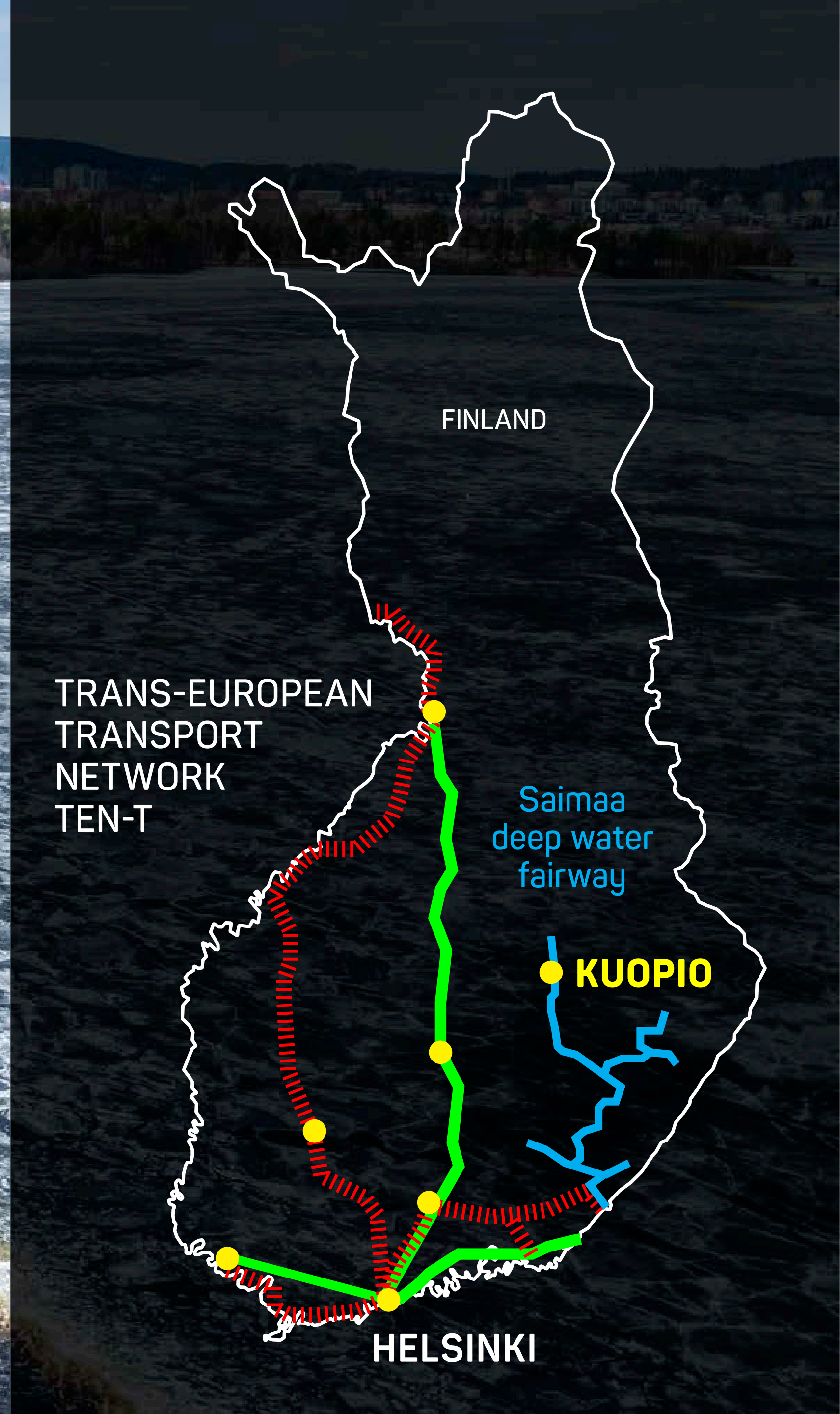
**Tietoa
Taitoa
Tekoja**



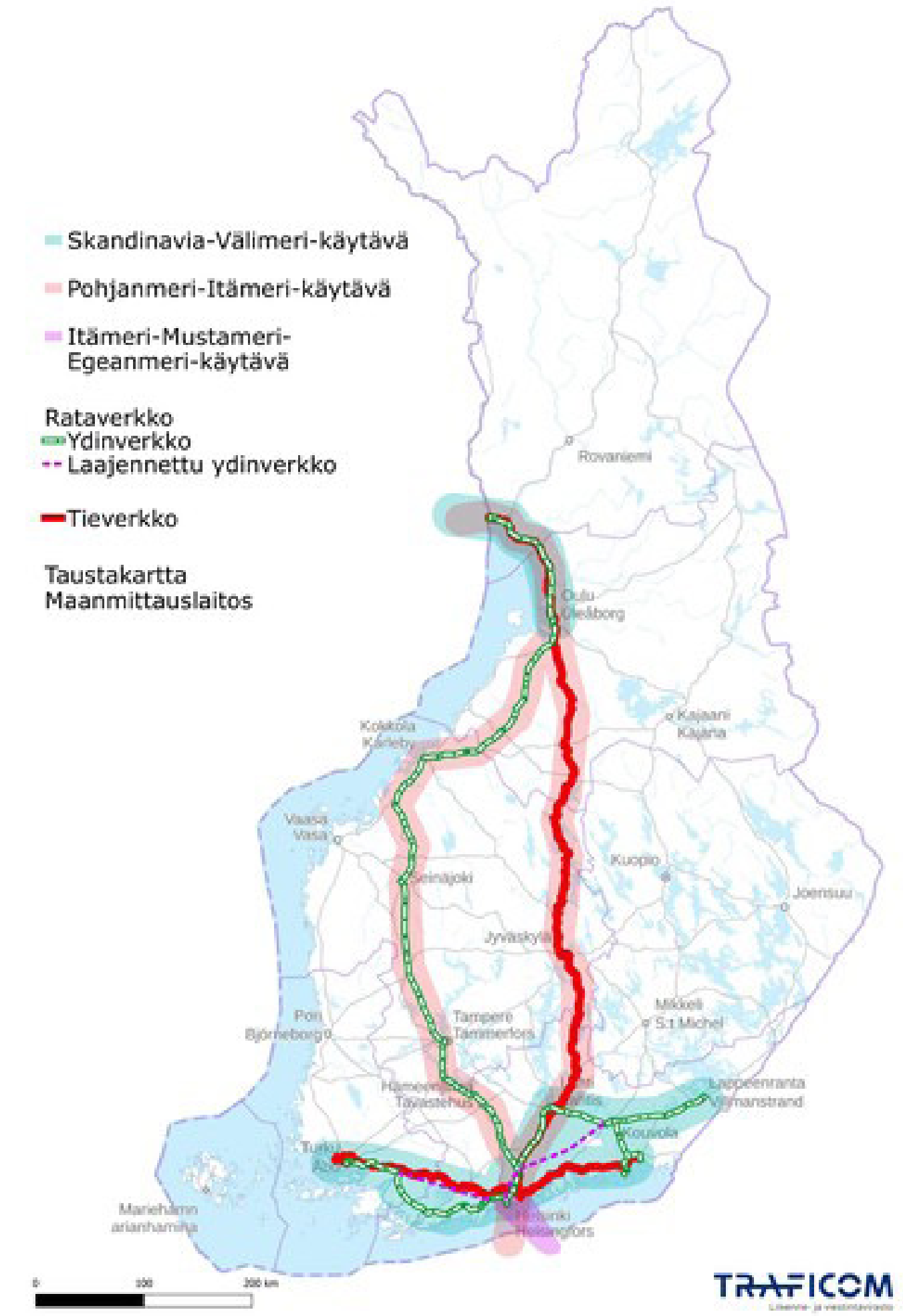
Lakeland



Lapland



TEN-T Maps of the core, extended core and comprehensive networks



East and North Finland still needs EU regional and structural policy support

The regions of East and North Finland have made determined and effective use of EU regional and structural policy funding. The region's GDP has risen towards the level of the rest of Finland. However, the GDP per capita of East and North Finland remains clearly lower than the corresponding figure for the whole country.

Sparse population, long distances and cold climate cause a permanent competitive disadvantage.

EAST AND NORTH FINLAND (NUTS 2, SEVEN REGIONS)

1,27 million inhabitants

€36,123 GDP per capita

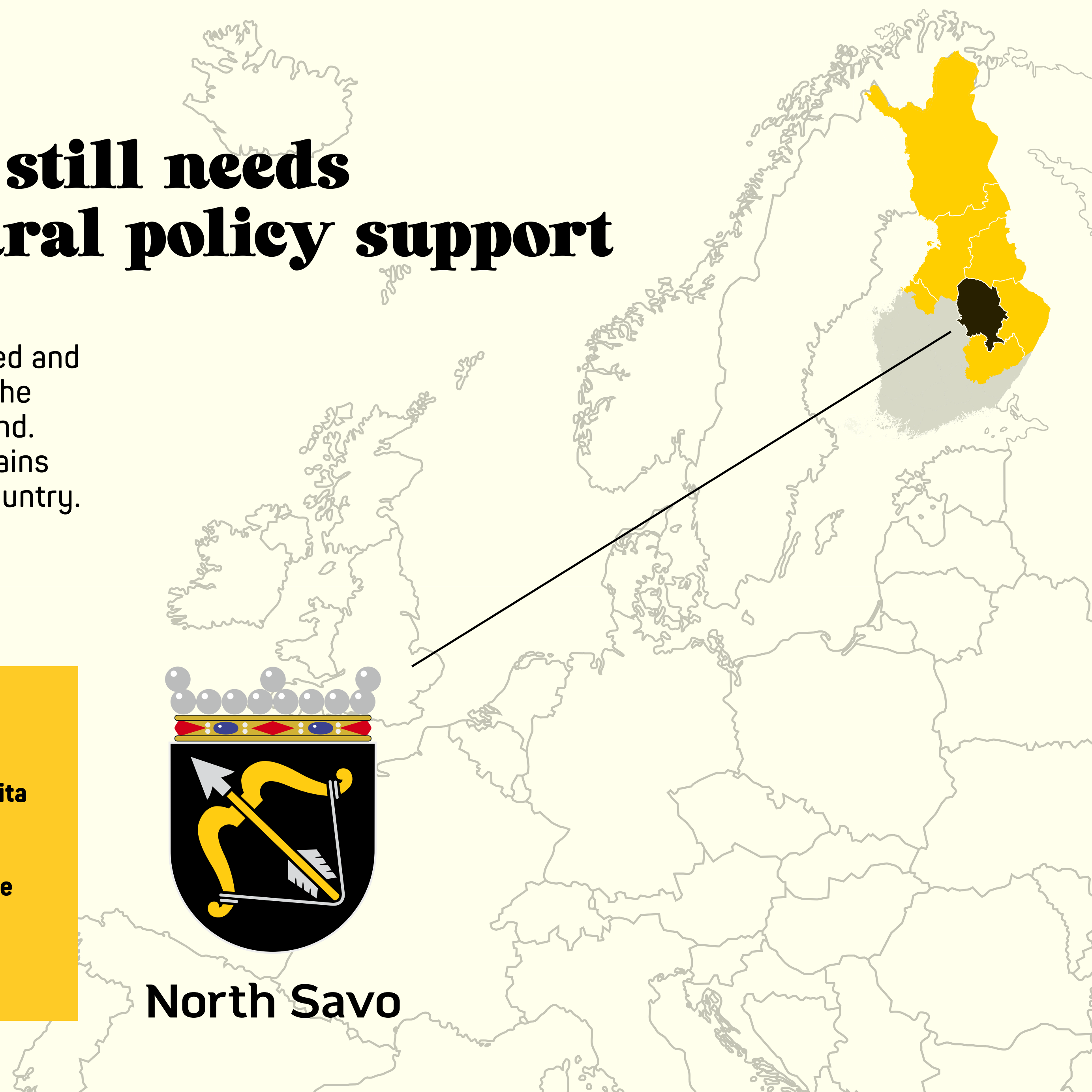
23% of the Finnish population

€43,049 nationwide

5,4 inhabitants / km²



North Savo



EU Structural Fund activities (ERDF + ESF)

in East and North Finland 2014–2020



EU funding has
attracted private
funding to the region

1,091 M€

(whole country
€1.6 billion)

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) • European Social Fund (ESF)

1,336 M€
EU and state funding

6,213
development and investment projects

304
new companies

8,783
jobs

Programme period
emphases are reflected
in positive environmental
impacts and in the
strengthening of the
sustainability base of the
regional economy.

Production and
utilisation of new
knowledge and
competence

competitiveness
of SMEs

employment and
labour mobility

education,
vocational skills
and lifelong
learning

REACT EU

social inclusion
and poverty
reduction

429 M€

426 M€

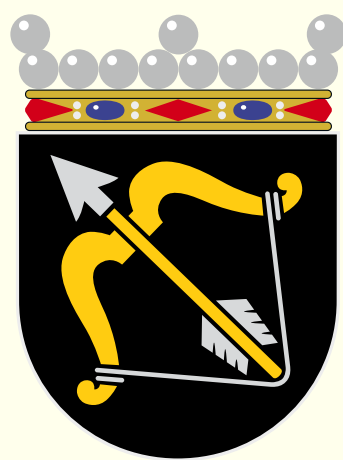
174 M€

128 M€

108 M€

71 M€

Total 1,336 M€



North Savo



Happy people & pristine nature



TOTAL POPULATION

248 800

Largest towns

Kuopio 125 700
Siilinjärvi 21 300
Iisalmi 20 400
Varkaus 19 600

Most industrial-intensive municipalities

Vieremä 53%
Leppävirta 39%
Keitele 37%
Varkaus 33%

NATURAL TREASURES

Kuopio leads the way in Finland with the most summer cottages at

10 400

3764

lakes in the region

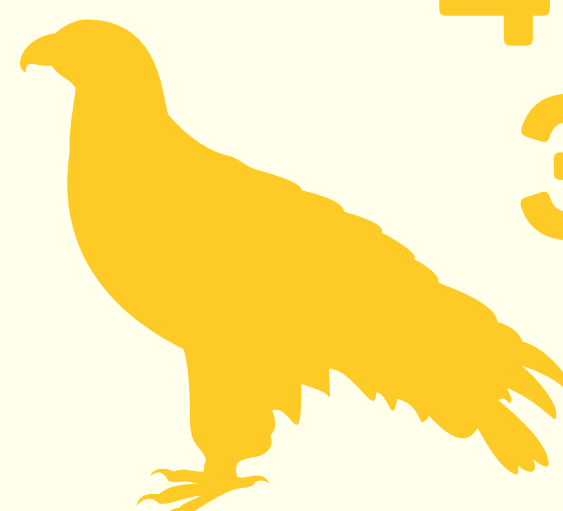
41

national parks in Finland

3

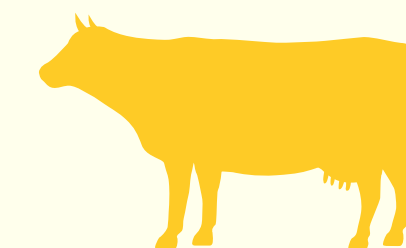
of which are located in North Savo:

Tiilikkajärvi, Rautavaara
Etelä-Konnevesi, Rautalampi
Linnansaari, Varkaus



WORLD'S LEADING REGION FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL INDUSTRIES

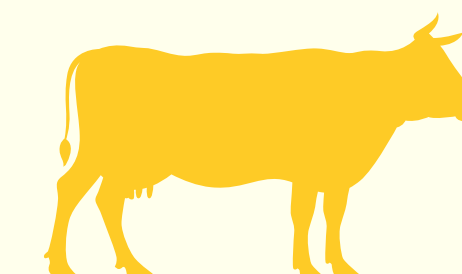
14% Milk production
of the whole country's production



Finland's **#1** ► **Kuopio** 68 Million litres
#3 ► **Kiuruvesi** 53 Million litres

20% of all milk produced in Finland is processed in **Lapinlahti**

Beef production



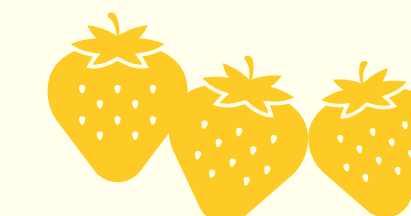
14%
of the whole
country's
production

Mining industry

Siilinjärvi
mine is the only
phosphate mine
in the EU



Berry production



27% of the whole country's production



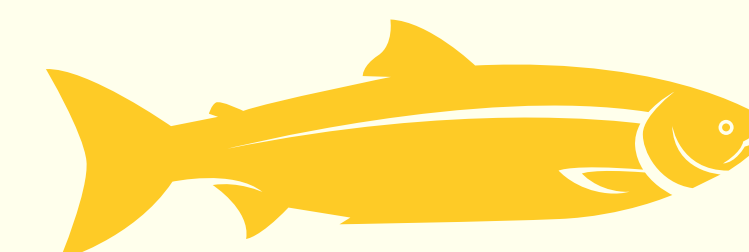
Suonenjoen
mansikka

Suonenjoki – *Finland's strawberry capital*

Sustainable fish farming

Varkaus based technology
company Finnforel has become one
of the world's leading ecological
fish farms.

3 Million kg



Greenhouse cultivation

1/3

herbs and salads
sold in Finland
are grown in

Joroinen



NORTH SAVO

SMART SPECIALISATION

Climate, circular economy & sustainable development

ICT & digitalization

Competence & labour force

Well-being & culture

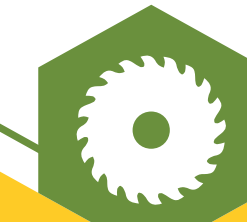
Innovation, enterprise & growth

Accessibility & regional structure

Machine and
energy
technology



Forest
industry



Food
products



Well-being
technology



Tourism



Intelligent
water system



Biorefining



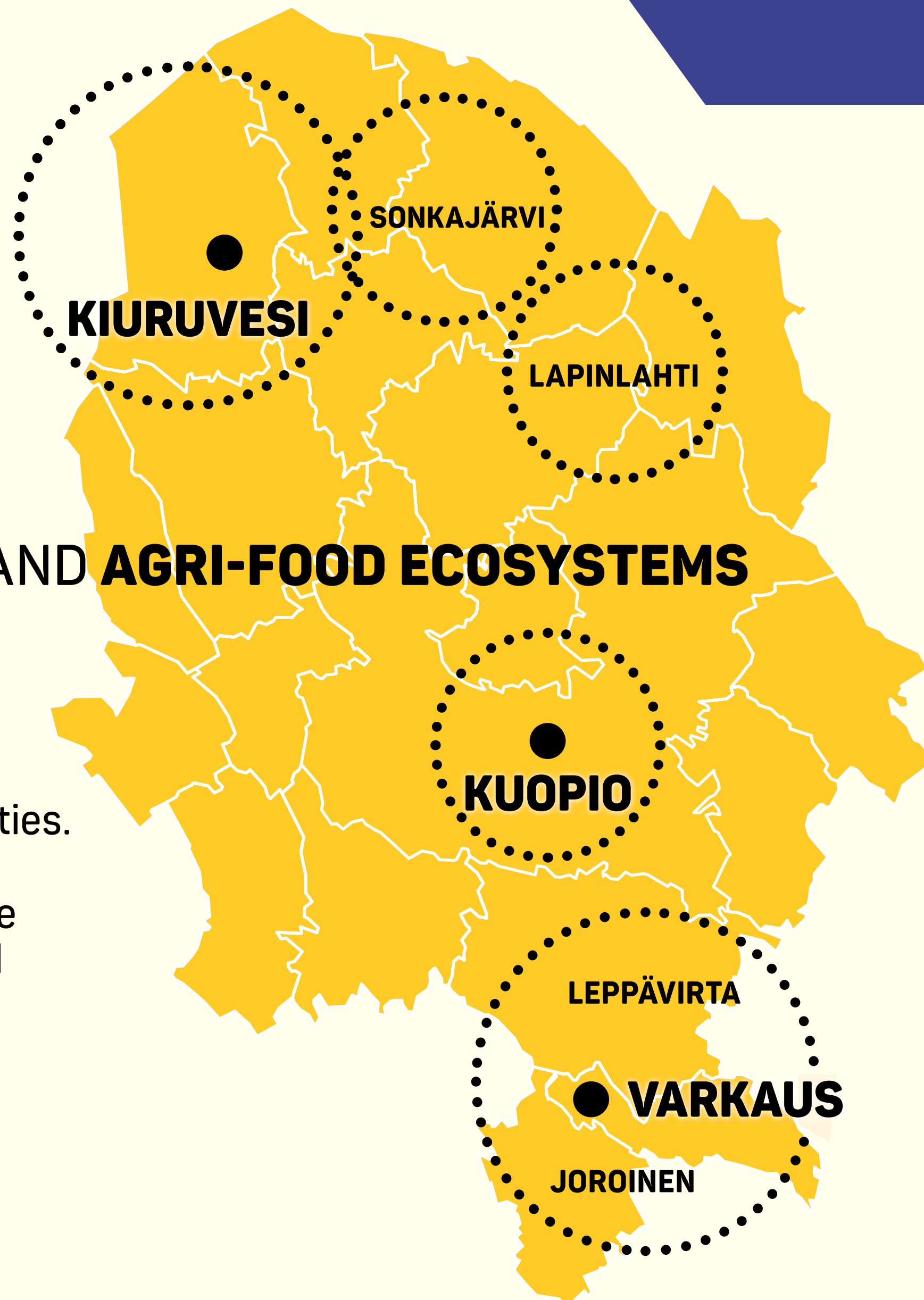


Suomen Lantakaasu, Kiuruvesi



BIO AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND AGRI-FOOD ECOSYSTEMS

In North Savo, several development and investment projects related to ecosystems and clusters, funded by the EU, have been implemented to accelerate innovation activities. These investments have generated new business opportunities and strengthened the region's competitiveness. Ecosystem-based cooperation is also accelerating the region's green transition. Here are a few examples.



NORTH SAVO ENERGY CLUSTER

ECOSYSTEM-BASED COOPERATION

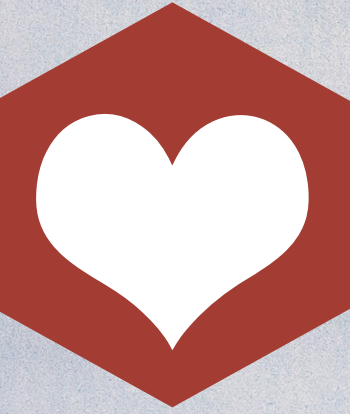


FinVector, Kuopio

KUOPIO HEALTH ECOSYSTEM

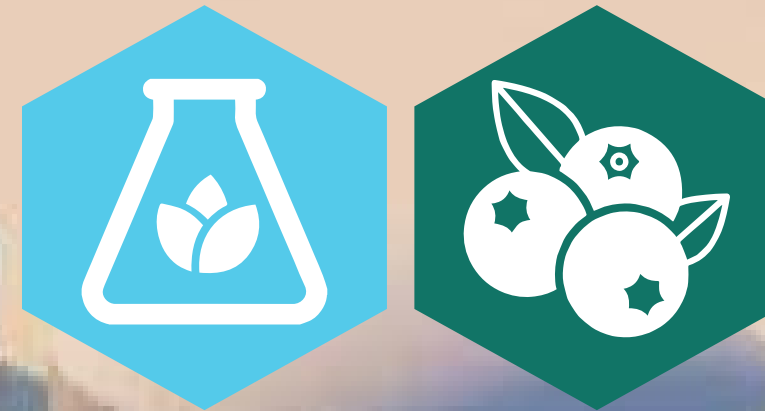


Stora Enso, Varkaus



KUOPIO

FinVector, a biopharmaceutical company within the Kuopio Health ecosystem, opened a new factory in Kuopio in 2024. Since 2014, the Ferring Group has significantly invested in the precision medicine development, with more than half of that investment directed towards Finland and Kuopio as the key development and manufacturing hub for gene therapy in Europe. Over the past two years, FinVector's workforce has doubled to over 500 employees.



Long-term development in the Bio and Circular Economy and Agri-Food ecosystems has led to significant investments, one of the largest being **Suomen Lantakaasu Ltd's €100 million** biogas plant project. The 125 GWh complex includes an industrial-scale liquefied biogas production facility in **Kiuruvesi** and satellite plants in **Lapinlahti** and **Sonkajärvi**. The biogas plant will start operations in December 2026.

**NEXT
GEN
EU** 

RRF funding
€19.2 million



ENERGY CLUSTER
NORTH SAVO



Varkaus is one of Finland's most important industrial cities. The Varkaus region boasts strong ecosystems in energy, forestry, and metal industries, with investments totaling around **€800 million** in recent years. Major investors include Stora Enso, ANDRITZ Warkaus Works, and Finnforel.

The total turnover of the **Energy Cluster's** member companies exceeds **10 billion euros**.

● **VARKAUS**



EUROPEAN
HERITAGE LABEL
FINLAND'S CANDIDATE



In **Joroinen**, the Hallanvahti solar power plant will be constructed on a drained peatland area with low productivity for forestry. Spanning nearly 190 hectares, the plant will become Finland's second-largest solar power facility upon completion, with a capacity of 129 MWp. The total value of the investment is **€73.5 million**.



JOROINEN

RRF funding
Hallanvahti **€17.1 million**
Kaskisuo **€6.6 million**

**Next
Gen
EU** 



North Savo Regional Council

www.pohjois-savo.fi



EUROPE DIRECT
Kuopio

Thank you

Puijo Tower in Kuopio ©Jarmo Kuittinen