



Sami Ruotsalainen
City of Joensuu

SMART AND SUSTAINABLE JOENSUU



BY&FORCITIZENS
European Conference on Smart,
Sustainable and Resilient Cities

Joensuu

Vibrant regional centre and a university town located in Eastern Finland

City was founded as a trading place in 1848

Traditional centre of wood processing industry

Nowadays a unique combination of tech buzz and peaceful wilderness of rural areas, flavoured with the laid-back Karelian lifestyle

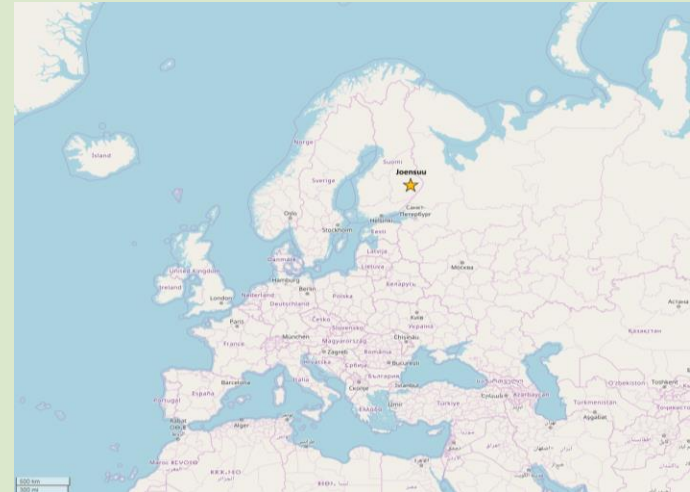
Focus areas include forest bioeconomy, photonics, education and ICT


Population in the city area 76,000

economic area 125,000

- 38 % of population under 30 years old

- 20,000 students living in Joensuu





Collaboration on different levels

Agreement with the University of Eastern Finland to focus on bioeconomy and education themes

- In line with the regional strategy

Bioeconomy and wood construction

- A lot of collaboration with the European Forest Institute, Finnish Natural Resources Institute, Finnish Environment Institute, also on an international level

- Biocities Forum side event at the Barcelona Smart City Expo 2018

- The tallest wooden building (14-storeys) in Finland currently under construction

- Wood construction projects with Karelia University of Applied Sciences





Collaboration on different levels

City serves as a platform for innovation and business

- Schools are opened as platform for business development
- City's forest areas are opened as a platform for research and education
- Also through innovative public procurement

Smart&Sustainable

- Ambitious climate programme – Carbon neutral Joensuu in 2025
- Climate agreements with companies – For example with Fortum (large Finnish energy company) to develop sustainable solutions
- Joensuu City Challenge – an international innovation competition
- Projects and pilots like Open Data, sensors, innovative plot lease competition...

**CARBON NEUTRAL
JOENSUU 2025**

Reaching the goal through action





Sami Ruotsalainen / Smart and Sustainable Joensuu



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!