



# Pohjois-Karjalan

## MAAKUNTALIITTO

Regional Council of North Karelia

### ORGANISATIONAL CURRICULUM VITAE

Legal status of organisation:	Federation owned by the 13 municipalities of North Karelia
Definition:	Regional administration, funding authority
Role:	In charge by law of the regional development and land use planning in the NUTS 3 region of North Karelia. Part of the NUTS 2 region of Eastern and Northern Finland.
Address:	Regional Council of North Karelia (RCNK) Pielisjoen linna, Siltakatu 2 FI-80100 JOENSUU Tel. + 358 13 267 4700 Fax. + 358 13 267 4730 Email: <a href="mailto:kirjaamo@pohjois-karjala.fi">kirjaamo@pohjois-karjala.fi</a> Personnel email addresses: <a href="mailto:firstname.lastname@pohjois-karjala.fi">firstname.lastname@pohjois-karjala.fi</a> Web: <a href="http://www.pohjois-karjala.fi/english">www.pohjois-karjala.fi/english</a>
Region Mayor:	Mr Risto POUTIAINEN
Deputy Region Mayor:	Ms Eira VARIS
Financial director:	Mr Jari AHO
Personnel:	42

#### Short description of organisation:

The Regional Council of North Karelia (RCNK) is a public regional authority specified in the Regional Development Act (national law) in charge of economic development, regional planning and the creation of knowledge infrastructure. The goal of the Council is to promote regional development initiatives and regional balance, as well as environmentally sustainable development in co-operation with the state and local governments, businesses, universities, research institutions and non-governmental organisations.



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### Regional Strategic Programme 2030

VISION 2030:

REGENERATING AND PROSPEROUS NORTH KARELIA IS CLOSE TO NATURE, ATTRACTIVE AND INTERNATIONAL BORDER REGION.

### Regional Development Programme POKAT 2017

Smart specialisation – North Karelia invests in selected productive sectors. One of the goals is to increase enterprises' international competitiveness and know-how in the region.

Fossil oil free region – Emerging bioeconomy and climate change consideration provide good opportunities for resource efficient activities in North Karelia. The objective to become a region that is free from fossil oil is demanding but realistic.

Lifelong inclusion – Population ageing is both a challenge and an opportunity for the region.

By activating people of different age groups the region wishes to be recognized as the home region of people of all ages

### Memberships in international organisations and networks:

- AER (Assembly of European Regions), [www.aer.org](http://www.aer.org)
- AEBR (Association of European Border Regions). [www.aebr.net](http://www.aebr.net)
- ERRIN (European Regions Research and Innovation Network) [www.errin.eu](http://www.errin.eu)
- NSPA (Northern Sparsely Populated Areas) [www.nspa.eu](http://www.nspa.eu)

### Euregio Karelia, [www.euregiokarelia.com](http://www.euregiokarelia.com)

Euregio Karelia, the first Euroregion on the land border between the EU and Russia, was founded on 24 February 2000 by the Regional Councils of Kainuu, Northern Ostrobothnia and North Karelia on the Finnish side and by the Republic of Karelia on the Russian side. Euregio Karelia was founded to deepen programme and project-based cross-border cooperation in order to bring strategic and political guidance into the cooperation. Euregio Karelia's primary duty is to promote the development of living conditions in the border regions. Euregio Karelia is a continuous process, in which cooperation aiming at joint goals takes place on a concrete level on both sides of the border.

### Regional Office in Brussels, [www.eastnorth.eu](http://www.eastnorth.eu)

Established in 1999, the East and North Finland EU Office is the common European liaison office of the regions of Eastern and Northern Finland. It focuses on EU policy follow-up, lobbying and monitors the financial opportunities offered by the European Programmes.



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## Short description of the Region:

The total surface area of North Karelia is 21 585 square kilometres (2/3 of the size of Belgium), of which 70 % is forests and 17% lakes. North Karelia is characterized by its clean environment and extensive waterways. The distance to the capital of Finland, Helsinki, is 437 km by road. Number of inhabitants is 165 000, less than 7,7 inhabitants in km<sup>2</sup>. The region is characterised by a low population density and long distances, thus increasing the need for access to networks, both tangible (infrastructure, ICT, etc.) and intangible ones (joint-activities, alliances, etc).

## Experience in main Structural Fund Programmes

- Sustainable growth and jobs 2014-2020 - Structural Funds Programme of Mainland Finland
- Objective 2, Competitiveness and Employment (Phasing-in) 2007-2013
- Objective 1 programme 2000 – 2006
- Objective 6 programme 1995 – 1999

## Bilateral cooperation programmes with the Republic of Karelia (Russia):

- Karelia CBC 2016-
- ENPI Karelia CBC Programme 2007-2013
- Interreg III A Karelia 2000 – 2006
- Interreg II A Karelia 1995 – 1999

## Experience in European projects:

### *Programme period 2014-2020*

- IMPROVE – Involving the Community to co-produce public services, Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2015-2018. Ongoing.
- EMMA - Enhancing freight Mobility and logistics in the BSR by strengthening inland waterway and river sea transport and promoting new international shipping services, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – Seed Money Facility, 2015. Ended.
- EMMA - Enhancing freight Mobility and logistics in the BSR by strengthening inland waterway and river sea transport and promoting new international shipping services, Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme, 2016-2019. Ongoing.
- TENTacle – Capitalising on TEN T core network corridors for prosperity, growth and cohesion, Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme, 2016-2019. Ongoing.
- Destinations SME´s, Interreg Europe, 2016-2021. Ongoing.
- BIO4ECO - SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL BIOMASS POLICIES (A GAME CHANGER), 2016-2020. Ongoing.



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### *Programme Period 2007-2013*

- Participated as lead partner or partner in 11 European projects funded by the Northern Periphery Programme (3), Interreg IVC Programme (5), Baltic Sea Region Programme (1), ESPON Programme (1), 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (1)

### *Programme Period 2000-2006*

- Participated as lead partner or partner in 10 European projects funded by Interreg III B Northern Periphery, Interreg IIIC, Interreg IIIB Baltic Sea Region, ESF Article 6 Innovative Actions