

Status report of Joensuu Regional Development Company JOSEK Ltd.

PP 3 – Joensuu Regional Development Company,
JOSEK Ltd.

Project Manager Ilkka Nykänen



1. BASIC FACTS OF ADRESSED POLICY AREA

NORTH KARELIA - THE EASTERNMOST REGION OF CONTINENTAL EUROPE

North Karelia is the easternmost region of continental Europe that shares a 296 km stretch of frontier with Russia. North Karelia has always been a place where east and west meet. With 1.6 million crossings a year, the Niirala border crossing point in Tohmajärvi is the third busiest in Finland. The big Russian markets are close by and Russian tourists contribute to the growth of the region's tourism, commerce and services.

Total population of North Karelia is 165,445. The largest residential center is Joensuu with 75848 inhabitants

The competence-based growth industries of the future, forest bioeconomy and new technologies and materials, have taken off in North Karelia due to the active research carried out at the University of Eastern Finland located in Joensuu. The region's traditionally strong industries include the forest, metal, extractive and food industries. The region's undisputable strength is forest bioeconomy, and more than 500 companies whose operations involve bioeconomy can be found in the region.

At one time or another, copper, zinc and cobalt have all been quarried from the North Karelian bedrock. Soap-stone products are also manufactured and exported from North Karelia. The future of the mining industry looks promising. Focused cooperation enriches existing business and creates new business opportunities.

2. ADDRESSED POLICY INSTRUMENT

Sustainable growth and jobs 2014-2020 – Finland's structural funds programme. Priority axis 2: Producing and using the latest knowledge and skills (ERDF) Specific objective 4.1.: Developing research, competence, and innovation clusters that draw from regional strengths.

3. CURRENT STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

INSTRUMENT (e.g Operational programme or Smart specialisation implementation activities, related local, regional and international projects)

Regional Council of North Carelia is the managing authority of OP and actively executing projects funded from ERDF in North Carelia.

Extractive industry is a significant economic sector in North Carelia. The full benefit from extractive industry may be gained only if sustainable development and environmental and social constraints are taken into account in the planning and execution of the mining projects. In addition one of the main aims is to get regional SMEs involved into the mining sector ecosystem. One of the development cornerstones is to identify the needs of SMEs in order to create mining related clusters between the regions involved. Mining industry is a global sector, integrating North Carelia to an international network of mining regions and as a part in the EU industrial policy.

One of the ongoing projects in North Carelia (and Lapland) is the Arctic Smart Mining Cluster AMIC, which was built to integrate the RDI-sector and industrial partners working in the mining industry into a multi-regional cluster in North Karelia and Lapland. The AMIC cluster also promotes the networking and integration of the cluster members in international level to other mining regions in Europe. The RDI partners (GTK, LapinAMK, LaY) and regional consulting services (Kemin Digipolis Oy, Josek Oy) collect the regional mining industry knowhow in Lapland and North Karelia into a larger [national](#) network that enhances the mining sector and improves the partners' chance to participate in international consortia. [EIP Raw Material commitment MIREU, REMIX project, MIREU H2020 applicant consortium](#))

[Selection of other projects to the implementation of the policy:](#)

a) [AMIC](#)- Arctic Smart Mining Cluster

b) [RARE](#)- development of construction stone production

4. STAKEHOLDER GROUP AND STAKEHOLDER GROUP ACTIVITIES DURING THE PROJECT

North Carelian strategic group of extractive industry. Involved group members are specialists of extractive industry and related to operations as funding, education research etc. The group is right now preparing a Regional Strategic Program of Extractive Industry in North Carelia. The group will have meetings 2-3 times/ year. Last meeting was held 8.5.2017, where the REMIX was introduced and discussed. It was found that REMIX will supplement ongoing preparation work and will be a good opportunity to enlarge strategic point of view.

The group members are as follows:

Chairman, parliamentarian Hannu Hoskonen, Finnish Parliament

Contact person: Regional Development Manager Raimo Turunen, North Carelian Regional Council

Mayer, Markus Hirvonen Juuka Municipality

Master of engineering Mari Heikkinen Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

Stoneworker, Lassi Kirjavainen, labour marked organization, SAK

CEO; Urpo Kuronen FinnAust Mining Ltd (The Prospector)

Chairman of the Board Juhani Lehikoinen NunnaUuni Ltd (The Soap Stone Factory)

CEO, Heikki Vauhkonen, Tulikivi Ltd (The Soap Stone Factory)

Asse Marjasvaara, Geological Survey of Finland, Outokumpu Mineral Laboratory

Harri Mikkonen North Karelia Municipal Education and Training Consortium

Timo Pakarinen Karelia. University of Applied Sciences

Tuija Mononen University of Eastern Finland, UEF

Professor of Mining Policy, Juha Kotilainen, University of Eastern Finland, UEF

Aki Nevalainen Pielinen Karelia Development Center PIKES Ltd

Senior Advisor Ilkka Nykänen Joensuu Regional Development. Company, JOSEK Ltd

CEO, Antti Pihko. Boliden Kylylahti Copper Ltd(Copper Mine)

CEO, Seppo Tuovinen Endominex Ltd (Gold Mine)

Samuli Taponen Future Missions Ltd (Consultant)

Senior Advisors: Markus Ekberg (Former CEO of Endominex Ltd)

Senior Advisor, Erkki Luukkonen, (Former Director of research, Geological Survey of Finland)

5. OBJECTIVES SET FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE POLICY INSTRUMENT AND ACTIVITIES THAT WILL BE DONE TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES

Strategic preparatory work with North Carelian Strategic group is proceeding in order to prepare the instrument for the policy work.

6. ONGOING OTHER ACTIVITIES TARGETING TO THE PLANNED IMPROVEMENT OF THE POLICY INSTRUMENT DURING THE PROJECT (e.g. ~~new~~ projects, support for ~~improved~~ governance, S3 linkage/implementation, structural change)

Visit in Mondo Minerals mining company at Outokumpu 23.3.2017

The Mayor of the city of Outokumpu and representatives of Joensuu regional development company JOSEK visited in Mondo Minerals in order to update on going projects and other activities related to mining

business. During the meeting REMIX was introduced as an example and a channel to have an influence on regional mining policy.

REMIX Kick off meeting in Kemi 4.-6.2017

Meeting was held on Kemi. Josek representatives in the meeting were Jarmo Kauppinen and Ilkka Nykänen. Mining Professor Juha Kotilainen from UEF University of Eastern Finland) attend to meeting as a stakeholder

Industrial Modernization Platform

During the Kemi kick off meeting it was proposed that Josek could take care of preparation of Industrial Modernization platform initiative. This focus is mentioned in a project plan chapter B.2.9.1 Definition and Context: “Green mining development of regional framework will be strengthened and widened horizontally with new project ideas an proposals focusing on green technology and SME development.” This aim is also supported by North Karelian Regional Strategic Program S3. For that purpose the first meeting with EC representatives was held in Brussels in 11.-12.5.2017

The attenders of the meeting were:

On Finnish side

Ilari Havukainen (REGIONAL COUNCIL OF LAPLAND)
Kristiina Jokelainen (REGIONAL COUNCIL OF LAPLAND)
Janne Uuisivirta (East & North Finland EU Office)
Harri Malinen (University of Lapland)
Jukka Hyvönen, (JOSEK)
Jarmo Kauppinen (JOSEK)
Ilkka Nykänen(JOSEK)

On EC side:

Milan Grohol
Nikos Pantalos
Anne Auffret

Remix workshop and peer review meeting in Leoben 25.-29.6.

In Leoben meeting Remix partners were informed about ongoing Industrial Modernization Platform work. It was agreed that Josek will prepare the next draft of the initiative for the next meeting in Prague in order to consider partners interest to get involved to this platform progress.

7. SME ENGAGEMENT TO REMIX/STAKEHOLDER GROUP ACTIVITIES DURING THE PROJECT

SME engagement will be done as part of normal development work done by JOSEK. JOSEK is dealing with over 2000 SME contact/year. In addition there are several development projects in order to help SME:s to get involved into extractive industry ecosystem and networking. AMIC project is a good example of the work done. It is also a good example of interregional cooperation between Lapland and North Carelia

8. CLUSTERS, INSTITUTIONS AND REGIONS LINKED TO REMIX PARTNER (others than REMIX PPs)

University of Eastern Finland, UEF
Geological Survey of Finland, GTK
Finnish Mining Association, Finnmin
Regional Development Company Kemin Digipolis Oy leading the clusters of Arctic industry and circular economy and Arctic development environments.
Lapland University of Applied Sciences