

## **How smart specialisation strategy is translated through modern cluster work?**

### **Cases Lapland and Kanta-Häme Region, Finland**

The transition from a linear economic model to a circular economy creates huge challenges for societies around the world, also in Europe. Nordic Countries like Finland have shown remarkable progress in this change towards circular economy in past years. Transition can be seen in both public and private sector.

The aim of this workshop is to give an example of a good practices of network cooperation in ecosystems. The seminar gives added value for macro regional cooperation for the BSR as it showcases a very successful, modern, circular economy clusters.

#### **Structure of the session:**

Facilitator Kristiina Jokelainen, Regional Council of Lapland

- Opening the workshop and introducing topic (2-3 minutes)
- Introducing the keynote speakers ( 1 min)

Keynotes 10 minutes each:

- What does it mean when we talk about circular economy from different angles/perspectives?
- How to turn circular economy “attractive” opportunity?
- Keynote 1 Jukka Teräs, Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio –The Arctic Industry and Circular Economy Cluster, Lapland
- Keynote 2 Mona-Anitta Riihimäki, Ph.D., Dean, School of Bioeconomy, HAMK University of Applied Sciences - The knowledge path to sustainable growth in the circular economy, LUO Next Step, Kanta Häme

Panel discussion – With smart choices towards sustainable solutions – circular economy supporting the regional development and growth

Panel discussion is aiming to open the process how the systematic clustering/networking approach can help to develop strong regional value chains. A distinct distribution of tasks in cluster/network development work lays the ground for the growth and development of the expertise. The systematic entrepreneurial governance model at place supports bold choices, the courage to take a change, multidisciplinary co-operation and use of new technology solution. Both cases are very good examples of how smart specialisation strategy is translated through systematic collaboration work into concrete business and R&D activities that promote economic development in a regions. Clusters provide good breeding ground for the new entrepreneurship and emerging industries to grow.

Panellist are:

- Jyri Maunuksela, Natural Resources Institute Finland
- Seppo Ahola, Arctic Adviser, Arctic Industry and Circular Economy Cluster, Digipolis Oy
- Seppo Saari, Senior Adviser, Lapland University of Applied Sciences
- Päivi Ekdahl, Development director, Regional Council of Lapland
- Harri Mattila, Häme University of Applied Sciences