



Helsinki-Uusimaa
Regional Council

Circular Economy & International Cooperation in Helsinki-Uusimaa

Ida Honkanen & Johanna Juselius

11.4.2024

Helsinki-Uusimaa Region

- Home to 1.8 million inhabitants, which is more than a quarter of the country's total population
- The most urbanized area in Finland, but outside the Metropolitan Region there are still small towns, villages and rural areas
- Situated on the south coast of Finland, with the Baltic Sea playing a major role in the region's life
- Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council is one of 18 Regional Councils in Finland, responsible for the regional development and land use planning



In 2030 Helsinki-Uusimaa will be Well Ahead:

In climate change mitigation



Objective:

Climate neutral region in 2030



In financial competence



Objective:

R&D expenditure 5 % of the region's GDP



In citizens' wellbeing



Objective:

Employment rate of 80 per cent

European Circular Economy Innovation Valley: the European “dance floor” for circular regions

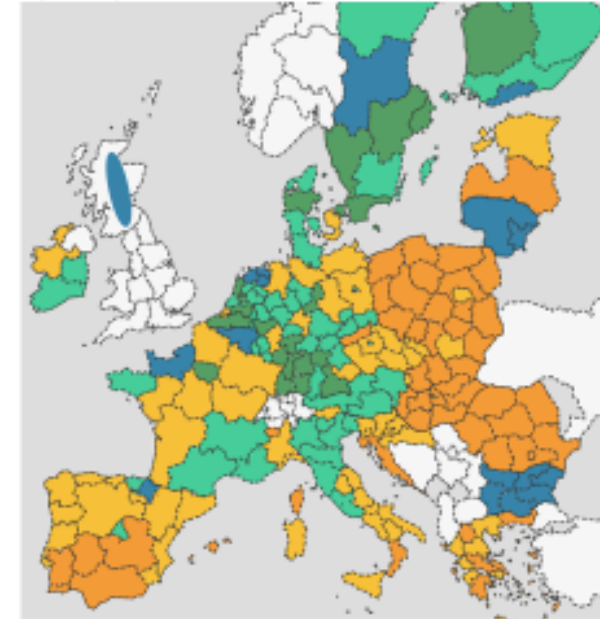
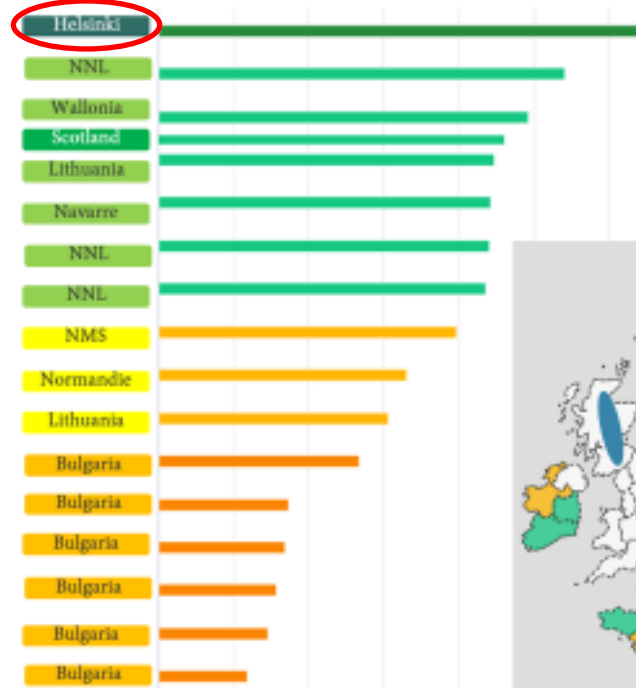
Regions involved:

1. Gobierno de Navarra (Spa)- strong
2. NNL (Ned) - strong
3. NMS (Swe) - moderate
4. Normandie (Fr) - moderate
5. Bulgaria (BI) – emerging
6. Wallonia: strong
7. Lithuania
8. Helsinki Uusimaa – innovation leader
9. Scotland

Facilitators

- ACR +

Source: European Innovation Scoreboard 2023



What is the Helsinki-Uusimaa Circular Valley?

A regional initiative
promoting system-level change
towards the circular economy.

An ecosystem bringing
together projects, local
ecosystems, companies,
researchers, developers, and
municipalities for co-
development.

A platform and accelerator
promoting and supporting new
businesses, creating networks,
test beds, and pilot areas – aiming
at 120 new pilots.

Information point searching,
developing and sharing
knowledge, knowhow, data,
ideas, resources and networks.

Connector and advisor
supporting land use planning.

Five focus areas: construction, plastics, textiles,
electronic waste, food and biomaterials.

National and EU level



GREEN DEAL PROCESS:

A regional partner in the national Green Deal



ACTIVE EU COLLABORATION:

CCRI and other EU initiatives:
Representing the region



BILATERAL MEETINGS:

national and regional
authorities, institutes and
the research community

Stakeholder engagement in building a regional ecosystem

Regional level



BILATERAL MEETINGS:

Working closely with large
relevant stakeholders:
innovation partners,
circular clusters,
development companies



ENGAGING IN LOCAL ACTION:

Working with
municipalities and
projects & bridging
them to thematic
workshops



AFTERWORKS:

Casually bridging
all sectors with
joint afterworks.



THEMATIC WORKSHOPS:

Creating smaller ecosystems
that aim for new pilots and
projects through workshops



Helsinki-Uusimaa Circular Valley: Project portfolio





Read more:

[WCEF Events -
Helsinki-Uusimaa
Circular Valley](#)



International co-operation

- Focus on the Baltic Sea Region, where the most important partners also come from
- Active member of networks, such as the Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) with its Baltic Sea Commission
- Networking and liaison
- EU project development, support and partner search
- Maintaining a representative office in Brussels

Bilateral agreement with the Union of Harju County Municipalities

- Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council has signed a cooperation agreement with the Union of Harju County Municipalities in 2022
- Four main areas of cooperation include:
 1. Integration of regional innovation ecosystems
 2. Promoting infrastructure and mobility solutions
 3. Climate and sustainability challenges and solutions
 4. Resilience and civil protection
- Action Plan drafted together in 2023
- 2024 emphasis on promoting infrastructure and mobility solutions



”Keep in touch!



Helsinki-Uusimaa
Regional Council



Ida Honkanen

International Affairs Adviser

+358 40 523 7587

ida.honkanen@uudenmaanliitto.fi



Simo Karetie

Project Manager, Circular Valley

+358 40 837 5431

simo.karetie@uudenmaanliitto.fi



Johanna Juselius

Chief Adviser

+358 50 372 7062

johanna.juselius@uudenmaanliitto.fi



Pipsa Salolammi

Adviser, Public Affairs, Circular Valley

+358 40 592 7554

pipsa.salolammi@uudenmaanliitto.fi



uudenmaanliitto.fi/en



[@Uudenmaanliitto](https://twitter.com/Uudenmaanliitto)



kiertotalouslaakso.fi/en



Helsinki-Uusimaa
Circular Valley