



**10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy of Baltic Sea Region
12-13th of June, 2019
Gdańsk, Poland**

SUMMARY REPORT

Seminar: *How smart specialisation strategy is translated through modern cluster work? Cases Lapland and Kanta-Häme Region, Finland*

Time: *Wednesday, 12 June 2019, 15:15 - 16:45*

The seminar focused on good practices on modern cluster work in Finland. Two cases were represented, one case from Lapland, Northern Finland and one from Häme Region, Southern Finland. The aim of the workshop was to give an example of a good practices of network cooperation in ecosystems towards the goal of circular economy.

The cases represented were The Arctic Industry and Circular Economy Cluster (hosted by Digipolis Oy) and Natural Resource network in Kanta-Häme region.

Director of International relations and S3 implementation Kristiina Jokelainen from Regional Council of Lapland opened the seminar and introduced the program of the session. Session had two opening key notes followed by panel discussion. Key notes were held by Ph.D. Jukka Teräs who works as a Senior Research Fellow at Nordregio and Ph.D, Dean Mona-Anitta Riihimäki from School of Bioeconomy, HAMK University of Applied Sciences.

Mr. Teräs keynote represented the modern cluster work of arctic industry with the focus in sustainable utilisation of Arctic natural resources in industrial symbiosis worth 700 million euros annually. In Kemi-Tornio are in Finland, there is a worlds northernmost hub of bio-, mining -, metal industry and services enhancing circular economy and forming the first industrial circular economy centre in Finland with national level mandate. In his keynote, Mr. Teräs highlighted the importance of communication about measures to take society towards the circular economy. Only by communicating and sharing information about good practices we can take the matter forward together in the Baltic Sea Region.

Second keynote by Ms. Riihimäki was about “The knowledge path to sustainable growth in the circular economy”. Transition towards a sustainable economy calls for new approaches and multidisciplinary where education, participation, research and government meet. This approach is implemented in the network of Natural Resources in Kanta-Häme Region by multiple actors from education, research and business world. In Häme University of Applied Sciences this new approach was taken into practice with new education program Bioeconomy engineering – where IT-technology meets circularbioeconomy. Bioeconomy engineering programme will equip a student with information technology competences for the use of bioeconomy production and processing and this way this program responds to the changing needs of working life.

After the keynotes seminar continued with panel discussions. Five experts attended the panel discussion:

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

On the panel discussion it became very clear about how big is the change we are talking about when we talk about the circular economy. First and foremost co-operation is needed to promote the circular economy. Funding opportunities are one of the key-elements. Agility and flexibility are very important to entrepreneurs taking up the challenges and opportunities of circular economy. The important elements towards the new sustainable economy that emerged during the panel were education, research and regional specialization, which are all also featured in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

