

European Network of Living Labs

– a first step towards a new Innovation System!

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www.openlivinglabs.eu

Suupohja Living Lab

mission is to strengthen the vitality and competitiveness of Kauhajoki Region and to increase the social capital. Living Lab activities started in Kauhajoki region in 2007 and they are closely connected to the Regional Centre Development Program of Kauhajoki. The program is divided into four different main strategic themes:

1) Developing new business and new business operating models. **2)** Creating dynamic networks of competency and innovation and strengthening competency capital with growth pilots in potential growth fields. **3)** Developing an attractive environment for operations and innovative activity. **4)** Promoting international cooperation and networking in every strategic theme.

Description of Concept

The aim of Suupohja Living Lab in Kauhajoki Region is to introduce and utilize user-driven approach, open innovation and ICT in the regional main clusters and growth pilot development. The regional main clusters are Logistia cluster, Bio-Trade, Habit cluster. Each focus area is led by teams of best experts in the region. Every focus area works in close cooperation with the universities and is based on public-private partnership.

Examples of services offered

- 1) The Open Data Network in Suupohja is one of the the fastest regional fiber optic network in Europe combining about 40 villages in the Kauhajoki region. This network is a testbed for small entrepreneurs for testing applications requiring extreme speed.
- 2) The InnoCells (regional innovation teams of several focus areas), the social web networks, virtual meeting rooms and the possibilities of the open innovation system

References and Track Record

The Kauhajoki regional development program with the Living Lab is one of the most successful regional development activities in Finland according to the national survey.

The Kauhajoki Technology Center, the center of Suupohja Living Lab, www.logistia.net was ranked as the number one in the national customer satisfaction inquiry of technology parks in 2007. Logistia technology center is a member of IASP – International Association of Science Parks. The living lab clusters include about 2 000 business companies in Kauhajoki region.

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Suupohja Living Lab – the strategic whole:

