

# OECD Reviews of HE in regional and city development Roundtable for Regions

## Introducing new regions Oulu Region, Finland

OECD, Paris

11 September 2009

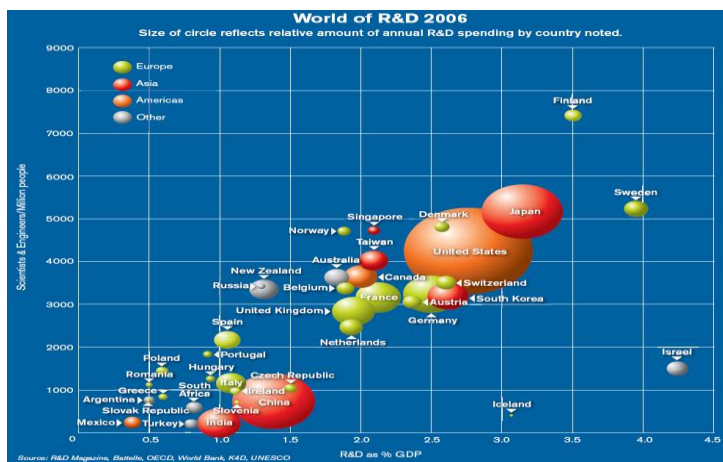
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## Relative share of annual R&D spending globally, R&D as % GDP

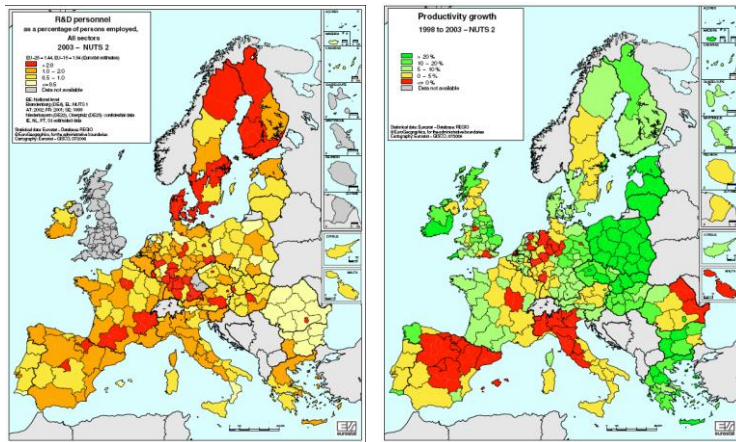


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# Finland in Europe - Connection of R&D personnel to the Productivity Growth



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## Finland and Northern Finland

Finland: 5.2 mill inhabitants

Northern Finland

- 630 000 inhabitants
- population density 4.4 per km<sup>2</sup>

Oulu Region

- 220 000 inhabitants
- 86 500 jobs
- unemployment 12.8%

- R&D input EUR 912 million  
(EUR 4 200 per capita)

- R&D input 12.7% of regional  
GDP

- Higher education attainment  
23%



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## Few facts about Oulu: from tar and salmon to high technology

- Founded in 1605
- With a population of 135 000, the largest city in the northern Finland and the 6th largest city in Finland – one of the fastest growing urban centres in the country
- Young population – average age 36.8 years.
- Cooperation between enterprises, research, education and public organisations has produced significant results.

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## Oulu: the high tech centre

- Globally strong wireless ICT development
  - annual revenue EUR 4.1 billion
  - 7 400 high technology jobs
  - 800 high tech companies in ICT, welfare, media, environment, biotech
- A major centre of competence in high technology, particularly IT and wellness
  - Nokia Group, personnel 2 500
  - Nokia Siemens Networks, personnel 2 200
- Process industry (wood refining, paper and steel industry) also strong
  - Stora Enso Group, personnel 890

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## Oulu – the higher education centre

### University of Oulu

- Founded in 1958 as a tool for regional development policy
- One of the largest research intensive universities
- 17 000 students and 3 050 staff
- Total funding EUR 220 million
- Research focus:  
ICT & internet ; Biosciences and welfare; Intelligent appliances and materials; Technology of well-being and ICT; Environment and energy ; Business administration and economics; Culture, education and interaction

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### Oulu University of applied Sciences

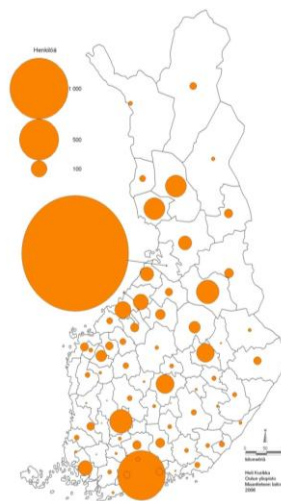
- Institution of professional higher education
- Founded in the 1990s to respond to the needs of the world of work in the northern Finland
- One of the largest universities of applied sciences (polytechnic)
- 8 600 students and 720 staff
- Total funding EUR 55 million

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## Regional allocation of University of Oulu graduates 2000-2004

- 76% of Oulu graduates find employment in the Northern Finland
- Higher education supply meets the demands of the working life requirements – HE graduates find jobs easily in the region
- BUT, the unemployment rate in the region is 12.7% > structural problems in the local economy and two economies



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# Alliance of Oulu Innovation Excellence



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