Energy and inspiration

UNIVERSITY CONSORTIA

From ideas to innovations
They carry out advanced academic research drawing on their regions’ strengths and apply the results in practice.

University consortia are networked organisations that link regional activities of universities.

University consortia support companies and communities in research and development activities.

University consortia offer university studies especially targeted to adults.
There are six university consortia in Finland and their aim is to promote and coordinate research and university studies on their region.
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KEY FIGURES

- Turnover: ca €11 million
- Staff: 130
- 2,400 students, 220 of them degree students
The Kajaani University Consortium is a community of academic partners in the Kainuu region in Central-Eastern Finland. In addition to the University of Oulu, which is responsible for coordination, the Kajaani University Consortium includes the University of Eastern Finland, the University of Jyväskylä and the University of Lapland, all of which have their own areas of responsibility.

The Consortium’s objective is to raise the level of education and competence in the region, as well as to serve business and industry through research and education.

Each partner university has its own area of responsibility.

- **University of Oulu**: Coordination of Consortium activities, electrical engineering and IT, biotechnology, computer science, medicine and adult education
- **University of Eastern Finland**: Measurement technology and optics, biotechnology and food research
- **University of Jyväskylä**: Sports sciences
- **University of Lapland**: Law and social sciences

www.oulu.fi/kajaaniuniversityconsortium/
Research

in sports and mining

The Kajaani University Consortium carries out research in measurement and sports technologies, with the focus of the research on bioeconomy.

The Consortium is located in a region characterised by its strong mining industry, which is also central to the research conducted by CEMIS-OUUL, the University of Oulu measurement technology unit. In addition to mining, sensor technology research is also used in sports and environmental research. Specialised sensors monitoring specific compounds are of particular interest.

Vuokatti, close to Kajaani, is one of Finland’s most popular winter sports resorts, and research related to winter activities plays a key role in the region’s development. The University of Jyväskylä conducts sports technology and biology research in Vuokatti. Its partners in Finland and abroad include the Vuokatti Sports Institute and the University of Oulu.

Challenge us to develop new competence!
The path to proficiency

Adult and continuing education as well as collaborative activities are immensely popular in Kainuu. AIKOPA offers education provided by the adult education units of the Kajaani University of Applied Sciences and the University of Oulu Kajaani University Consortium. The best results are obtained by combining AIKOPA’s expertise in designing and implementing education and development projects with customers’ insight into their own work and needs. Collaboration is a source of strength and peer support.

AIKOPA’s university-level services designed for professional needs are available to companies and individuals in the Kainuu region and the Ylä-Savo and Koillismaa subregions. First-rate education, expert and research services are in demand both in Finland and abroad.
KEY FIGURES

- Turnover: ca €7.5 million
- Staff: ca 100
- 3,000 students, 200 of them degree students
Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius

The Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius involves the universities of Jyväskylä, Oulu and Vaasa. Its education and research focus on the three universities’ special fields, namely education, information technology, social sciences, regional studies, business and chemistry.

The Kokkola University Consortium specialises in adult education. Master’s level studies are designed for mature students with previous studies and work experience in the field, and the open university offers a channel to Master’s programmes. The Consortium’s research caters primarily to the development needs of companies, municipalities and other communities in Central Ostrobothnia.

The University Consortium was named after Anders Chydenius (1729–1803), who lived in Kokkola and was one of the first advocates of freedom, democracy and freedom of trade both in Finland (under Swedish rule at the time) and all of Europe.

www.chydenius.fi
Flexibility *a must* in adult education

Studies at the Kokkola University Consortium, coordinated by the University of Jyväskylä, have been designed with mature students in mind: they are independent of time and place and can be completed alongside work and family obligations. The studies combine contact teaching and online work. Many of the lectures are broadcast live online to allow students to follow them at home or at work. Moreover, online lectures are stored so that students are able to watch them at a time best suited to them and review the topics later.

Online examinations also add flexibility to studies. The Kokkola University Consortium develops pedagogical solutions for online examinations, the goal being to promote in-depth learning, the knowledge-building skills needed by experts, and the professional relevance of studies.

The University Consortium also emphasises study guidance: students can choose between personal face-to-face guidance during office hours or online guidance.

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*Educational sciences and information technology were combined to offer new approaches and opportunities in adult education.*
Were you aware of the nationwide shortage of social workers? Kokkola educates more professionals.
An original

Master’s degree programme in social work developed in Kokkola

There is a nationwide shortage of qualified social workers. The towns and municipalities in the Kokkola region decided to address this problem and allocated funding to the social work education offered by the Kokkola University Consortium.

As a result, the Consortium designed a fresh and original Master’s degree programme geared to adults, which accepts applications from students who have a previous degree from a university of applied sciences or who have completed studies at an open university. The studies can be completed alongside employment, since the Master’s degree programme combines contact teaching, distance learning, online learning and independent study. The work and life experience of mature students is taken into account in the programme, which emphasises practical social-work competences.

The Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius coordinates the European ALLISW network, which devises teaching methods for adult education in social work. Furthermore, the network designs international mobility options for mature students.
Lahti University Consortium

The Lahti University Consortium, coordinated by the University of Helsinki, specialises in multidisciplinary research and development that supports the growth and progress of urban environments and the region’s business and industry. Research focuses on the environment, practical innovation and wellbeing. Its fundamental principles include sustainable development and the efficient application of the Living Lab concept. The Lahti University Consortium is an inherent part of the university campus network and innovation environment of the Metropolitan Area.

**KEY FIGURES**

- Turnover: ca €12 million
- Staff: 160
- 4,000 students, 450 of them degree students
Universities and their focal areas in Lahti:

• **Aalto University**: Two joint professors of industrial design with the Lahti University of Applied Sciences, the Institute of Design and Fine Arts, as well as research projects in environmental technology

• **University of Helsinki**: Solution-oriented research and education focused on social, cultural and natural scientific issues in the urban environment from the perspective of sustainable development

• **Lappeenranta University of Technology, LUT Lahti School of Innovation**: Research on the phenomenon of practice-based innovation, as well as its methods, impact and implementation options. Main fields of education: business, industrial engineering and management

In cooperation with the Lahti University of Applied Sciences:
• **Joint university library**
• **Fellmannia learning centre**
• **Alma Lab (laboratory complex)**
A better life

for the ageing and elderly

Who doesn’t want to enjoy active retirement, more years of independent living and a better quality of life when older? These are some of the goals of the Ikihyvä project carried out in Lahti and the surrounding regions, which studied the health and wellbeing of the ageing population. The Lahti University Consortium collected unique information about ageing through a decade-long study of a specific group of individuals. The study identified several health-promoting methods which were put into practice in the region.

Many people want to live in their own home for as long as possible. The model designed in the Ikihyvä project can be used to earlier identify people at risk of losing their functional capacity and to offer them services that maintain and boost this capacity. The Ikihyvä lifestyle monitoring model is used in diabetes prevention in both Finland and other countries, such as Australia.

The project ran from 2002 to 2012 and was carried out by the University of Helsinki’s Palmenia Centre for Continuing Education and the discipline of social and public policy, the Lahti University of Applied Sciences, the National Institute for Health and Welfare, as well as the Päijät-Häme Social and Health District and its member municipalities.
Over half of the world’s population lives in cities, and the number continues to grow. Urbanisation has also introduced global and local environmental problems. Focused on urban environmental issues and internationalisation, the UrbanEnviro project, involving the universities operating in Lahti, aims to solve such problems.

The project has increased the amount of English-language university education offered in Lahti and provides all-new education based on the latest research. Lahti now trains urban experts, who understand the environmental problems brought about by urbanisation and their mitigation. The Master’s Degree Programme in Multidisciplinary Studies on Urban Environmental Issues (MURE) received its second student intake in autumn 2012.

The educational offering also includes Urban Environmental Ecology, a minor subject module; Materials and the environment, a minor subject organised by the Tampere University of Technology; courses organised by the Lappeenranta University of Technology; and courses developed jointly with the University of Helsinki Open University and the Palmenia Centre for Continuing Education. Training has also been offered to staff at the Lahti University Consortium.

www.urbanenviro.fi
KEY FIGURES

- Turnover: ca €19 million
- Staff: 200
- 4,900 students, 250 of them degree students
The Mikkeli University Consortium integrates the environment, nature, technology, entrepreneurship and digitisation, offering research and education in these fields as well as various development and advisory services to companies and other parties.

The University Consortium aims to add, expand and firmly establish academic activities in Mikkeli, increase the amount of university studies offered, as well as strengthen academic research in the area. Moreover, the Consortium boosts collaboration among universities active in the region in order to advance regional development jointly with business, industry and other participants.

The Mikkeli University Consortium includes:

- **Aalto University School of Business, Bachelor’s Degree Program in International Business**
- **Aalto University School of Business, Small Business Centre**
- **National Library of Finland, Centre for Preservation and Digitisation**
- **University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute**
- **Lappeenranta University of Technology, LUT Savo Sustainable Technologies**

www.muc.fi
Located close to the sparkling blue Lake Saimaa, Mikkeli is surrounded by clean nature. The University Consortium strives to ensure that people can continue to enjoy unpolluted and safe environments all around the world. Clean water, safe food and minimally polluting energy sources are critical to the future.

The LUT Savo Sustainable Technologies unit of the Lappeenranta University of Technology focuses on recyclable sustainable technology solutions that consume less energy and material, use renewable natural resources, and do not pollute the environment directly or indirectly.

The Ruralia Institute of the University of Helsinki, in turn, concentrates on clean food and the development of rural sources of livelihood. It studies organic food and natural resources, among other things.

The Small Business Centre of the Aalto University School of Business is the most important university-level entrepreneurship educator in Finland.

Did you know that the Bachelor’s Degree Program in International Business offered by the Aalto University School of Business has students from 15 countries?
Mikkeli

is the centre of digital archiving

What did the Kauppalehti financial newspaper report on in November 1909? Why university education, of course. Anyone can browse through this front-page article, thanks to the Centre for Preservation and Digitisation located in Mikkeli. Among other things, the Centre converts newspaper and magazine material into digital format for the benefit of us all.

Member of the Mikkeli University Consortium, the Centre for Preservation and Digitisation is not the only memory institution in the Mikkeli region. Mikkeli has long been one of Finland’s most significant archive clusters, and its role in the archiving of Finnish knowledge will receive a further boost after the National Archives constructs its central archive in the city.

At present, activities in Mikkeli encompass the archiving, repair and preservation of material, microfilming and digitisation, as well as storage of microfilms and other material. Mikkeli is also home to the research and development of electronic archiving solutions and the reception of digital material.

You can browse digitised material of the National Library of Finland at http://digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi/
KEY FIGURES

- Turnover: €15 million
- Staff: 180
- 3,800 students, 1,600 of them degree students
A dynamic, multidisciplinary art and science community, the University Consortium of Pori (UCPori) is home to 3,800 students and 180 experts. UCPori, coordinated by the Tampere University of Technology, is housed in a historical cotton mill that sits on the bank of the Kokemäenjoki River at the heart of the city.

The four universities with branch offices in Pori conduct research and academic education in the following fields:

- **Aalto University**: Art and Media *(Master of Arts)*
- **Tampere University of Technology**: Technology and Industrial Management *(Master of Science)*
- **University of Tampere**: Social Sciences *(Bachelor and Master of Social Science)*
- **University of Turku**:
  - Business Economics *(Bachelor and Master of Science in Economics and Business Administration)*
  - Culture and Landscape studies *(Bachelor and Master of Arts in Humanities)*
  - Maritime Sciences, Shortsea Promotion Centre *(SPC Finland)*
  - Medicine *(Clinic Studies, Teaching Health Centre)*

By the end of 2012 1,700 MSc and 80 licenciates and doctors have graduated from the Consortium.

[www.ucpori.fi](http://www.ucpori.fi)
Did you know that the University Consortium of Pori has some 1,600 degree students, 1,400 students in continuing education and 700 open university students?
Master’s degrees have become increasingly common in the Satakunta region around Pori: in the 21st century, the share of young people with a university degree has risen faster than the national average in the region. The employment situation of graduates is good, and the University Consortium has generated new jobs in the region, especially in the service sector.

However, titles do not mean everything at the University Consortium of Pori, where groups include degree students and open university students as well as students completing parts of degrees or participating in continuing education. Major subject students may also visit other university units and benefit from the educational offerings of four universities in all. Exchange students participating in the units’ joint Pori Interdisciplinary Exchange Programme in Technology, Business and Culture introduce an international flavour to the environment.

The needs of the region’s business and industry influence the content of education. For example, the education in nuclear power, safety and offshore industries is based on employers’ needs. The entrepreneurial professorship funded by players in the region functions as a channel for developing academic entrepreneurship and promoting students’ connections with employers.
The University Consortium of Pori conducts advanced research in national and international research networks. In 2012, a full 250 scholarly publications, 128 scholarly articles were completed and around 65 research projects were underway in Pori. International activities focus on research projects, doctoral studies and teacher and researcher exchange.

**Key research areas in Pori include:**

- *New business models for industrial networks*
- *Interfaces and cooperation between the public and private sectors*
- *New, sustainable energy solutions*
- *Competitiveness obtained from digital operations*
- *User-oriented services and service forms*

*Further information about the University Consortium’s research projects, publications and experts is available at http://delta.ucpori.fi.*
KEY FIGURES

- Turnover: ca €7 million
- Staff: 90
- 4,000 students, 500 of them degree students
University Consortium of Seinäjoki

The University of Tampere coordinates the activities of five Finnish universities at the University Consortium of Seinäjoki. The universities involved are those of Tampere, Helsinki and Vaasa, as well as the Tampere University of Technology and Sibelius Academy. The universities’ presence in the area strengthens competence in business and industry.

The Consortium’s activities focus on research, and the results are linked to the region’s development and internationalisation. Education is geared towards adults and merges academic and practical competence. Research and adult education focus on:

- Business skills
- Food and wellbeing
- Product processes and production systems
- Regions and culture

Internationalisation and a close partnership with business and industry are the cornerstones of success.

www.ucs.fi/
Information about consumers helps launch *new products* and advocate *healthy eating habits*

How do you get people to eat healthier? With the help of new information and a fresh approach to communication.

The University Consortium of Seinäjoki carried out a project on healthy choices and tailored models for eating and physical activity, which suggested that health-risk and other messages that were clearly addressed to individual target groups were the most favourably received. They also helped turn the recipients’ attitudes towards low-fat and other similar products in a more positive direction.

The messages were tailored according to the consumer group that individual recipients belonged to. The project defined five such groups: health-conscious exercisers, laid-back hedonists, people-oriented rationalists, family-oriented nurturers and self-centred achievers.

The observations were part of a study focusing on South Ostrobothnian consumers’ attitudes and behaviour towards food and eating. The research is carried out by Harri Luomala, a professor of the South Ostrobothnian University Network at the University Consortium of Seinäjoki. His group is part of the multidisciplinary research community in Southern Ostrobothnia which develops new food solutions for the increasingly international markets.
Are you a health-conscious exerciser or a laid-back hedonist?
Tiina Kivikanto, MSc in Economics, had been looking for ways to complete a university degree alongside work. Nothing seemed quite right until she came across the Master’s degree programme focused on growth companies offered in Seinäjoki.

“I immediately knew this was what I wanted,” says Kivikanto.

Thanks to Tiina’s strong motivation to participate in the programme, even the trip from Helsinki to Seinäjoki seemed manageable. She would have welcomed even more contact teaching.

“Networking with students in other fields, disciplined adherence to the study plan, the flexibility of the University of Vaasa, the possibility to use other university studies as supplementary studies, the thesis-writing process, as well as blended learning,” says Kivikanto, listing the best parts of the Master’s programme.

“I wasn’t only after a degree, but also sought a broader understanding and competence, so I didn’t expect to breeze through the programme. The theoretical background I obtained from the university studies gave me a broader and deeper perspective: I can now deal with more extensive topics, understand connections between things and see different alternatives.”
On this publication

This brochure was jointly prepared by Finland’s six university consortia. The consortia are comprised of several universities and offer academic research and education services, ensuring the availability of high quality university services all around Finland. The profile and operations of each university consortium reflect the characteristics and needs of the surrounding society and region, as well as the strengths and profiles of their parent universities.

This brochure sheds further light on the consortia’s practical activities as well as their social and regional interaction.

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