



Health Kuopio Programme

Making Kuopio into a leading European centre of expertise in health and wellness.

The Health Kuopio Programme is a cooperational network between social and health services, enterprises, research and education, through which products, services and well-being are developed. It is a cooperational project of the City of Kuopio, the University of Kuopio and various businesses and organisations in the region.

Leading Centre of Expertise in Health and Wellness

The programme aims at turning the city and its surrounding region into one of the leading European centres of expertise in health and wellness. Furthermore, the programme goal is to commercialise top-level international research and develop practical applications and services for the benefit of the community.

The focus of the programme is wellness expertise in the areas of health, environment and social welfare, with a practical focus on health technology.

The scheme aims at creating new services and products, high-level technological innovations and new enterprises as well as jobs. All in all, the very nature of the programme is to improve quality of life in the whole region. In fact, Kuopio has set its sights on becoming one of the leading cities in Finland for quality of life.

There is already a significant number of leading organisations operating in this field based in the Kuopio region, both research and development organisations and service sector enterprises. The Health Kuopio Programme will make a good use of the existing resources and in addition, offer these organisations and many others a new platform for growth and progress.



Participants in the programme:

- Business enterprises
- The University of Kuopio
- Pohjois-Savo Polytechnic
- Kuopio Technology Centre Teknia
- Kuopio University Hospital
- The North Savo Regional Consortium for Education
- City of Kuopio
- Other local communities and third sector organisations

The Health Kuopio Programme Aims for 2012

- Kuopio will become and remain a leading European centre of health and wellness expertise and technology in selected fields.
- The provision of comprehensive, high-quality health and wellness services based on the latest research will be guaranteed.
- 5,000 new private sector jobs in health and wellness expertise will be created
- 150 new enterprises in the area of health and wellness expertise will be established
- There will be a significant increase in the turnover and export operations of companies.
- Revenue from tourism will be tripled. The overall cost of the Health Kuopio programme will be € 180 million.

Much of the infrastructure and resources to meet these aims are already available, but within the framework of this programme investment in new resources is planned:

1. WellTeknia

WellTeknia is an organisation which has now been created in partnership with the **Kuopio Technology Centre, Teknia**, in order to focus on looking after the needs of the business enterprises involved in the programme.

WellTeknia contributes to the creation of an even more innovative environment, in which health and wellness expertise related products and services can progress smoothly from innovation to design and commercial application.

A good working environment, top research teams of experts in the field and international market channels enable WellTeknia to give enterprises a head start over the competition.

www.teknia.fi

2. A University Faculty of technology network

The University of Kuopio is preparing to establish a joint Faculty of Technology in partnership with the University of Oulu. This new faculty will focus its education and



research on the fields of Environmental Technology, Environmental Informatics, Medical Technology and Biotechnology – all new future-oriented disciplines. This project will create a new foundation of knowledge and expertise for business and wellness in the Kuopio, Varkaus and Upper Savo areas, and is expected to contribute to the creation of a thousand new jobs in the region.

3. Top-level higher education and research

The higher education and research facilities of the University of Kuopio and Pohjois-Savo Polytechnic will be upgraded in both quantity and quality in the different areas of health and wellness expertise.

Projects include:

- Mediteknia, a new university research complex for clinical, pharmaceutical and nutritional research
- Analytica, a new university research centre focusing on biological and environmental research
- the expansion of Centek, the centre for IT education, research and applications jointly established by the University of Kuopio, Pohjois-Savo Polytechnic and Technology Centre, Teknia
- establishing new links between health and wellness research and research in business and commerce

The Kuopio region will become a testbed for new operational models

All participants in the programme will be directly involved in the development of health care and social services for the whole community. In particular, the facilities for making the best use of new care concepts, new technology and information technology will be developed.

The City of Kuopio aims to use the latest research to develop its own health care and social services. In the early stages of the programme, the prime targets will be residential care for seniors and family support services

The North Savo Hospital Authority will develop certain of its special areas of expertise, selected on public health grounds, into internationally competitive centres of excellence, which will in turn have a positive role in creating employment.

Better working facilities will be developed for organisations and associations involved in providing community services.

Promoting wellness tourism

The Health Kuopio programme aims to coordinate and expand wellness tourism activities in Kuopio and the surrounding area. Health and Medicine Tourism is a new business area, where the region's expertise in Health sciences, Medicine, research and education will be connected to existing tourism services. The basic premise is that every journey made to the region as a means to improve someone's health be regarded as health and medicine tourism.

This organisation will draw up a comprehensive strategy and a scheme for the allocation of tasks and resources between different bodies, so that the whole programme will be as versatile and competitive as possible. Sustained long-term planning is the key to the development of regional infrastructure and services for tourism.



Health Kuopio Programme – the strategy



Kuopio – top European centre of excellence for health and wellness expertise

National and international application and commercialisation of the health and wellness expertise of the Kuopio region

Health care

- medicine
- pharmaceutical development
- nutrition and health expertise
- health care technology
- nursing science
- health economics
- sport medicine

Biotechnology and nutritional expertise

- biotechnology
- food biotechnology
- food safety

Environment

- environment health
- environmental technology

Social science

Applications to health and wellness expertise of

- information technology
- commerce and business
- design and ergonomics

The Kuopio region – a testbed for new health and wellness products and services

- testing innovative new services and health and wellness models
- innovations for everyday life
- studying the process of change in the provision of health services

Wellness tourism in the Kuopio region

- winter and recreational sporting tourism
- waterway tourism
- cultural tourism
- health resort tourism



Teknia supports high-tech enterprises and businesses in Kuopio. It now has an annual turnover of €2.9 million. Its core operations include managing real estate, being the centre of expertise operations, supporting business development, aiding technology transfer, and undertaking internationalisation projects for hi-tech companies.

It helps companies overcome problems in the fields of piloting products and services, and testing products in the field of healthcare (primarily through its 'Wellteknia' scheme). The main areas of expertise of the Teknia Centre are agro-biotechnology, healthcare technology, and pharmaceutical development.

Teknia already has close partnerships with China, Sweden, Germany, England and the USA. The Kuopio Technology Centre supports international marketing and the development of international contact networks for its clients. Teknia also includes a service point of the Finland Innovation Relay Centre, which helps locate European partners and technology for development projects.

UHCW/ Coventry Enterprises Perspectives following preliminary visit June 2005

Following the visit to Kuopio in June, particular interest was sparked by the WellTeknia 'EHealth Evaluation Suite' (Teknia Science Park) concept for installation at the Clinical Sciences Building (CSB), UHCW. The Kuopio facility is designed to allow evaluation of developing eHealth concepts in a controlled environment where interaction between clinicians, researchers & patients is made possible. A similar facility (incorporating eHealth & Medical Device Technologies) at UHCW could be established to combine and develop areas of existing strength with significant impact

- (i) The facility would have direct access to the UHCW patient population
- (ii) There would be the potential to integrate with existing ward/theatre simulation suites in the CSB
- (iii) The facility would allow evaluation of products emerging from applied collaborative research
- (iv) Potential links with WiCARES project
- (v) Commercial companies could be charged to showcase/evaluating new products (niche markets would need to be identified, but could range from medical device, surgical, diagnostic or pharmaceutical products)
- (vi) The facility could be used to test product compatibility with existing hospital systems
- (vii) Integration would be possible with any existing UHCW clinical trial facility
- (viii) The facility would provide a potential link between the proposed satellite UHCW Vision Works facility & proposed medical science park at Ansty
- (ix) The facility may be utilised in some way to fulfil requirements for medical equipment training at UHCW

The Hospital of the Future' concept is a potentially interesting partnership model between Teknia, GE Healthcare. It includes the use of quality reporting tools and flow management systems (CFM).