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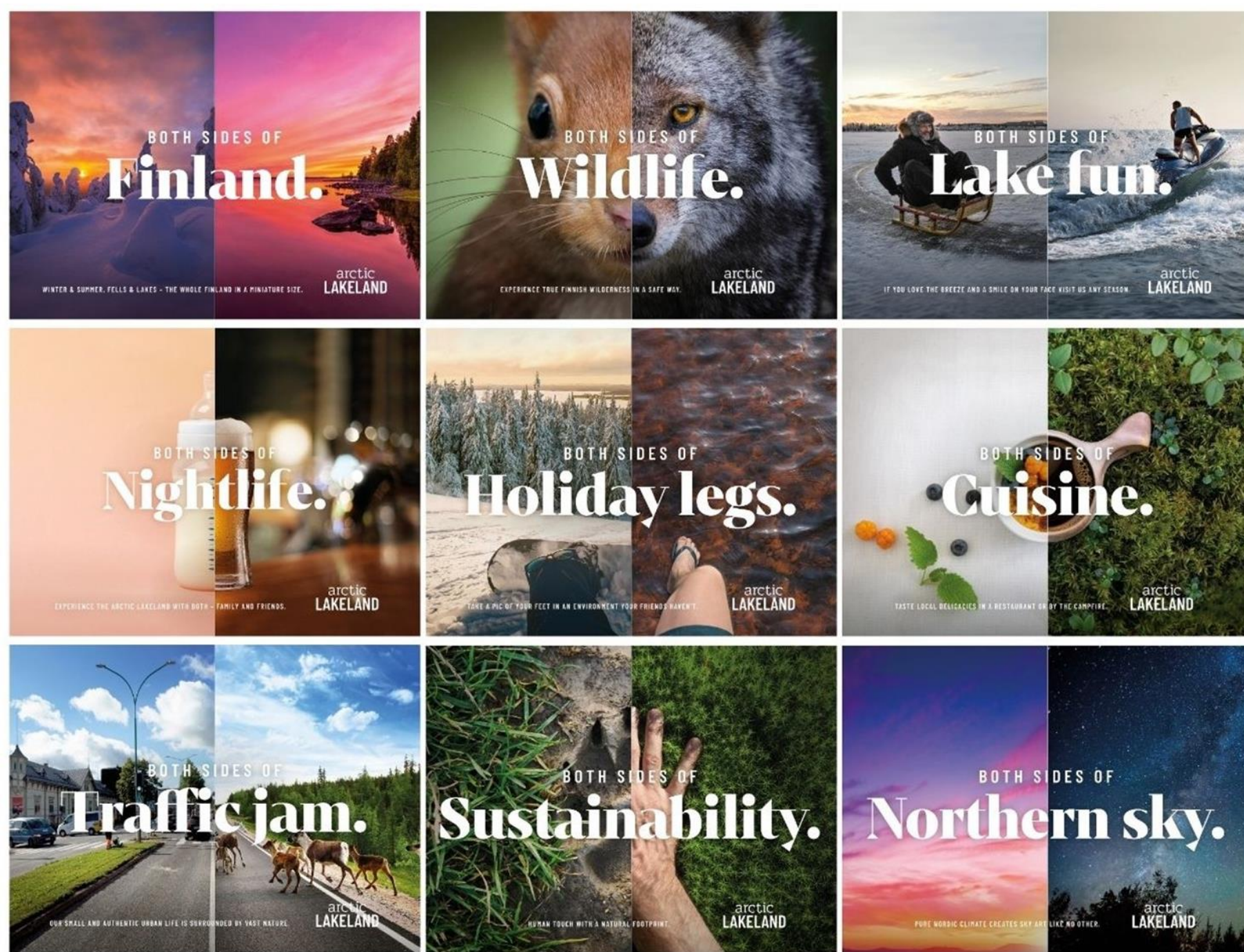
ZCI

# Welcome to Kainuu, Finland!

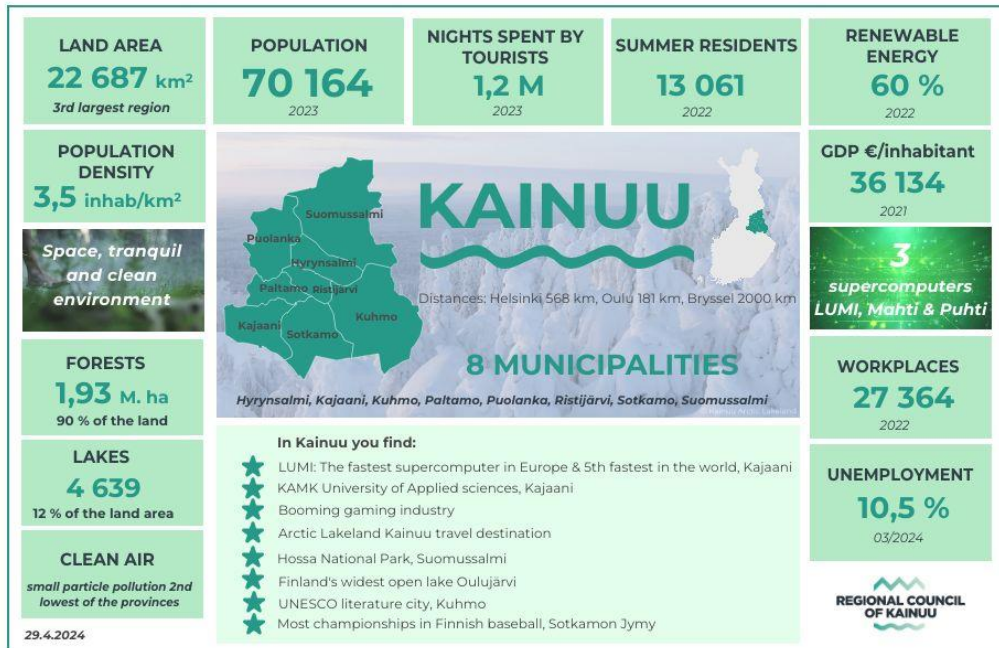
Jouni Ponnikas,  
Regional Development Director  
PP2: Regional Council of Kainuu

14 May 2024 | Kajaani, Finland



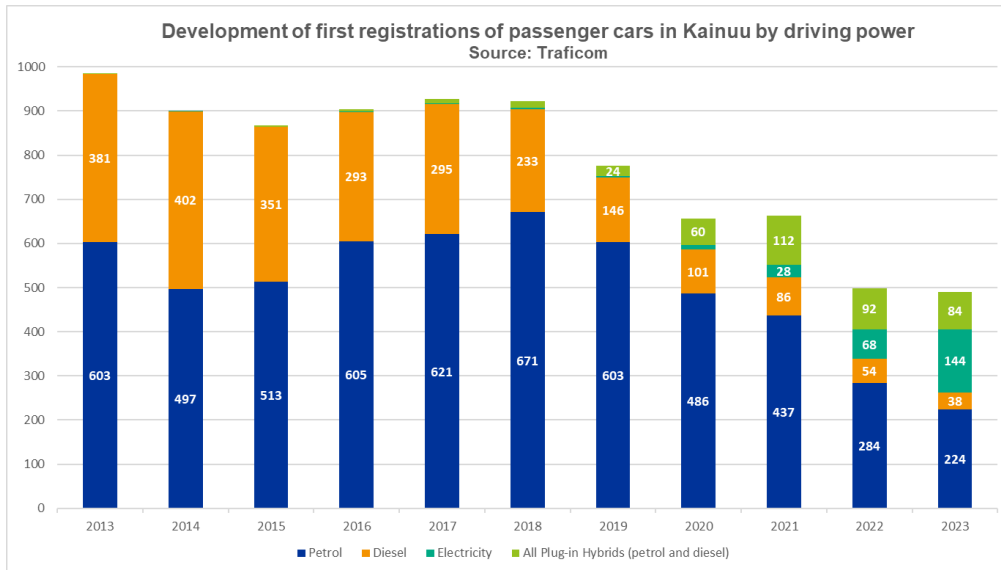


**Kainuu  
region  
has a lot  
to offer!**



# Towards Zero Carbon Infrastructure

- **The population** of Kainuu is decreasing and ageing, and this sets challenges for regional development. However, the regional economy has been able to turn the past negative **structural change** to positive!
- **Accessibility** is an important issue for this remote region by the Russian border. Long distances, sparse population and harsh climate bring their own characteristic to developing the transport system.
- Due to the sparse population, long distances and the partly inadequate public transport, the **number of vehicles** per household is high in Kainuu.
- On the other hand, the vehicle stock tends to be from the older side, and in the national comparison on the **share of EV's**, the Kainuu region has for years been left behind. Yet the situation has started to change.



**KAINUU in 2040 is all about freedom and possibilities for a meaningful life close to nature, attracting positive net migration as well as multilocational inhabitants.**

**KAINUU REGIONAL PROGRAMME 2022 – 2025:**



**WELFARE AND  
EMPLOYMENT**

Welfare and employment  
Regional balance in regional  
development  
Positive regional reputation  
Culture



**LIVELIHOODS AND  
KNOW-HOW**

Skilled workers  
Education and know-how  
Entrepreneurship, investments  
Digital transition  
Smart specialisation  
Spearhead industries



**ACCESSIBILITY AND  
REGIONAL STRUCTURE**

New transport solutions  
eServices  
Infrastructure investments  
Sustainable regional structure  
Multilocationality  
Functioning services



**GREEN AND JUST  
TRANSITION**

A wise structural change  
regarding climate and  
environment  
Innovations, work and  
livelihood from sustainable  
development

**VALUES: POSITIVITY • REGIONAL BALANCE • EQUALITY • SUSTAINABILITY**

**Internationality, co-operation, partnership and contractuality lead to good results.**

# Kainuu Regional Programme 2022–2025

## *Businesses, know-how and the digital transition*

Entrepreneurship, Livelihoods, Investments and Digital Transition

Skilled Workforce

Education and Skills

Smart Specialization

## *Spearheads of Business Development*

Tourism

Technology Industry

Bioeconomy

Mining and Chemical Industry

*Production of EV battery chemicals!*

*Energy related questions included!*

*EV's as a part of the picture!*

## **Green and Just Transition**

## **Accessibility, Regional Structure, and Multi-locationality**

*Accessibility with new mobility solutions and electronic services and with infrastructure investments*

*Sustainable Regional Structure That Supports      Location of Business and Investments, Multi- locationality and Well-functioning Services*

# The Role of Kainuu Regional Council



## Innovation and Skills in Finland

### Themes of the programme

1. Innovative Finland (ERDF)
2. Carbon neutral Finland (ERDF)
3. More accessible Finland (ERDF)
4. Competent and inclusive Finland that provides work (ESF+)
5. Finland of social innovations (ESF+)
6. Finland that prevents material deprivation (ESF+)
7. Finland of just transition (JTF)

- Regional Council of Kainuu is responsible for the general regional policy planning and programmes within the Kainuu region.
- The **Regional plan and regional programme** direct the use of areas, and steer regional development measures. The current Kainuu Regional Plan aims to year 2040 and the Regional Programme covers years 2022- 2025.
- The work to update the two documents has been started in the spring of 2024, and the goal is for the new regional plan 2045 and the regional program 2026-2029 to enter into force on January 1, 2026.
- **Green transition** is naturally one of the points included in the content of both the documents.
- Regional councils grant ERDF and JTF **funding** in their regions, via Innovation and Skills in Finland (AURA) 2021-2027 Programme. The projects funded in Kainuu must be in accordance with the objectives of the funding programme and implement the objectives of Kainuu regional development program, JTF regional plan (JTF projects) as well as Kainuu RIS3 2021 – 2027 (all projects of AURA special target 1.1. Improving research and innovation capabilities and the introduction of advanced technologies.)
- RCK funding for 2021 – 2027: ERDF 30 MEUR, JTF 7 MEUR + small amount of national funding
- The latest funding call in Kainuu was opened on 2.5.2024 and will be open until 6.8.2024. Applications are welcomed **especially for the theme 2: Carbon neutral Finland.**

# Kainuu ERDF funding call 2.5.2024 - 6.8.2024

- All ERDF action lines (1-3) are open
- The total amount of support reserved for the project application AL 1. 1 million AL 2. 1.6 million AL 3. 2.1 million
- The great need for project applications that target Action Line 3 more accessible Finland and its special goal 3.1 Developing Regional local accessibility
- One objective of the Kainuu regional program is the development of the transport green transition and the infrastructure that enables it. RCK is a partner in the **ZCI project** (funded by Interreg Europe program), which promotes this goal. The ERDF funding of the AURA program's action lines 2 and 3 can be allocated to projects promoting the green transition of transport that realize the goals.

# Thank You - Any Questions?

## Regional Development



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