

Together we co-create knowledge, skills and innovations boosting bioeconomy businesses and education

ERDI project aims for better graduate employability, improved competitiveness of the regional economy and increased bioeconomy business to gain better income in the future. In a long term the aim is to bring prosperity in the remote and rural regions.

ERDI Partnerships

ERDI partnership relies on multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral combination of expertise and competences of European university, university of applied sciences and business partners from Czech, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands and Slovakia. The consortium involves Canadian associated partners from New Brunswick region. Karelia University of Applied Sciences coordinates the entity.



Karelia University of Applied Sciences is a significant and well-recognised actor both in the regional development and research and in the development and innovation activities (RDI). In the bioeconomy related RDI Karelia is one of the leading UASes in Finland.



Regional Council of North Karelia is a public regional authority specified in the Regional Development Act (national law) in charge of economic development, regional planning and the creation of knowledge infrastructure.



ProAgria North Karelia is a member of ProAgria Group, which provides farm and agriculture entrepreneurs with services to enhance competitiveness in Finland and abroad.

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ERDI semester has started: “There are lot of things to bring home with”

The first international ERDI course “[Bioeconomy HUB](#)” for spring semester 2017 started at the end of January at the Karelia University of Applied Sciences. The first course Strategic Regional Planning is part of a bigger module “Innovation Ecosystem”. The main part of the course is to help students to understand the concepts of bioeconomy, regional development and sustainable growth. The first course focuses on finding, understanding and applying strategic development documents at regional level. Students elaborate project ideas and make plans, communicate effectively in diverse teams and learn how to involve relevant stakeholders into regional development processes. So far in addition to the lectures the students have had a full day excursion in the municipality of Juuka, where they explored the local bioenergy production sites and local companies.

Great learning possibility, say the ERDI students:

Jenny-Mari Hartikainen, Savonia UAS, Finland: “The best thing is that you can learn from each other and not just from your own point of view. You see a larger picture.”

Tomas Billik, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra: “The practice is the key to see, what is really going on around here. The environment here is the biggest advantage”.

Luc LeBlanc from CCNB, Canada: “It is really nice to be able to network with people around the world in the area of agriculture and forestry. For us in marketing, networking is the most important thing. We can build bonds here.”



From the left: Students Tomas Billik, Jenny-Mari Hartikainen and Luc LeBlanc



Students visiting the municipality of Juuka.