



IMPACTFUL REGIONAL RTDI DEVELOPMENT OF WOOD-BASED SECTOR IN EASTERN FINLAND: PUHTIA, KIERTOBIO, FOREST.JOENSUU



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OBJECTIVE Regional ecosystem of forest bioeconomy and Triple Helix network was established in Mid-2010's in North Karelia, Finland, and further developed towards RTDI collaboration between cutting-edge research, education, world-class companies and public decision-making and funding bodies – providing the Forest.Joensuu brand for the sector. Projects PUHTIA (1/2024 – 5/2026) and KIERTOBIO (11/2025 – 5/2026) of UEF, Luke and Karelia UAS are the recent steps to strengthen the testing capacity, research competence, service production and all-level collaboration in RTDI and business.

PUHTIA focuses on durability and surface properties of wood, value add of mycelium-based materials, biomass processing into chemicals, hydrogen economy and energy storage. Several companies in wood and biohybrid products, wood construction and biorefining sector in Eastern Finland started or increased product development collaboration with demo research with UEF and Luke, leading to a mutual competitive advantage and knowledge and information exchange.

KiertoBIO aims to develop bio-circular solutions and value chains as a part of forest bioeconomy, future wood utilization and industrial wood construction. The tasks cover 1) Total sustainability of processes and products, 2) Value chains and value-add, 3) Research and testing resources and shared use of laboratory capacity, 4) Collaboration to support bio-circular economy and increasing international and domestic recognition of RTDI practitioners and industries of the region.

Primary links <https://woodjoensuu.fi/>, <https://businessjoensuu.fi/en/forestjoensuu/>, <https://www.luke.fi/projects/puhtia-keh>, <https://www.luke.fi/projects/kiertob-keh>

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