

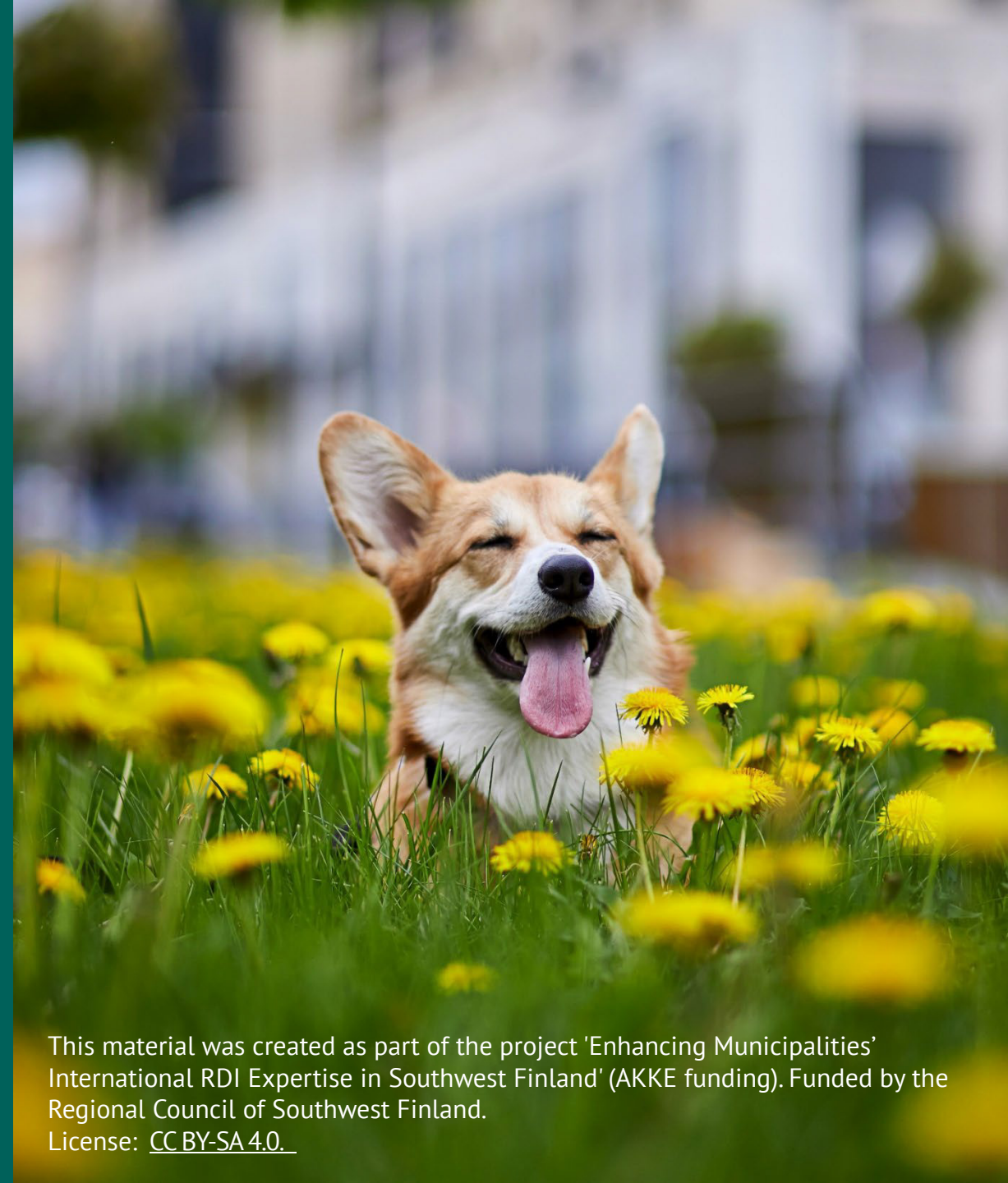
Municipal RDI Profile

Background Material

Updated 04/2026

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1. Background: Southwest Finland —A Strong Region for RDI!

- The municipal RDI profile model was developed as part of Increasing the international RDI competence of municipalities in Southwest Finland project. Coordinated by Turku UAS and funded by the Regional Council of Southwest Finland (AKKE, 2025-2026).
- During the project phase, the RDI profile model was piloted in four municipalities: Naantali, Kaarina, Salo, and Uusikaupunki.
- Collaboration to strengthen municipal RDI expertise and growth continues, and this RDI profile material is one example of that effort.



2. Why RDI matters for municipalities?

- Municipal financial uncertainty increases the need for **new, low-risk ways to develop services**
- Externally funded RDI enables safe **development, piloting and renewal**
- Broad partnerships and access to the **latest knowledge**

Key benefits for municipalities

- **Development without risking basic funding**
- **Stronger vitality and well-being through new service solutions**
- **Agile experimentation** before permanent decisions
- New expertise and best practices via networks and shared learning

3. The Impact of RDI Projects

Why does project impact matter?

- Demonstrates the project's effectiveness both internally and externally
- Boosts team motivation and highlights the implementation of the strategy
- Shows how the project advances organizational goals and addresses identified challenges
- During the application phase, the desired measurable change is defined
- Impact is tracked using clear indicators (e.g., solutions developed, target audience reached)



4. Definition of RDI and the Profiling Process

- **Research-, Development- and Innovation Activities (RDI)** = externally funded research- and development projects



5. What is the outcome of this process?

RDI Profile -Business Card

- One-pager about the municipality's RDI strengths and weaknesses
- Meant for the municipality's own networks and for other interested bodies

RDI Business Card

Our municipality's RDI strengths and opportunities!

RDI-Profile -Internal Tool

- PowerPoint -presentation about status of municipal RDI activities, and creating a RDI roadmap
- For internal municipal use
- Our goal is to strengthen and monitor RDI activities –ensuring effective RDI work in the municipality –and supporting ongoing development

RDI Profile

This is the kind of project partner we are and what we want to develop!





6. Possible Roles for a Municipality in RDI Projects

There are many ways for a municipality to participate in and be involved in a project. For each project, the municipality should assess which role is appropriate at a given time and what best supports its strategic goals. Defining the role also helps in evaluating and selecting projects.

Partner

- Active participant in the project
- Allocated project staff
- Own project administration
- Municipal co-funding share included in the municipal budget

Development platform

- Pilot site for the project
- May be linked to specific areas of municipal development
- Focus on testing and implementing new practices
- No project funding, but internal costs may arise (unit's own budget)

Network Facilitator

- For example, the municipality promotes and connects companies to participate in projects
- Often operated through the economic development unit and/or business services
- Builds connections between local actors and project networks

Advisor/Enabler

- Project theme is important and supports municipal strategy
- Municipality collaborates with key partners
- Typical roles include:
 - Member of the project steering group
 - Providing support and guidance



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