

Materials and results from the UEF-TKI panel discussion and workshop 3.12.2025



SESSION 3

Driving Vitality and Growth from the Academy

Keynote

Ville Leinonen, Professor

This session is organized in collaboration with the UEF-RDI ERDF project





Clinical RDI Ecosystem in North Savo

- Driving Vitality and Growth from the Academy

"Medical Research Center Kuopio"

Key Enablers for Success?

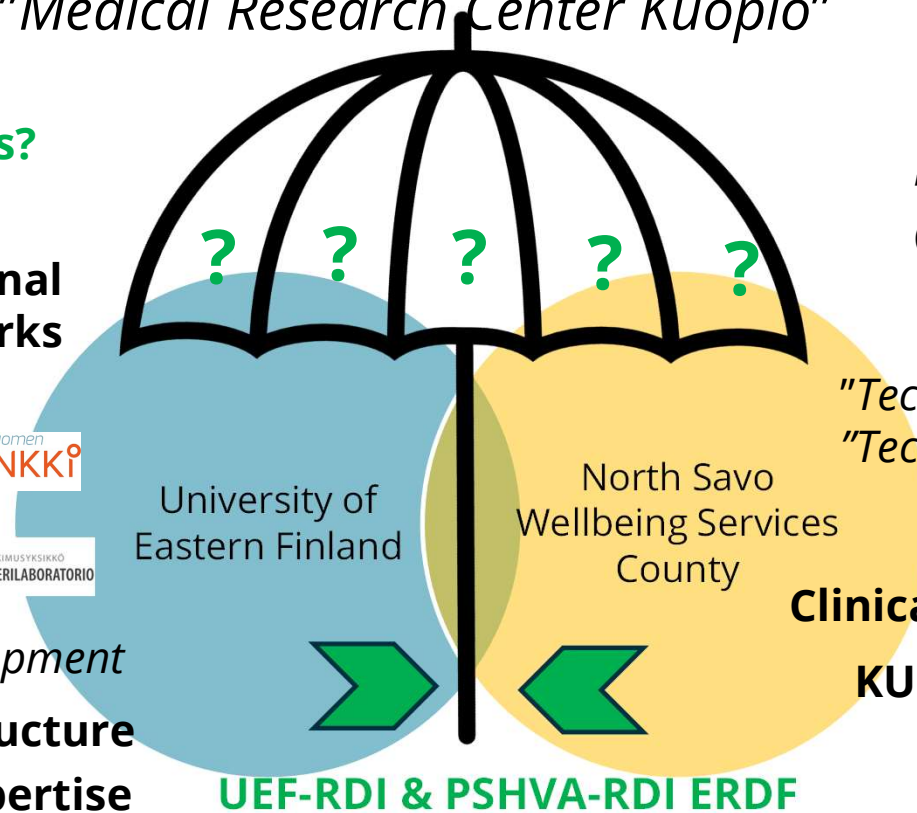
Local, National and International Partners and Networks



UEF Campus Development

Cutting Edge RDI Infrastructure

World-Class Research and Expertise



"FinTrials"
(National One-Stop-Shop)

"Tech Transfer Ltd"
"Tech Transfer Fund"

Clinical Trial Office

KUH infrastructure

YTA infrastructure

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9.12.2025



Key Enablers for Success?

- Accessible Expertise and Services – Easy access to top-tier knowledge and support
- Strategic Infrastructure Development – Building a strong foundation for innovation
- Unified Processes – Streamlined operations for efficiency and impact
- Smart Organization – Clear structures that drive collaboration
- Collaborative Partnerships – Working together for greater results
- Effective Resourcing – Ensuring the right capabilities at the right time
- Incentives for Innovation – Motivating progress and excellence
- Shared Vision – A strong commitment to common goals



UEF-RDI: Driving Vitality and Growth from the Academy

What will be our strengths in the future?



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Please submit your thoughts during the following panel discussion.

www.menti.com



SESSION 3

Driving Vitality and Growth from the Academy

ERDF Project Introductions

Professor Aarno Dietz & Project Leader Ville Saari (Hearing Valley)

Research Director Kirsi Ketola & Project Manager Mikko Karjalainen (Living biobank)

Research Manager Jaana Hartikainen & Project Coordinator Hanna Peltonen (DNA-TUUMA)

Development manager Anna Karjalainen (UEF-RDI)

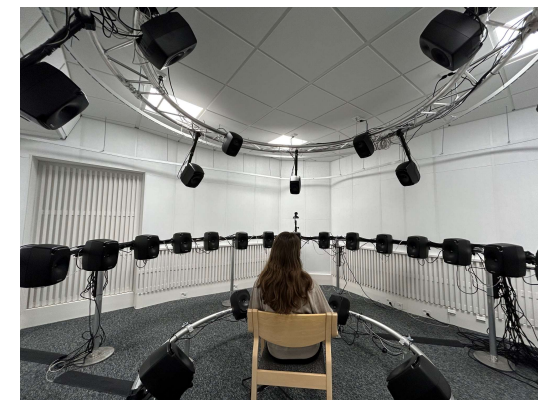


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Hearing Valley

- 01.01.2025-31.12.2025, ERDF
- Development and Investment projects
- Project establishes a new hearing research laboratory by:
 1. Building and equipping a new laboratory space
 2. Kickstarting the operation with pilot studies
 3. Starting a business ecosystem
 4. Making hearing data available for researchers
 5. Surveying educational needs

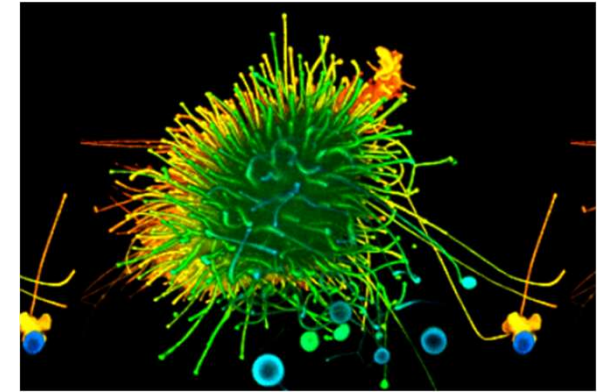




SYLI – Living Biobank – Cancer laboratory

- 01.01.2025 – 30.06.2027, ERDF
- Investment and development project
- Aims to Build a Cancer Laboratory that integrates biobank samples, imaging, single-cell technologies and bioinformatics into one service pipeline.
 1. Establish the Cancer Laboratory RDI infrastructure and build a business service concept for it.
 2. Develop and test a new service concept through two company pilots.
 3. Strengthen collaboration between the university and the industry.
 4. Increase recognition of regional expertise nationally and internationally.
- Open kick-off event (hybrid), including Open Doors at CTIU, 9.12.2025 at 12-15:30.

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UEF DNA-TUUMA

New solutions with DNA analytics – Health, biodiversity and food safety, sustainably

DNA-analytiikalla uusia ratkaisuja - Terveyttä, luonnon monimuotoisuutta ja elintarviketurvallisuutta kestävästi

- 1.1.2026 - 30.6.2027, ERDF
- Investment and development project
- Aims to drive innovation through advanced molecular biology methods.
 1. Strengthen the RDI infrastructure by acquiring a high-tech molecular biology analysis instrument (digital PCR).
 2. Identify, implement, and develop new analysis applications based on industry needs.
 3. Ensure access to modern molecular biology technologies and leverage the expertise gained during the project to support regional growth.
 4. Create new service pathways and foster cross-sectoral networks as well as multidisciplinary RDI and collaboration opportunities.
- Open kick-off event for DNA-TUUMA in the beginning of 2026 (to be announced later).



Gene Diagnostics



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UEF Clinical RDI Ecosystem (UEF-RDI)

- 01.09.2025 - 31.08.2026, ERDF
- Parallel project in collaboration with North Savo Wellbeing Services County (PSHVA-RDI)
- Aims to revive and strengthen clinical RDI in North Savo, ensuring quicker innovation, growth, and delivery of health solutions.
 1. Review and update clinical RDI operations and processes
 2. Enhance service design and improve accessibility of services
 3. Foster strategic alignment and cooperation between UEF and PSHVA
 4. Foster regional economic development and reinforce industry collaboration
- Kick-off event (online) 9th Dec 2025 at 1-3 pm, welcome!

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Panel Discussion

Professor Aarno Dietz & Project Leader Ville Saari (Hearing Valley)

Research Director Kirsi Ketola & Project Manager Mikko Karjalainen (Living biobank)

Research Manager Jaana Hartikainen & Project Coordinator Hanna Peltonen (DNA-TUUMA)

Development manager Anna Karjalainen (UEF-RDI)



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Photos from the panel discussion 3.12.2025





Workshop summary 3.12.2025

- 70 participants in the audience

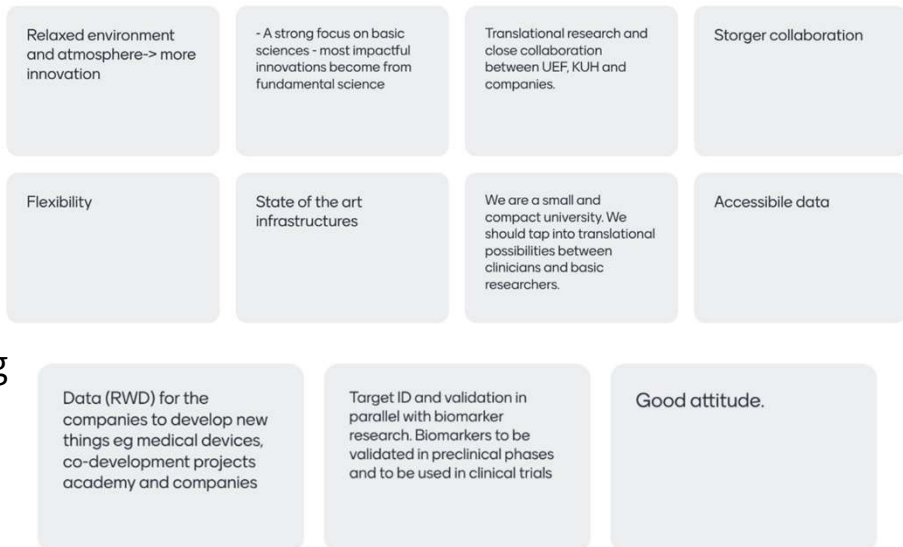
Take home messages (Mentimeter summary):

- **An Atmosphere that Supports Innovation:** Relaxation and openness foster creativity and new ideas.
- **Strong Investment in Basic Sciences:** The most significant innovations often originate from fundamental research.
- **Translational Research and Collaboration:** Close cooperation between UEF, KUH, and companies.
- **Flexibility and World-Class Infrastructure:** Enable rapid response and high-quality research.
- **The Advantage of a Small and Compact University:** Leveraging collaboration between clinicians and basic researchers.
- **The Importance of Data (RWD):** Valuable for companies in product development, e.g., medical devices and co-development projects.
- **Biomarker Research:** Identification and validation of targets in preclinical stages and clinical studies.
- **Positive Attitude and Ability to Collaborate:** Key success factors for the future.

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UEF-RDI

Driving Vitality and Growth from the Academy - What will be our strengths in the future?



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