



## Speed to Raise the Business District of Southern Kuopio with the EU Assistance

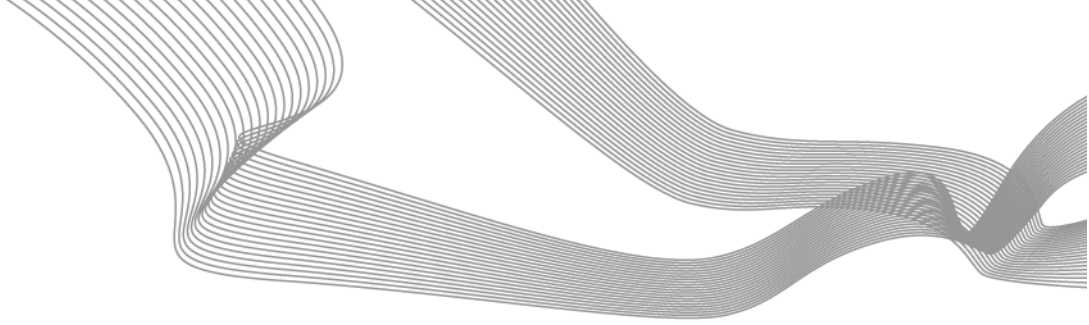
The development projects sponsored by the EU will aim at permanent functionalities and structural effects. With regard to their effects, the most comprehensive and far-reaching technical projects sponsored by the EU in Pohjois-Savo is the business district of Southern Kuopio. The project includes the business districts of Matkus, Kylvämäki, Pieni Neulamäki and Leväsenlampi.

For the project scheme, the Regional Council of Pohjois-Savo has granted about 3.5 million Euros originated from the European Regional Development Fund and the State Co-financing. The money was used to build an interchange, streets, water supply, as well as central heating and electricity networks.

### Many New Job Positions

The business district of Southern Kuopio is composed of a versatile concentration of services that relies on the current and new community structure, as well as on local technical networks, as if it was the southern gate of Kuopio. The concentration of logistics offering good conditions for the placement of large attractive businesses, such as IKEA. The block area of industrial and commercial buildings is very accessible and attracts more visibility to Viitostie (National Road 5). The building rights to the district will bring more than 250,000 square metres of floor area.

The district business project has generated additional constructions, originating lots of temporary jobs which will change into permanent positions in the future. Matkus alone is estimated to have originated around one thousand new jobs altogether, of which half are positions for women.



The cooperation of different complexes has worked in a flexible and cost-effective manner in the business district project. The City of Kuopio implemented the streets and its owned enterprises, water supply and energy networks in the same service, which brought significant cost savings. The junction to the public motorway was made in cooperation with the Finnish Transport Agency.

The implementation of the business district of Southern Kuopio is almost half-way through. It becomes expanded at the same time when the concentrations of the logistics and metal industry grow together. This concentration is believed to promote innovations and synergy in the business activities. Renowned companies will attract similar agents to the district.

**Basic information of the Project Scheme:**

<b>Objective:</b>	Regional competitiveness and employment
<b>Programme:</b>	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Operational Programme for Eastern Finland
<b>Priority axis:</b>	3. Improvement of the accessibility of areas and the operating environment
<b>Total Costs:</b>	7 160 000 €
<b>Assistance (EU + Gov.):</b>	3 536 000 €
<b>Period</b>	1.1.2008 – 30.9.2010
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Regional Council of Pohjois-Savo
<b>Realisation:</b>	City of Kuopio Kuopion Energia Kuopion Vesi