

# Quality, impact and effectiveness of RDI activities at Lahti University of Applied Sciences

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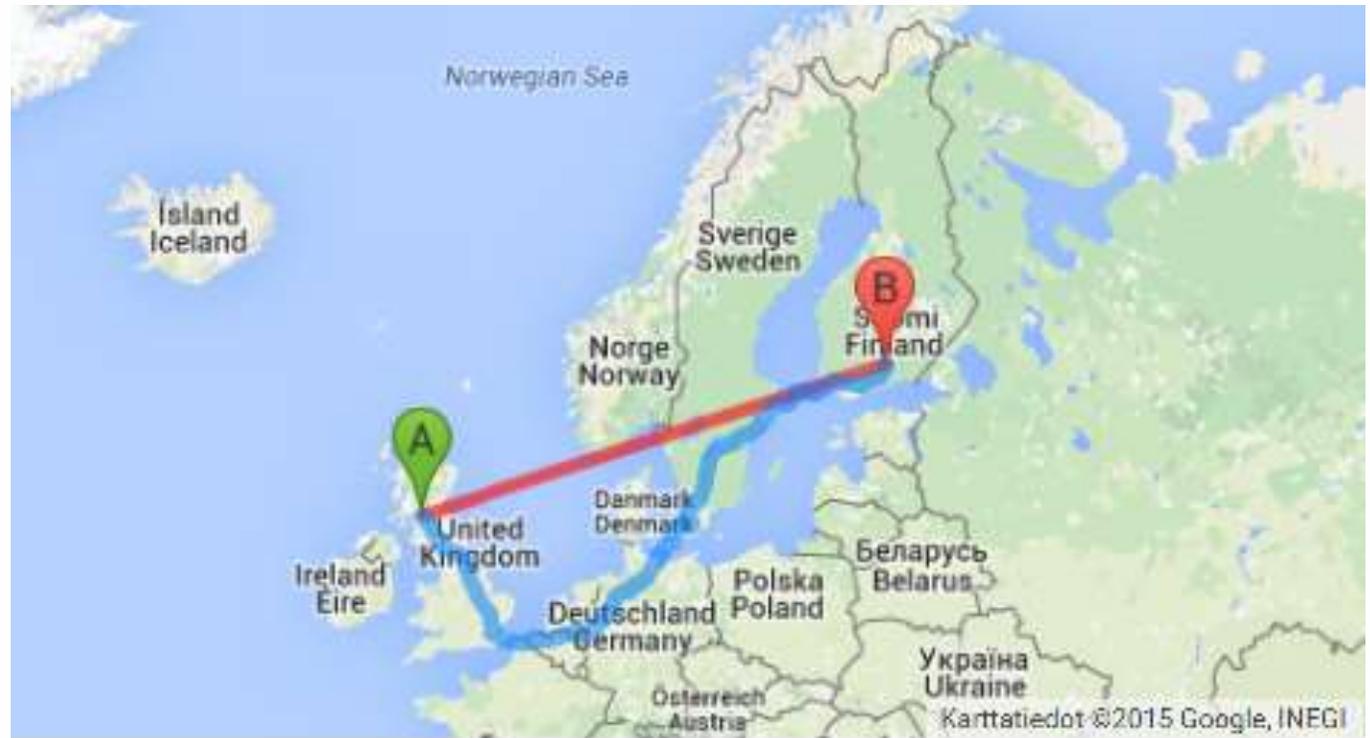
**Higher Education Institutional Research (HEIR) Network Conference 2015**

University of the West of Scotland, Paisley Campus, Scotland, UK

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## City of Lahti

- 8<sup>th</sup> largest city in Finland (Population: 100 000 residents)
- Part of the Helsinki metropolitan area
- Central location with easy connections to major cities
  - Helsinki 1 hour and St. Petersburg 2.5 hours by train
  - Glasgow 3 000 km by car



**Glasgow - Lahti: 1 816 km**

# Purpose of this institutional case study

is to introduce the quality system of RDI at Lahti UAS and its future development, and tell a story: “How we enhance the practice of RDI at Lahti UAS.”



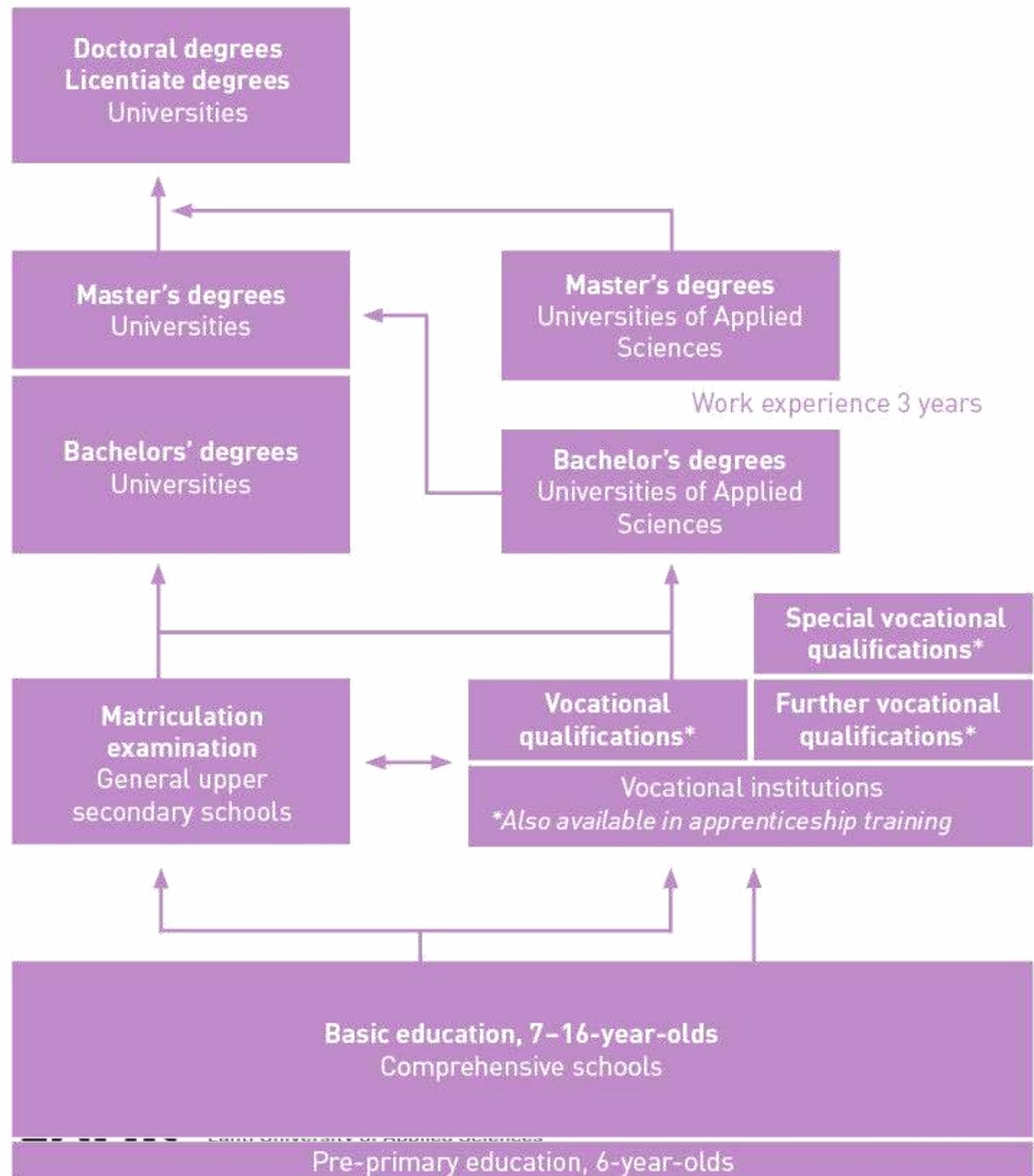
# Structure of presentation

1. Introduction
2. The corner stones of RDI
3. The results of the external audit by international evaluators
4. The future steps





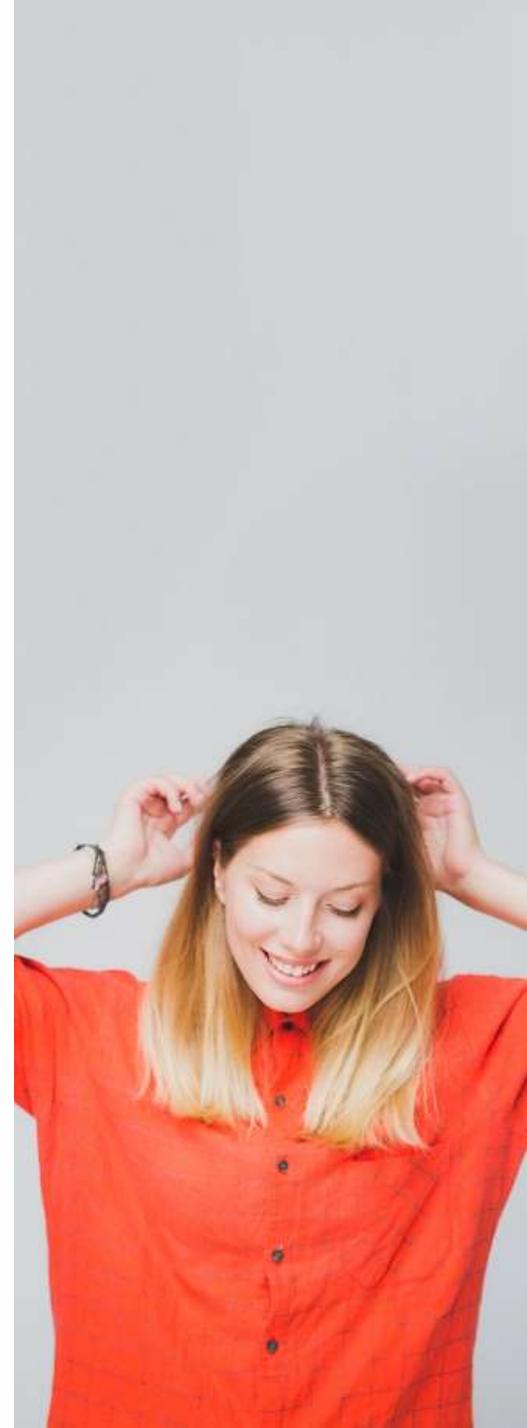
## The Finnish Education system "The dual model"



# Lahti University of Applied Sciences

Educational fields:

- **Welfare**
- **Business**
- **Design**
- **Technology**
  
- Turnover appr. 40 million euros
- Over 5 000 students
- 29 Bachelor's and 8 Master's Degree Programmes
- Around 400 staff members



## RDI at Lahti UAS

One of our statutory task is to conduct applied research, development and innovation (RDI) activities for the benefit of the employment sector, regional development and Lahti UAS education.

The RDI activities are work-related and aimed at finding, developing and producing new or improved products, production systems, methods and services for the region's needs.

Measurable outcomes/key indicators:

- External RDI funding (€)
- Number of published reports, articles, scientific papers



# 2. Corner stone of RDI: Quality

## PDCA –cycle of RDI

### PLAN

Lahti UAS strategy

RDI strategy \*

Annual budget and action plan/report of Lahti UAS

Action plans (RDI and faculties)

\* Europe 2020 – EU's growth strategy, regional programmes and strategies

### DO

Project management

- instructions

Publication

- instructions

RDI and project services

- development of competencies

- project support

- communication services

- system for project management

- IRP, research permits

### ACT

Developmental discussions

Development workbook

Strategic development projects of RDI

Development plans

Updating of instructions

Strategic workshops of Lahti UAS management group

### CHECK

RDI reviews & self-evaluations

Feedback surveys

Quarterly reviews based on RDI key indicators

Performance analysis

Constant dialogue

- Project staff meetings & steering groups

- Meetings with RDI-services and faculties

- RDI group

- Focus area and profile teams

- Master of education development team

- Publication committee

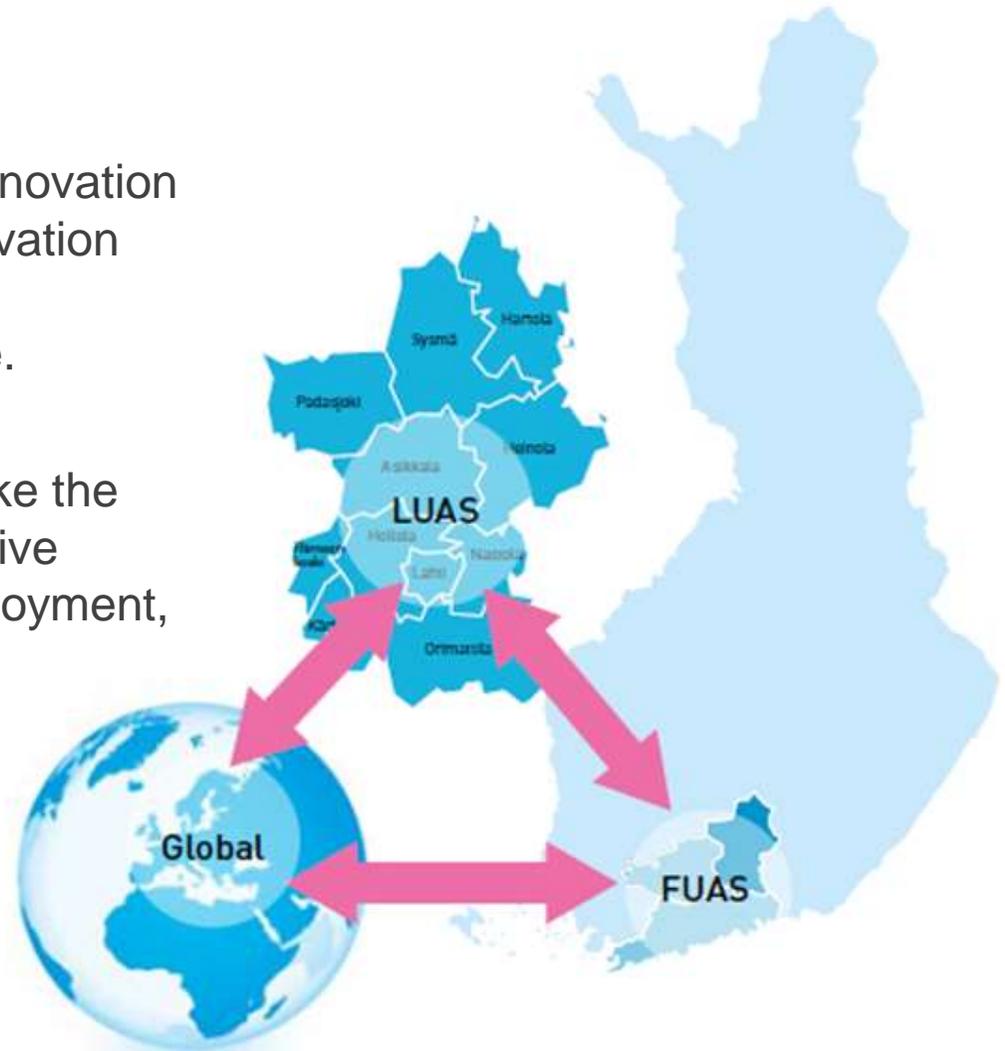
Indicators, systems, statistics

Management of RDI

Support services

# Corner stone of RDI: Impact

- Lahti UAS operates in the global innovation system as part of the regional innovation ecosystems of the wider Helsinki metropolitan area and Päijät-Häme.
- We are involved in the effort to make the EU a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy and to achieve high employment, productivity and social cohesion.



# Regional Impact

- Sustainable business partnerships and active student involvement in RDI-projects.
- Participation in regional strategy work and innovation activities
- Creation of innovation platforms in the regional areas of focus
- Active in internationalisation of the region.  
(last year: 432 exchange students)



## Corner stone of RDI: effectiveness (2014)

RDI volume (Million €)	6,3
Publications	230 (incl. 67 artistic work)
Personnel man-years in RDI	61,5

2014



# 3. Results of the external audit by international evaluators (Descheemaeker et al. 2015)



## Strengths:

- competent staff
- RDI know-how
- open organisation culture
- versatile methods in carrying out RDI activities
- early stage integration of teaching and learning and RDI activities
- authentic, real life RDI environments for students
- teachers involvement in project planning
- planning and monitoring of the projects

# 3. Results of the external audit by international evaluators (Descheemaeker et al. 2015)



## Weaknesses:

- evaluation of the projects
- guidance of students in the projects
- link of project assessment with assessment of student`s competences

# 4. Future steps

New practices in use

- Stakeholder`s satisfaction analysis
- A client brief in those integrated learning projects, which are carried out with partners
- Students systematically reflect on their learning and development of competences and align with outcomes-based learning with teachers

# Next evaluations

- November 2015 - Self evaluation
- March 2016 - External international audit



# Thank You!

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An aerial photograph of Lahti, Finland, showing a mix of industrial buildings and residential areas along a large lake. The foreground features several large, multi-story industrial buildings with dark roofs and brick facades. In the middle ground, there are several tall, white, cylindrical chimneys or towers. The background shows a dense residential area with multi-story apartment buildings and green trees. The lake is large and blue, with a forested peninsula in the distance. The sky is clear and blue.

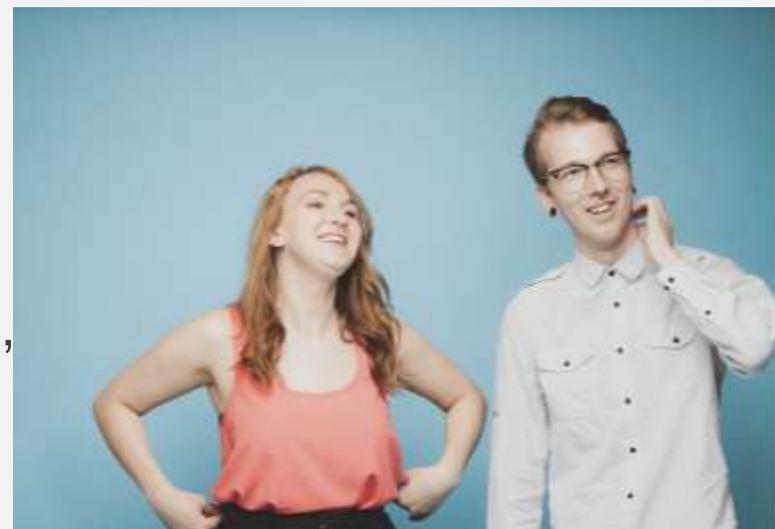
**Welcome to Lahti, Finland 10-12.5.2016!**  
**Smart Cities in Smart Regions 2016 Conference**

# Lahti UAS vision 2020

Insightful, experiential and exploratory Lahti UAS 2020 is an international builder of future learning and, a prime mover of regional growth.

## Lahti UAS values

- The joy of mutual exploration
- The facilitation of insightful learning experiences, valuable work, expertise and success



# Finnish Science and Technology System

