

# City as an Innovation Platform

## Testbed Helsinki

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**Mr. Kimmo Heinonen**  
**Chief Advisor**  
**City of Helsinki**  
**Economic Development Department**  
<https://testbed.helsinki/en>

EUSDR Thematic Conference on Innovation & Digitization





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# A pioneering region for education, skills & RDI

In the Helsinki metropolitan area:

11

higher education institutions

90,000

higher education students

31%

of Finnish higher education students

44%

of residents have completed higher education

56%

of jobs in the Finnish creative industries

60%

of start-ups in Finland

44%

of the national R&D expenses

Helsinki



Image: Maija Astikainen



# Objectives

- To develop the entire city\* into a platform for testing and enabling innovative solutions
- To accelerate RDI activities of companies
- To create new business opportunities and jobs
- To provide Helsinkians with better services and a high quality living environment.

\*City of Helsinki can offer its resources/assets (infrastructure, land, buildings, streets, procurements and investments, service production etc.) as testbeds/platforms for companies and other partners to test and develop new solutions. City as a testbed/innovation platform is an integral part of Helsinki's economic policy.



# Helsinki Testbeds

City level co-ordination and development by Economic Development Department

Communications

Co-development methods

Cooperation with city divisions

- Innovation Agents

Cooperation with companies

## Thematic Testbeds

### Health & Wellbeing

Kalasatama  
Health&Wellbeing Centre  
Clinical Trials  
Digital homecare  
Kustaankartano Senior  
Centre  
Preventive Health &  
Wellbeing

### EdTech

Schools (elementary and  
secondary education)  
Entire City as a Learning  
Environment  
Helsinki Education Hub  
Libraries  
Museums

### Built Environment

Construction & Built  
Environment  
Energy Efficiency  
Renewable Energy  
Circular Economy  
Air Quality

### Smart Mobility

Jätkäsaari Mobility Lab

### Digitalisation & Data-driven Solutions

IoT  
5G  
AI  
3D City Models

# Means and Methods of innovation platform activities

- **Agile pilot projects, innovation challenges**
  - Are organised regularly
  - Are based on the needs of the city
  - Costs are covered by the city
- **Company-driven pilot projects**
  - Are based on requests from companies
  - City evaluates possibilities to implement a pilot
  - Costs are not covered
- **Innovative procurement**
  - Building links between innovation platforms and city's procurement
  - Contributing to emergence of innovation-friendly economy
- **RDI projects**
  - Utilisation of external funding, especially EU funding
- **Active cooperation with city divisions**
  - "Innovation Agents"
- **Cooperation with other platforms**
  - Cooperation with private platforms and platforms managed by RDI organisations (eg. Pasila 5G, Maria Living Lab)







# Helsinki welcomes everyone with the passion to solve meaningful challenges

Helsinki

**Kimmo Heinonen**

kimmo.o.heinonen@hel.fi

+358 40 1727807

<https://testbed.helsinki/en>

@TestbedHelsinki

Images: Eliel Kilkki & Ben Daley; Jussi Hellsten

The background is a solid dark blue. In the top-left corner, there is a cluster of geometric shapes: a yellow semi-circle, a blue triangle, a white semi-circle, a yellow triangle, and a white and black checkerboard pattern. In the bottom-left corner, there is a yellow semi-circle, a blue square, a white square, a blue square, and a yellow diamond. In the top-right corner, there is a white and black checkerboard pattern, a blue square, and a white square. In the bottom-right corner, there is a large yellow circle, a blue circle, a white circle, a yellow square, a blue square, and a white square.

**Thank you for your  
attention**