# 6AIKA –
# THE SIX CITY STRATEGY

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# Nationally significant cooperation strategy

- The Six City Strategy is nationally significant: the six largest cities in Finland are home to **some 30% of the population**. The strategy improves the service processes of these cities and their functionality over municipal borders. The utilization of the largest urban regions as development **environments for new innovations also strengthens Finland's competitiveness**.

- The European Union, the Six Cities and the state of Finland are funding Six City projects with nearly 80 million euros. In addition to this, Six City Strategy projects can utilize funding from the European Social Fund.

# The Six City Strategy

- **The Six City Strategy – Open and smart services** is a strategy for sustainable urban development carried out by the six largest cities in Finland: Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Tampere, Turku and Oulu. **The first objective** of the strategy, which will be carried out in 2014–2020, is **to create new know-how, business and jobs in Finland.** The strategy is a part of the implementation of Finland's structural fund programme for sustainable growth and jobs 2014–2020.

- **The second objective** of the Six City Strategy is to **improve the services offered by cities**, increase the competitiveness of businesses and **enable more widespread participation** in development work. In addition to this, the accessibility, effectiveness and productivity of services will be improved through, for example, the development of online services. Once these objectives are met, cities will be better equipped to respond to future challenges and promote sustainable urban development.

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# The Six City Strategy

- The programme is built on three focus areas: **open innovation platforms, open data and interfaces, and open participation**. The main idea is to view **cities as platforms,** whose operations and services should be developed in ways that also allow easier participation by third parties.

- The Six City Strategy is being implemented  through projects funded by **ERDF and ESF**.  All the implemented projects are **joint city projects** carried out by several operators. Each project should include operators from the areas of at least two of the six cities. In addition to city organisations, these operators may include other public operators as well as third sector operators.

- Funding for joint projects can be primarily applied for through open calls for proposals, which are usually organised twice a year.

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# Open innovation platforms
# - Developing together

- **Open innovation platforms are functional elements** in city community that are creating ground for new solution creation and from there on enable new business creation.

- An open innovation platform consists of **infrastructure, physical and virtual elements, productized processes and community members that form a strong value added environment**.

- The primary target of the Open Innovation Platforms -focus area is to improve Finland's national competiveness by **building a strong network of open innovation platforms defined by the six largest cities in Finland**. Utilizing the **wide variety of knowledge and specialization in the cities, the best practices and concepts** are collected to form an excellent basis for new type of city business modeling (Smart Market Creation).

# Open innovation platforms – Competing together

- The goal of the **open innovation platform concept is to offer a "one-door" – solution** for focus groups. The other main objective is to **offer a structured platform** for digitalization of municipality services, **involve** the companies and community members in creating new innovative ways to implement services and thus utilize all available local resources.

- With this model the role of the city will **evolve from service provider to service creation enabler.**

- The sharing of the **best practices** and co-operation between all six cities by utilizing concept models and processes is in the core of development. This will in turn enable the **scalability and multiplication of the benefits** compared to independent platforms.

- **Six together is more competitive than a six-platforms-stand-alone approach**.

# Open Innovation Platforms – the expected national results of the spearhead project