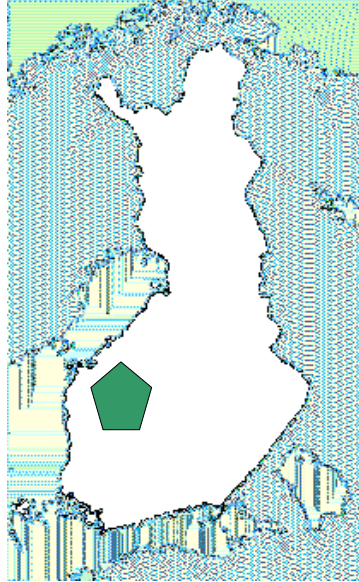


Characteristics of the South Ostrobothnia



* The number of small enterprises per capita is one of the highest in the whole country

* Small firms are specialised to the traditional branches of business, important clusters; **food, metal processing, wood (furnitures) and building construction** – mainly to domestic markets

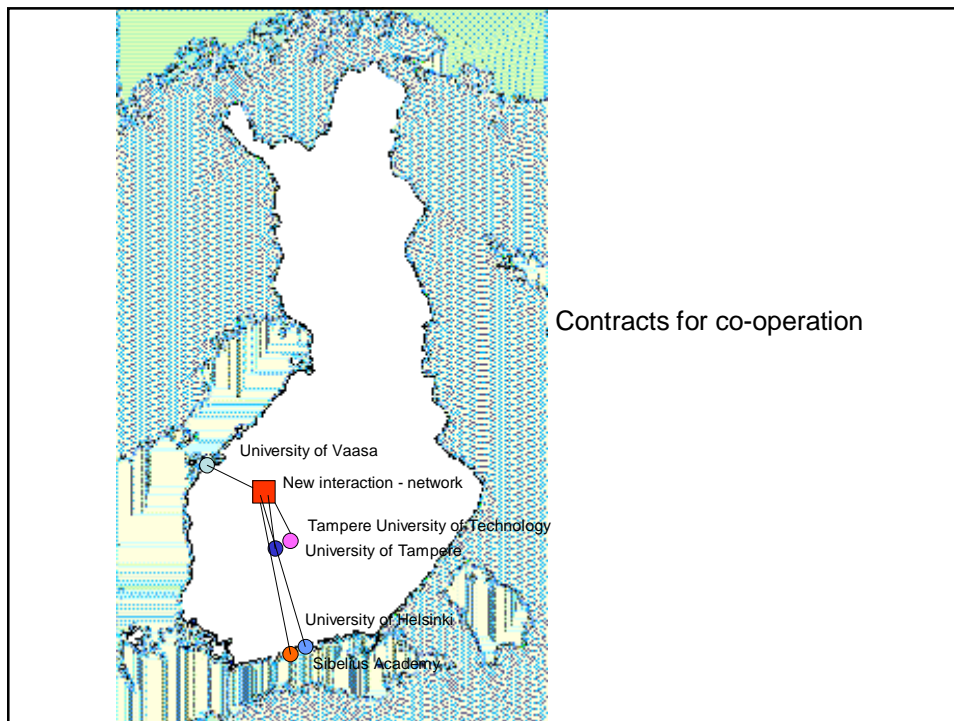
• The level of education, in terms of university level, is one of the lowest in country

• Pragmatic orientation to development of the economy – low intensity of research & development



* A non-urban region which is dominated by rural but quite densely populated areas

In late 90's region faced the challenge of internationalization and decline of population rate
– **totally new and more dynamic strategy was needed**



Programme agreement in 2001- expression of common will

Signatories

Academic organizations:

- University of Helsinki
- Sibelius Academy
- University of Tampere
- Tampere University of Technology
- University of Vaasa
- Seinäjoki Polytechnic (University of applied sciences)

Regional public authorities

- University Association of South Ostrobothnia
- Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia
- South Ostrobothnia Health Care District
- Employment and Economic Development Centre of South Ostrobothnia
- State Provincial Office of Western Finland
- City of Seinäjoki



New Seinäjoki Science Park



<p>University of Tampere (1981)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institute for Extension Studies (TYT) - Regional Development Research Unit (SENTE) - Medical school - School of Nursing - Department of Computer Science 	<p>University of Helsinki (1988)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ruralia Institute - Department of Food Technology 	<p>Sibelius Academy (1991)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing Education Center - Folk Music Department
<p>University of Vaasa, 1998</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seinäjoki Unit - Department of Management - Department of Marketing - Department of Production Management 	<p>Tampere University of Technology, 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seinäjoki Unit - Digital Media Institute (DMI) - Institute of Machine design - Institute of Materials Science - Institute of Structural Engineering - Institute of Production Engineering 	<p>University Consortium of Seinäjoki, 2003</p> <p>Service Unit</p>
<p>Epanet – the South Ostrobothnian University Network (professional R & D)</p>		
<p>University Consortium of Seinäjoki (16 professorships, total staff 110)</p>		