

# The Smart Specialisation Strategy of South Savo 2022–2027





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# What is smart specialisation?

## Background and purpose of smart specialisation

**Smart specialisation is competitive advantages, new vitality, and business activity created on the foundation of recognised strengths.**

Smart specialisation is the cornerstone of the regional innovation policy of the European Union, which countries and regions should employ to recognise and choose their strengths in order to enable investments into their development. Smart specialisation seeks to generate and spread new innovations and to improve the competitiveness of regions.

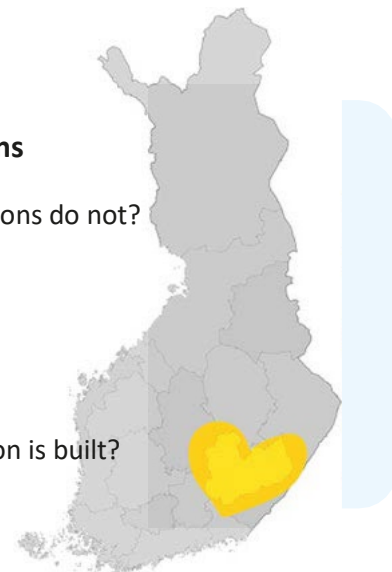
Smart specialisation is used to encourage regions to promote and boldly benefit from recognised strengths in order to refine them into commercial benefits, new business activities, jobs, and growth.

The purpose of the South Savo smart specialisation strategy is to benefit from a relative competitive advantage on the basis of strengths and stakeholder partnerships identified in the regional strategy (entrepreneurial search process). Another target is the vitalisation of the entire region. Various stakeholder groups and entities have been included in the making of the strategy on a broad basis.

The purpose of the smart specialisation strategy is to benefit from the innovation potential of the entire region, including process, service, and social innovations. The smart specialisation strategy describes the recognised strengths of the region, which can be utilised in the search of growth and development. Internationalisation is an essential facilitator of growth and development. Thus, the smart specialisation strategy of South Savo is also an internationalisation strategy for the region.

### Smart specialisation answers the following questions

- » What is something unique that we have, and other regions do not?
- » What are we excellent at?
- » What kind of special expertise can we offer others?
- » What are we successful at?
- » What do we want to develop further?
- » What are the strengths on which the future of the region is built?

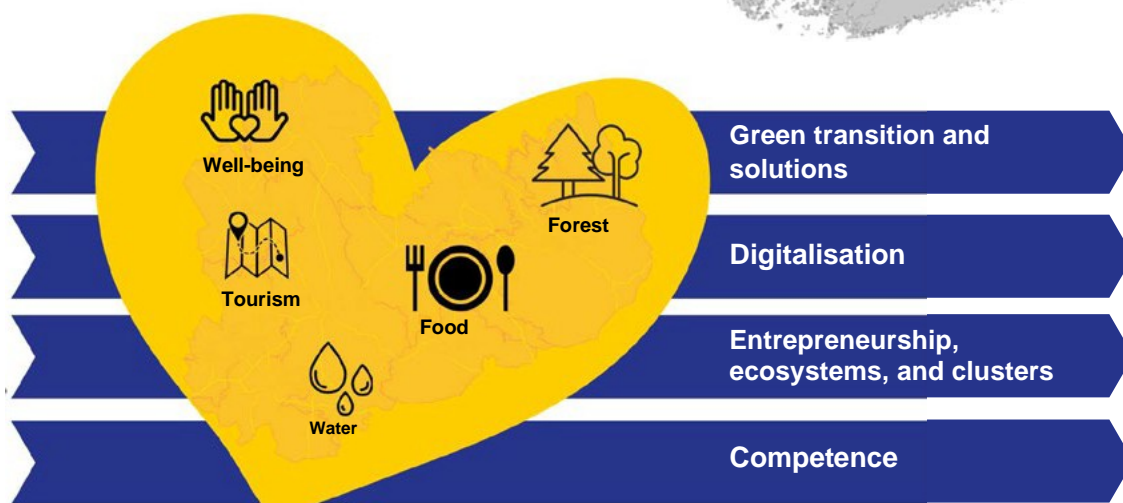








# Contents of the smart specialisation strategy of South Savo



The smart specialisation strategy of South Savo 2022–2027 consists of five actual priority areas and four horizontal themes. The contents of each priority area and theme are elaborated in the following descriptions to provide the reader with an idea of the contents of each area. Previous smart specialisation strategy periods have taught us that the contents of the strategy will begin to develop organically from the given theme and content outlines. This strategy

provides no exact outlines for activities, research, or innovations under each heading. The Regional Council of South Savo specifies the contents of the measures annually in a separate South Savo representation and financing plan.

It is notable that the smart specialisation strategy of South Savo 2022–2027 also serves as the internationalisation strategy for the South Savo region.

# Forest

Forest is a clearly recognised strength of South Savo because the forest bioeconomy, stumpage payment income, and the wood product industry are important drivers of employment, regional economy, and vitality in this forest-covered region. 87 percent of the land area of the region is forested land, and 8.5 percent of the annual tree growth in the entire country is generated here (NFI12). \*)

South Savo possesses specialist know-how in wood refining process technologies, the further processing of raw wood, and the utilisation of the different components of forest trees, as well as in wood construction and technologies for improving the growth of forest trees.

For innovation and business activity, important aspects of the forest focus area include the expertise of the technology industry and innovation platforms, including the South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences Fiberlaboratory (Savonlinna), the wood material research unit Mikpolis (Mikkeli), and the unit/research department of the Natural Resources Institute Finland in Savonlinna.

The forest focus area in the region is broad and comprises the use of forest resources as sustainable raw materials, processed products, and areas for recreational and service use. Wood-based products, services, and solutions promote low carbon emissions by using sustainable and renewable raw materials.

The forestry-related know-how in the region is a broad combination of inter-disciplinary expertise that can be commercially targeted in the field of business.

\*) NFI12. 12th National Forest Inventory. Natural Resources Institute Finland 2018.

## **For South Savo, the central objectives of the Forest focus area are:**

- » Sustainable and versatile use of forests
- » Recreational and natural values of forests
- » Promoting low carbon energy by using wood-based raw materials
- » New applications of wood-based raw materials
- » Sustainable construction solutions, promoting wood construction
- » Other concrete solutions relating to climate change and adapting to it concerning forests

Figure 1. Stakeholder groups in South Savo summarised the forest focus area into a word cloud as seen on the following page.

# Food

Food in South Savo comprises especially the weight and significance of primary production and the undeniable competitive advantage provided by clean food. The weight of primary production in agriculture can be seen in both the production of vegetables and the national fishing share of inland water fishing, e.g. vendace. The focus area also includes special know-how in organic farming because the region is home to the Finnish Organic Research Institute and the share of organic farms is 12.1 percent (Evira 2020). Organic production meets the EU objectives of clean, high-quality, and safe production of food in particular.

Special food industry strength in the region can also be found in the field of digital know-how (including food safety), which is linked with the international S3 partnership Agri-Food: Big Data and Traceability.

South Savo is also home to expertise in the development of new, high-quality food products and services (e.g. gluten-free foods) and in the commercial utilisation of origin labelling. The D.O. Saimaa quality and origin label is an example of local, high-quality, responsible food production and its branding.

The innovation platform for the Food focus area is the food sector development society Ekoneum ry and its associated food cluster.

The connecting themes with the other focus areas are food tourism, well-being, new forest foods

(natural products, raw ingredients, and berries etc.).

The central operators in the food cluster are the South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (Xamk Oy), the Ruralia Institute at the University of Helsinki, Etelä-Savon Koulutus Oy, the South Savo vocational institute Esedu, and Proagria South Savo. The cluster brings together research and development actors and businesses in the food sector. At the core of the regional cluster activities is the promotion of the South Savo food sector development programme 2021–2027. \*)

[\*][https://www.xamk.fi/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/etela-savon\\_ruoka-alan\\_kehittamishjelma.jpg](https://www.xamk.fi/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/etela-savon_ruoka-alan_kehittamishjelma.jpg)]

## **For South Savo, the central objectives of the Food focus area are:**

- » Promoting the production of clean and safe food and increasing its appreciation
- » Responsible and sustainable food
- » Promoting solutions for the prevention of climate change and promoting low carbon emissions in the food sector
- » Commercialising high-quality foods and services
- » Making the international dimension visible for food

Figure 2. Stakeholder groups in South Savo summarised the food focus area into a word cloud as seen in the figure.

# Water

The water focus area in South Savo comprises both natural waters and water sanitation know-how, technologies, and opportunities in the circular water economy in a broad way. The commercial opportunities of fresh water and the circular water economy provide solutions for global problems.

As much as 97 percent of the South Savo lake area and 82 percent of rivers are in good or excellent condition in terms of surface water quality.

At the heart of fresh water know-how are the innovation platform EcoSairila and its associated cluster Blue Economy Mikkeli (BEM). Water-related expertise in the research, development, and innovation activities for the cluster are provided by the Lappeenranta University of Technology and the South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (Xamk). At the heart of the cluster operations are the involved businesses and all new enterprises that may join the operations. EcoSairila is also regionally linked to the international Water Smart Territories partnership (S3-partnership).

At a national level, the modern water purification plant operated by EcoSairila creates opportunities for potential water export services and products. The City of Mikkeli has an ecosystem agreement for 2020–2027 with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment that relates to the promotion of the operation.

For fresh water, the horizontal themes across the focus areas are fresh water as a precondition for well-being, tourism culminating in clean natural waters, and fresh water as a base for other smart specialisation top areas.

## **For South Savo, the central objectives of the Water focus area are:**

- » Internationalising water business, circular economy, and systems taking into account digital opportunities
- » Concrete solutions relating to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change
- » Improving energy efficiency (production, infrastructure, processes, use)
- » Sustainable use, recovery, and recycling of raw materials

Figure 3. Stakeholder groups in South Savo summarised the water focus area into a word cloud as seen in the figure.



# Tourism

Tourism is an important strength and opportunity for South Savo that cannot really be over-emphasised. In 2019, tourism constituted 3.9 percent of the gross national product of South Savo (being 2.7 percent nationally). Additionally, the share of tourism of the entire regional workforce was 5.3 percent. \*)

The Saimaa tourism strategy 2021–2025 outlines the central development targets for the tourism focus area. Essential to tourism are the promotion of the recognisability and utilisation of the Saimaa brand and of multi-locality in a business-centred manner.

The tourism focus area in South Savo is heavily oriented to the countryside, consisting mainly of small establishments and entities. Particular to the tourism in the region are the high number of leisure apartments and renting business (approximately 46,600 cabins) and tourism in the countryside and woods (including the national parks and Saimaa Geopark).

South Savo tourism also utilises a rich cultural heritage, plentiful culture event offerings, and culture tourism destinations and events (including Olavinlinna castle and the Savonlinna opera festival).

Horizontal themes for tourism are food tourism, responsible and sustainable tourism, and the utilisation of digitality in tourism as well as a networked mode of operation.

\*) The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland (2021). Regional tourism accounting - Regional economic and employment impacts of tourism 2018–2019.

## **For South Savo, the central objectives of the Tourism focus area are:**

- » Reinforcing the Saimaa brand and using it in tourism
- » Promoting tourism by networked partnerships and in a business-centred manner - towards a Saimaa tourism cluster
- » Responsible and sustainable tourism business

Figure 4. Stakeholder groups in South Savo summarised the tourism focus area into a word cloud as seen in the figure.

# Well-being

Well-being is a strength of South Savo, profiling as high-level special expertise. The region includes high-level education and know-how in the sector, which is also utilised in the well-being area as well as in research, development, and innovation activities. The well-being sector is a significant service industry and employment provider in South Savo. The social and welfare sector is by far the most important employment provider in the region, with some 11,700 people working there (Statistics Finland 2019).

The business-centred nature of well-being includes especially the commercial possibilities of social innovations and services that are digital or otherwise accessible. When creating services, customer-centredness and the special regional characteristics are considered.

The ageing population in the region should be utilised better from the perspective of the Silver Economy. This would portray the ageing population more as a service-using and liquid customer base as well as a resource for development and employment.

Well-being in South Savo is additionally provided by the pure nature and the pleasant living environment, both of which are clear strengths of the region. Well-being is also closely tied in with the other focus areas (forest, water, food, and tourism). It is also linked with health security, exercise, sports, and cultural well-being and associated events.

Well-being in South Savo also includes seeing multi-locality as an opportunity, because the region is home to many seasonal residents. In multi-locality, the perspective of well-being is separate from tourism.

Among the South Savo operators, the special know-how in well-being is linked closely to the Vaalijala Special Care Municipal Authority, the research and development unit (Pieksämäki) of the Diaconia University of Applied Sciences, and the Active Life Lab of the South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences focusing on research and development in the fields of well-being and health.

## **For South Savo, the central objectives of the Well-being focus area are:**

- » Commercialisation of new well-being services and service concepts
- » Retaining and reinforcing regional specialist know-how
- » Utilising opportunities afforded by Silver Economy
- » Sustainable development of the pure nature in the region in business relating to well-being

Figure 5. Stakeholder groups in South Savo summarised the well-being focus area into a word cloud as seen in the figure.



# Horizontal themes in the strategy

## Green transition and solutions

The European Commission published the first information concerning their “green transition” policy in 2020, and the contents of the objectives were specified in the climate-related Fit for 55 draft regulation package. The policy objective is to prevent climate change by promoting low carbon emissions on a large scale. A Just Transition Mechanism is in place to support and facilitate the transition from fossil energy to renewable energy. The green transition will require concrete solutions for implementing sustainable growth.

As a horizontal theme, the green transition and solutions includes all innovations, solutions, experiments, and changes that can be used to reduce the environmental impacts of existing operations on a large scale.

### **For South Savo, the central objectives of the theme of green transition and solutions are:**

- » Promoting low carbon emissions
- » Solutions relating to adaptation to climate change
- » Commercial possibilities created by the green transition; products and services that support sustainable growth and can be commercialised
- » Wise and resource-conscious utilisation of natural resources, improving resource efficiency, and using circular economy solutions (including being conscious of the entire life cycle of products)
- » Utilising alternative materials and technical solutions in the promotion of low carbon emissions
- » New construction materials, innovations, and the circular economy
- » Sustainable energy solutions, novel energy solutions, improving energy efficiency, and promoting low carbon emissions
- » Sustainable logistics and traffic services with consideration of

## Digitalisation

Promoting digitalisation is for its part linked to the European green transition, because digital solutions can be used to promote low carbon emissions and replace existing products and services with novel solutions.

Digitality was a horizontal theme in the previous regional strategy for smart specialisation as well (2018–2021). Digitality does not mean only commercial solutions but also the utilisation of digitalisation in the corporate sector by other means. Digitalisation also highlights the need for strategic and targeted partnerships in order for enterprises to be able to develop their own digital solutions, for example by employing Digital Innovation Hubs.

Essential regional operators in the field of digitality are the National Archives of Finland, the National Library of Finland, the Finnish central business archive ELKA, the South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (Xamk), the Mikkeli University Centre (MUC, including the National Library), the South Savo vocational institute Esedu, Digitalia, the Muisti Centre of War and Peace, and various software and digital industry companies in the South Savo region.

## Entrepreneurship, ecosystems, and clusters

The theme of Entrepreneurship, ecosystems, and clusters seeks to promote entrepreneurship, business development, and cooperation in the region on a large scale. The fundamental purpose of smart specialisation is to create new innovations, growth, and jobs in the region. These objectives cannot be achieved without regional business activities and without benefiting from research, development, and innovation in business.

The lack of cluster activity in the region is one of the most significant factors slowing down innovations. Additionally, the failures and challenges in cooperation reported by stakeholder groups in the region are to be responded to by investing in this theme. Being at the heart of cluster activities, the businesses linked to the activity will always benefit. Cluster activities will also make it possible to find the cluster entities (businesses, research, development, and training organisations, public entities, financiers, and organisations) in a single package, both nationally and internationally.

In this context, the term ecosystem refers to extensive networked wholes that include different kinds of operators. The term cluster on the other hand refers to a partnership network approved and registered by criteria provided by the European Commission and officially inspected and approved as such by the European Commission 1).

### **The central objectives of the theme Entrepreneurship, ecosystems, and clusters are:**

- » Reinforcing an operational environment that is favourable to entrepreneurship and innovation
- » Promoting and developing cluster activities; achieving the three bronze-level clusters specified in the South Savo regional strategy 2030 (awarded by the European Clusters Excellence Labelling Structure EUCLES)
- » Promoting internationalisation in all regional business ecosystems
- » Increasing the research, development, and innovation spending specified in the national RDI roadmap to a level of 4% of GDP (private and public investments).

1) European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP).  
<https://clustercollaboration.eu/>

## Competence

Competence is an essential and critically important factor in the success of South Savo. As a theme, competence includes elevating the level of competences, special competences (RDI), and promoting the availability of skilled labour in the broad sense. As the need for continuous learning is emphasised, the need to update the competence of the ageing population becomes more important.

A lack of skilled labour and the regional demographic structure development present challenges that require strong partnerships in between various entities and regional and employment solutions built on the basis of such partnerships in order to respond to changing competence needs. Changes in working life can be responded to better than before especially by developing and utilising the anticipation of special competence needs.

### **For South Savo, the central objectives of the theme of competence are:**

- » Improving the availability of skilled labour
- » Improving the education and skill level of the population
- » Building and facilitating training paths in the community
- » Developing partnerships between educational institutes and employers - reinforcing entrepreneurial education and cooperation
- » Improving and utilising international competence
- » Reinforcing and broadly utilising digital competence







# Monitoring impacts and results

Changes will be made to the monitoring and measuring capabilities of the smart specialisation strategy for the operating period of 2022–2027 with consideration of the changes in the operational environment. In practice, the set indicators are used to track the outcomes of the smart specialisation strategy.

Connecting the smart specialisation strategy of South Savo 2022–2027 to the national research, development, and innovation roadmap (RDI roadmap) requires that a level of 4% of GDP is reached in the region for private and public investments and financing. When setting the smart specialisation strategy, the region of South Savo was far from this national target, just like many other regions were\*).

The monitoring for the smart specialisation strategy of South Savo 2022–2027 has been designed to be connected to the regional programme 2022–2025, and the follow-up data and used indicators shall be specified as necessary as the strategy period progresses. The indicators selected for the tracking have been included in the regional programme, and the indicators and outcomes in use in real time can be viewed on the website of the regional council.

In terms of internationalisation, monitoring is carried out by means of the indicators set for the South Savo regional strategy 2030, the regional programme, and the smart specialisation strategy 2022–2027.

The South Savo Regional Council will adopt a Thinking portfolio project monitoring system in early 2022. This will be an essential improvement for the monitoring of project activities financed by the European Regional Development Fund for the financing period 2021–2027 in addition to the Eura2021 system. The monitoring data generated by the new systems will be taken into account in the monitoring of the smart specialisation 2022–2027.

\*) Tekniikka&Talous magazine 20.8.2021. Only one gets a clean sheet (pages 10–11). ISSN 0785-997X. Alma Media 2021.





# Preparation of the Smart Specialisation strategy 2022–2027

## Background information and reporting

Previous South Savo smart specialisation strategies have been made for the years 2014–2017 and 2018–2021. Work on the current third strategy started with the top focus areas familiar from the regional strategy – forest, water, and food. The new areas of tourism and well-being were additionally included. The central emphases for the new EU programme period of 2021–2027 were introduced as horizontal themes: the green transition, digitalisation, competence and entrepreneurship, ecosystems, and clusters.

The preparation of the Smart Specialisation strategy started in the spring of 2020. One of the background reports for the Smart Specialisation strategy 2022–2027 was a thematic industry review for projects funded by the Regional Council of South Savo in the structural funding period of 2014–2020. According to the report, South Savo has made progress in the strategic top focus areas of forest, food, and water, but also on other sectors such as tourism, well-being, entrepreneurship, and digitality by using regional development funds. As concerns the background report presented in figure 1, it should be noted that the thematic distribution has been made according to the main objective of each project and that the shares are based on a distribution

done on the basis of the total project budgets.

When preparing the Smart Specialisation strategy, the opinions of young people in the region were listened to by collecting views of 12 to 30-year-olds about the regional strategy and the specialisation strategy through the *E=mc2 – Nuorten osallisuudesta energiaa Etelä-Savoon* project (E=mc2 – Youth participation to energise South Savo).

The *Etelä-Savo ennakoi 360* project (South Savo anticipates 360) has additionally generated background information and a current picture of the state of the region and its development opportunities to be used in the regional strategy and the Smart Specialisation strategy.

## Hearing stakeholder groups and committing them to the strategy process

On the basis of the reviews and information described above, an electronic Webropol survey was arranged for the stakeholder groups in the region, the purpose of which was to compile stakeholder views as the focus areas for the Smart Specialisation strategy to be implemented. The survey was also used to identify bottlenecks in and challenges to innovation activities. The survey was conducted in the spring of 2021 and

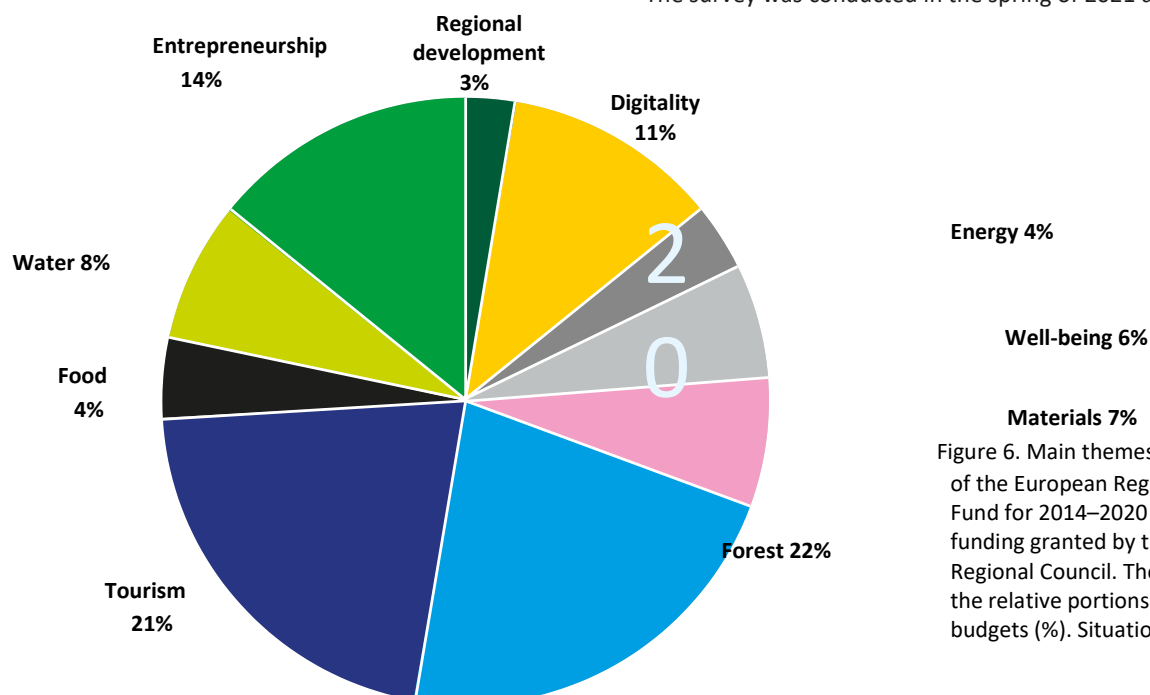


Figure 6. Main themes of the European Regional Development Fund for 2014–2020 for the project funding granted by the South Savo Regional Council. The shares are based on the relative portions of the project budgets (%). Situation as of March 2021.

was submitted to 370 persons. It was possible to freely share the survey, and 103 responses were collected.

In order to ensure the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process, the Webropol survey requested participant background information in order to determine the participation of various stakeholder groups. 10% of the respondents were business representatives. Private citizens, research and educational actors, public entities, and representatives of development companies and organisations also responded.

The draft of the Smart Specialisation Strategy of South Savo 2022–2027 was specified on the basis of the survey, and the specified information was presented at an inclusive stakeholder group event in June 2021. At the workshop in question, the stakeholder groups were presented with the preliminary content focus areas of both the regional programme 2022–2025 and the Smart Specialisation Strategy 2022–2027. At the event, the stakeholders were requested to clarify their views by using the Mentimeter tool. Approximately 100 persons took part in the event.

A content draft for the Smart Specialisation Strategy of South Savo was prepared on the basis of the inclusive hearing of the stakeholders (the Webropol survey and the workshop of 22 June 2021). The background reports and their results were taken into account in the realisation of the strategy as required by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. The reports and their links with the Smart Specialisation Strategy of South Savo 2022–2027 as required by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (TEM) are outlined

in the following paragraphs.

Committing the stakeholder groups to the objectives of the Smart Specialisation Strategy 2022–2027 in South Savo will take place through dialogue that will be more systematic than previously. There is a need to increase cooperative efforts in the region. The Regional Council of South Savo promotes the impact of the activities by arranging coordinated thematic partnership meetings since the autumn of 2021. The thematic groups are an effort to increase interaction and cooperation and to improve the efficiency of the operations, especially when it comes to project-based activities.

## Challenges to spreading digitalisation and innovations in South Savo

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (TEM) instructed regional councils to draw up timely situational pictures concerning the challenges to spreading digitalisation and innovations. This report was completed in 2020 in cooperation with other regions in East and North Finland as part of the East and North Finland in Industrial Transition (ELMO) – From Strategy to Practise project (1 April 2019 to 31 December 2021). The project looked into challenges to the spreading of digitalisation and innovations across seven regions (South Savo, North Savo, North Karelia, Kainuu, Central Ostrobothnia, North Ostrobothnia, and Lapland).

According to the report, the development programmes and projects taking place in East and North Finland

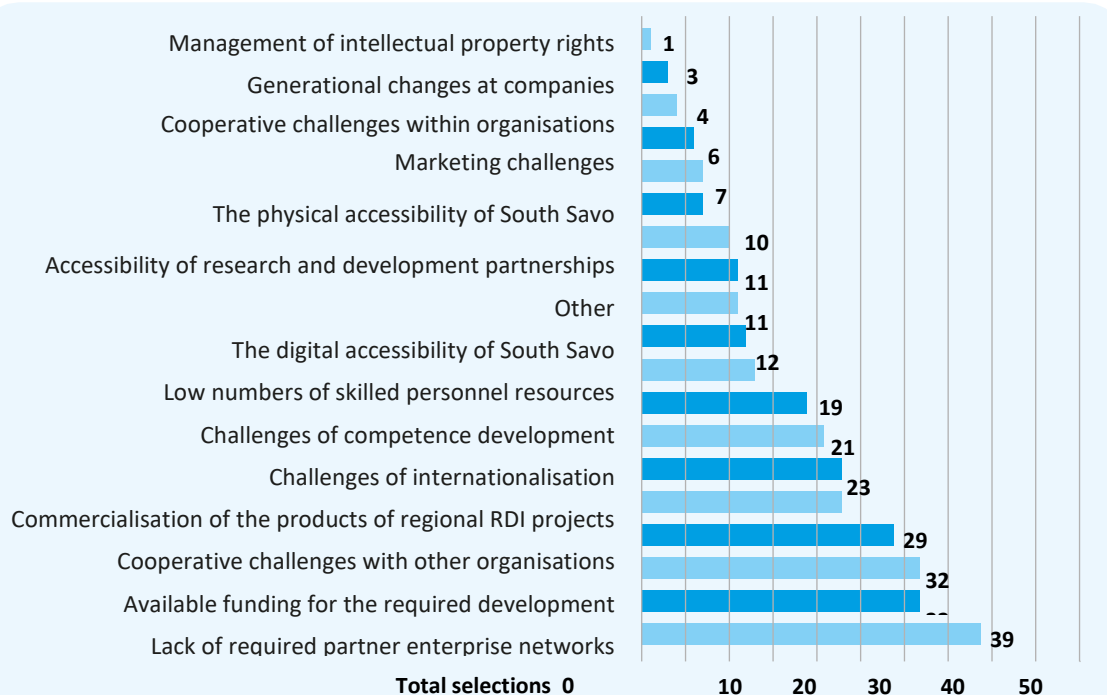


Figure 7. Stakeholder groups identified bottlenecks and challenges in order of importance for the Smart Specialisation Strategy of South Savo.



generate too few enterprises and business, and commercialisation is not called for strongly enough in projects. Additionally, innovations were seen to focus too much in central localities instead of spreading evenly across the region. The limited number of executors, financing sources, and partnerships was also considered a challenge. The available resources were considered inadequate, and there was a perceived lack of special expertise in the region as well. \*)

The report can be viewed in full online \*)  
[online publication address:  
[https://elmoenf.eu/fi/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/InnoDigi-raportti\\_web.pdf](https://elmoenf.eu/fi/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/InnoDigi-raportti_web.pdf)]

For South Savo, the innovation challenges and bottlenecks in the region were specified with an additional Webropol survey in the spring of 2021 (the survey is outlined in more detail in paragraph 2.2) during the preparation of the smart specialisation strategy 2022–2027. The results concerning the South Savo region are given in figure 2. The most significant regional challenge/bottleneck was the demographic structure of the region.

The results of the reports concerning responses to challenges to the spreading of digitalisation and innovations, both in the regional report and the trans-regional East and North Finland reports, are accounted for in the contents of the Smart Specialisation Strategy of South Savo.

## Sectors and work tasks relating to challenges in digitalisation and the industrial transition in South Savo

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (TEM) instructed regional councils to separately look into the sectors and jobs that are affected by digitalisation and the industrial transition. For South Savo, the initial information for this review included the expertise of the Regional Council of South Savo concerning the industrial transition and anticipation as well as experts at the South Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment.

The anticipation team at the Regional Council of South Savo has been producing broad-based forecasting data since 2014. The report made on the basis of the Smart Specialisation Strategy of South Savo 2022–2027 also benefited from the output of the Industrial Transition (ELMO2) – South Savo Regional Implementation Project (1 April 2019 to 31 May 2021) and of the East and North Finland in Industrial Transition (ELMO) – From Strategy to Practise project (1 April 2019 to 31 December 2021). The review also utilised the Building Clusters, Ecosystem Collaboration and RIS3 Communication project (1 June 2021 to 31 August 2023) funded by the EU Regional Development Fund and carried out by the Regional Council.

The review focused especially on the challenges of digitalisation and the sectors and jobs relating to the industrial transition in the focus areas and horizontal themes of the draft Smart Specialisation Strategy of South Savo 2022–2027.

## Adaptability to change in smart specialisation

The contents of the Smart Specialisation Strategy of South Savo 2022–2027 have been crystallised during 2021, and many future development needs for the region have been included in it. Although the strategy has been carefully prepared, it reaches far into the

**The most important observations that need to be invested in in the near future in addition to the other contents of the strategy in order to respond to the changes in industry and sectors of work are:**

**1. Investments in the field of competence.**

The availability of competent labour, the improvement of competences, and ensuring continuous learning in particular.

**2. Developing concrete alternatives to white peat in primary production.**

future, which requires it to be adaptable to changes as the strategy period progresses. Adaptability to change means that the contents of the smart specialisation strategy can be modified during the strategy period. Indeed, adaptability to change seeks to ensure the effectiveness of the smart specialisation strategy in a changing operational environment.

## The situational picture

The situational picture of the Smart Specialisation Strategy of South Savo 2022–2027 is the same as the picture of the current state presented in the South Savo regional programme 2022–2025.

## Smart Specialisation Strategy of East and North Finland

The Smart Specialisation Strategy of East and North Finland 2019–2023, which affects South Savo too, has been in effect during the preparation of the Smart Specialisation Strategy of South Savo 2022–2027. The trans-regional smart specialisation strategy of East and North Finland is being jointly executed by South Savo, North Savo, North Karelia, Kainuu, Central Ostrobothnia, North Ostrobothnia, and Lapland. This trans-regional partnership shall continue during the strategy period 2022–2027 as well.





Smart Specialisation  
Water for Growth  
2022-2027



EcoSairila waste water treatment plant, picture: Panu Jouhkimo.



