

## Lahti University Campus Action Plan 2024

One of the strengths of the Päijät-Häme region is the close collaboration between LUT University (LUT), the University of Helsinki (UH), the LAB University of Applied Sciences, the business sector and the City of Lahti.

An important goal is to make the universities' research, development and teaching available to the regional business community. This regional mission of the universities is supported by the Coordination Unit of the Lahti University Campus. Regional development is supported by promoting the goals of the city and the Päijät-Häme region through the development of opportunities and solutions (e.g., carbon neutrality, electric transport, the food sector and Lahti Sports Hub).

In Lahti, strong science education and academic outreach activities provide the basis for a knowledge-based future. The Päijät-Häme LUMA Centre (UH) continues to grow: in 2023 over 3,000 children and adolescents participated in its operations. The Lahti Junior University scheme develops science education and academic outreach at schools. UH and LUT collaborate with the LAB University of Applied Sciences in pursuing RDI funding for the region by participating actively in Finnish and international funding applications. Research and teaching collaboration between the higher education institutions provides value for the regional business sector by enabling the development of new expertise.

The universities are investing in the 10-year environment and health programme Nature Step to Health by establishing new research ventures. The research community centred around the UH and LUT professor of atmospheric modelling will be expanded in Lahti to create the Atmospheric Modelling Centre. Also to be offered is a study module in green area development, co-developed by the higher education institutions.

### University of Helsinki

Lahti brings together a wide range of expertise and activities of the University of Helsinki faculties of biological and environmental sciences (ecology), arts, agriculture and forestry (nutrition), science (atmospheric science), social sciences (welfare and wellbeing) and medicine (Päijät-Häme Central Hospital), as well as various continuous learning actors. The Lahti economic area is seamlessly connected to the following UH profile-building projects: the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS), Helsinki One Health (HOH) and the Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR). The Päijät-Häme LUMA Centre on the Lahti University Campus is part of the LUMA Centre Finland organisation.

The University of Helsinki is responding to the green city challenge in the region by continuing to conduct robust environmental research, particularly on urban ecology. New initiatives relate to the effects of construction on welfare and wellbeing and to air quality research, with a special focus on the development of the regional food sector. The activities of the Päijät-Häme LUMA Centre will be further expanded and diversified to reach as many children and adolescents in the Lahti region as possible. Continuous learning will help in developing the expertise of, in particular, education, social services and health staff.

### LUT University

Clean energy, water and air are essential for life. LUT University seeks solutions to related needs through its technological and business expertise. LUT supports the sustainable renewal of companies and society at large. All three LUT schools – Engineering Science (LENS), Energy Systems (LES) and Business (LBS) – operate on the campus in Lahti.

LUT is actively involved in research projects that support regional strategic focus areas and in the formation of EU research project consortia around the European Green Capital theme (e.g., 'mission cities'). The aim of LUT is to attract to Lahti companies compatible with the LUT strategy and to promote the growth of the region's current companies together with the LAB University of Applied Sciences. Student numbers on campus will continue to increase: in autumn 2024, over 1,300 students are expected to study there. LUT offers nine master's programmes (one in business administration and eight in technology) and three bachelor's programmes on its campus in Lahti. It will make particular efforts to retain students in the Lahti region after graduation. Close collaboration in both education and RDI operations will be increased between the LAB food laboratory and electrical and automation engineering. The most significant equipment installations in the 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> fibre technology laboratory will be completed in early 2024. These will enable the laboratory's extensive use in research and company product development. The continued growth of the campus in Lahti will be reflected in staff numbers too. Research groups built around Lahti-based professorships will be strengthened. In continuing education, a programme of expertise for controllers will be launched in autumn 2024. In addition, modules included in the programme of expertise in procurement management will be offered in spring 2024, and self-study courses in management, business administration and finance will be made available. Continuing education collaboration will be conducted with regional businesses in the form of tailored, commissioned training in management, business administration and technology.