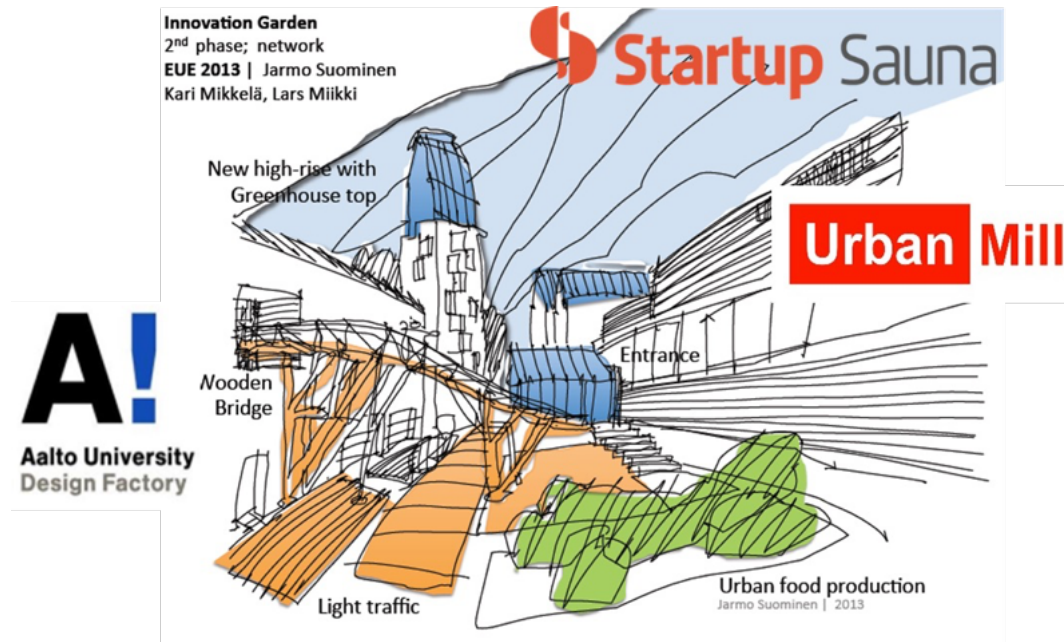


Urban Mill Innovation Platform



SCiO Finland 6.5.2025 @Aalto ARTS

Urban Mill: Agile globally networked place-based innovation facilitator and orchestrator working through 'university-enterprise-public-people' collaboration

Kari Mikkela

Urban Mill

Co-working and Co-creation Platform for Urban Innovations
Espoo, Finland www.urbanmill.org

Espoo Innovation Garden



Versatile support for City of Espoo's Innovation development!



Urban Mill

Urban Mill – by, with, and for people!

The Urban Mill Program 2014-2021 provides Espoo a globally networked learning, development and co-creation environment where city servants and political leaders, researchers, professional and local associations, business representatives and citizens meet, and developing and using new methods and processes for collaboration in urban development.



Espoo School as a Service workshop together with companies 17.5.2016



Urban Mill gathered experts and entrepreneurs and facilitated a series of three Databusiness Espoo / IoT West Metro Zone Open Data workshops in the fall of 2015



Political leaders from the 6 biggest cities visiting the City of Espoo and Otaniemi Innovation Alley (Urban Mill, Aalto Design Factory and Startup Sauna) 4.10.2016. The visit was co-facilitated by Urban Mill.



Experimenting the Lunch Talk concept with Pohjois-Tapiola high school in October 2017



Espoo city planning office presents local plans on Espoo day Aug 2018



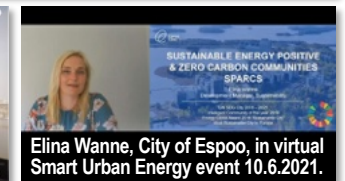
Hybrid event series kick-off: "Storm of Thoughts in Otaniemi" 1.11.2018



Otaniemi High School Kitchen Chemistry Camp 9.-10.1.2020



Opening virtual Espoo Day 2020 event, Markku Markkula, Chair of the Board at City of Espoo



Elina Wanne, City of Espoo, in virtual Smart Urban Energy event 10.6.2021.



Co-working and Co-creation Platform for Urban Innovations
Espoo, Finland www.urbanmill.org Lars Miikki & Kari Mikkela 17.11.2021

Espoo Innovation Garden



Urban Mill Innovation Platform supports and facilitates inclusive co-creation in Espoo Innovation Garden

- Urban Mill community includes **change makers from public and private sector**, researchers, entrepreneurs, students as well as local residents and other users of urban environments.
- Activities run in the Urban Mill respect open collaboration, cherishment of serendipity and open-doors philosophy and thus support a **shared co-learning, co-design and co-effectuation processes**.
- **Entrepreneurial spirit and digitally supported participation** of all (including citizens, academics, business and public actors) is a characteristic feature of Urban Mill.
- The Urban Mill experience shows the importance of focusing on **a common theme** to generate a **bottom-up, open and participatory innovation process** that delivers new capabilities, operational models and sustainable solutions to urban challenges
- Urban Mill Co-working and Co-creation Platform for Urban Innovations is a **public-private-people partnership** operated by a private company, Järvelin Design Ltd, and the City of Espoo and Aalto University as main partners. It is situated at the heart of the Espoo Innovation Garden at Aalto University campus in Helsinki Metropolitan area.



Urban Mill enables multi-stakeholder collaboration in an international knowledge-intensive context

A community: We open doors for passionate pioneering developers and early adopters of innovations to co-learn, co-design and co-deploy.

A platform: Our physical and digital spaces and platform network are ideal for promoting, testing, developing and exhibiting new solutions which support urban life.

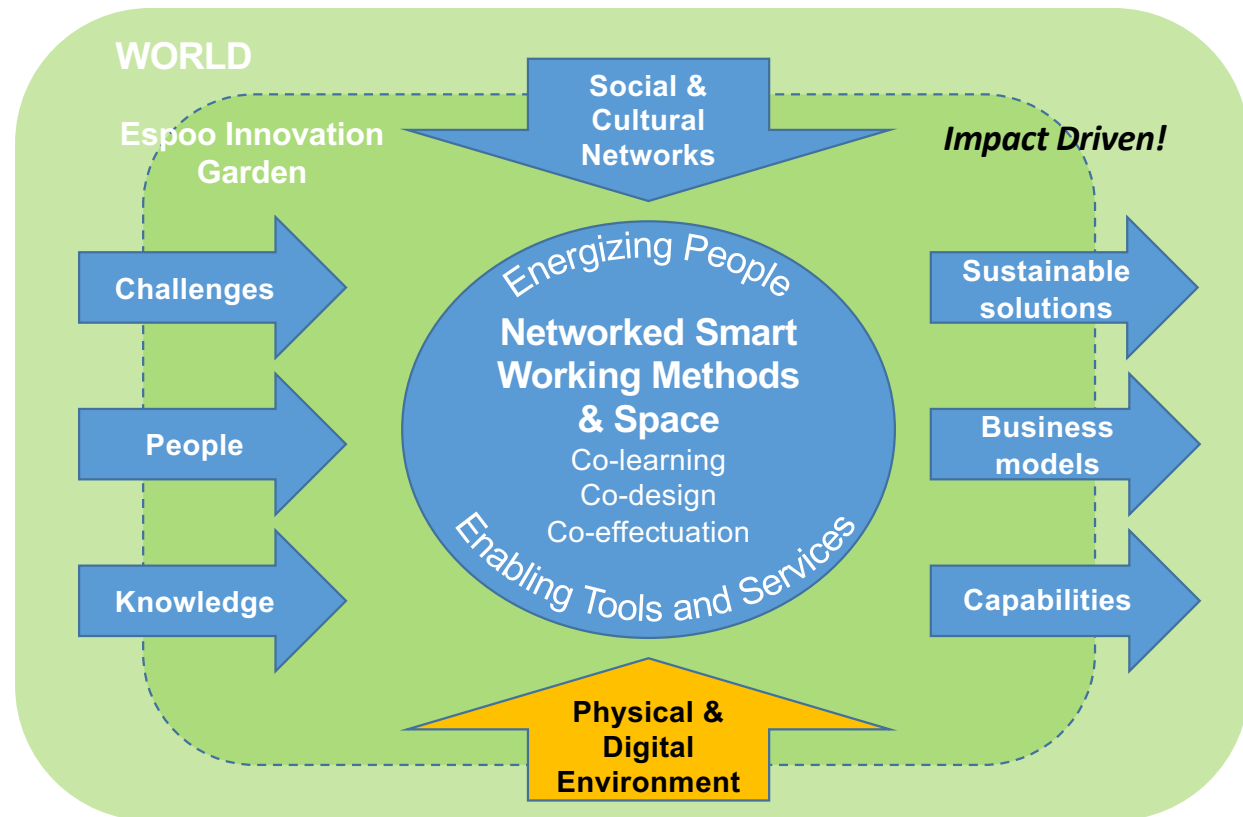
An ecosystem node: We are connected to a spectrum of global networks through our community members and partners. Thus we are able to bring our complementary thematic expertise to several ecosystems.

A global hub: We engage and bring together actors from around the world to co-create solutions to wicked urban challenges and share our learnings openly to our partner and member networks.



Orchestration of smart connected platforms supporting creative knowledge work

- Energizing creative and innovative people
- Impact and outcome driven
- Supports creative knowledge work
- Facilitates co-learning, co-design and co-effectuation
- Enabled by networked physical and digital platforms



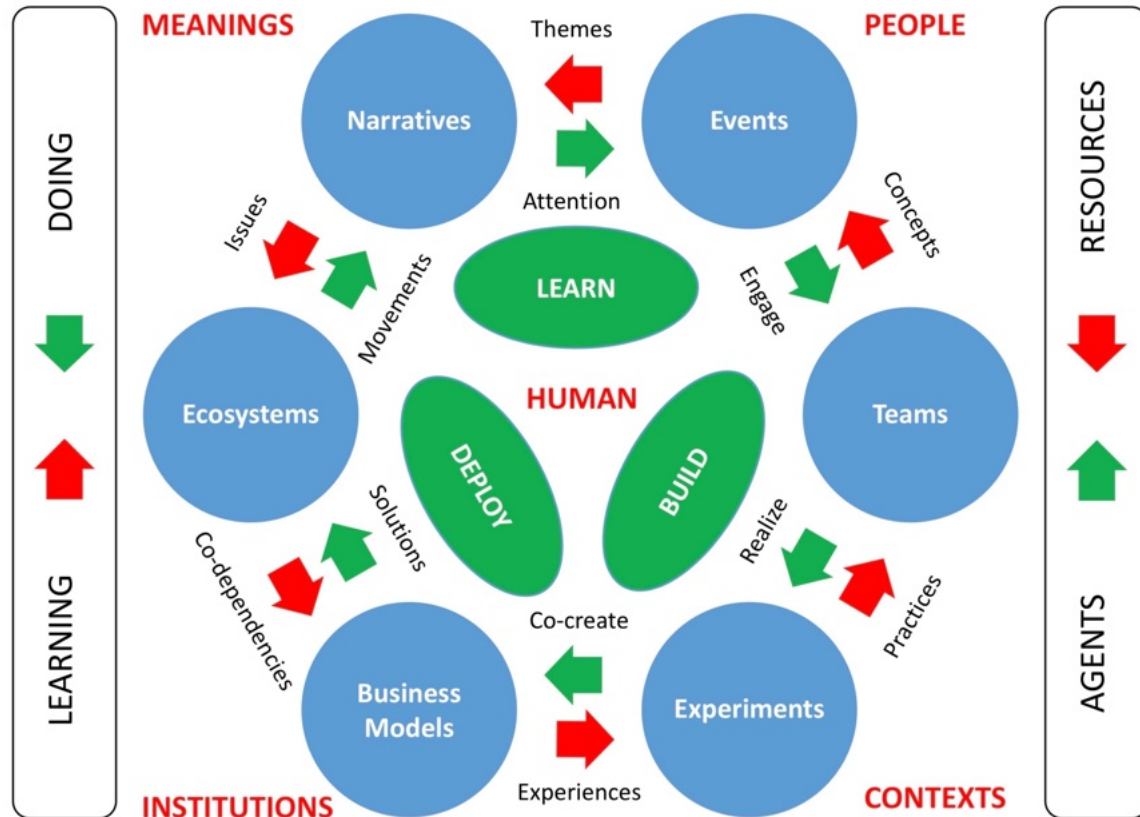
Energizing Urban Ecosystems Research Program 2012-2016 Lars Miiikki & Kari Mikkela, Jarvelin Design Oy 21.8.2012 / 20..2017
A Smart Networked Co-Working Space supporting Creative Knowledge Work



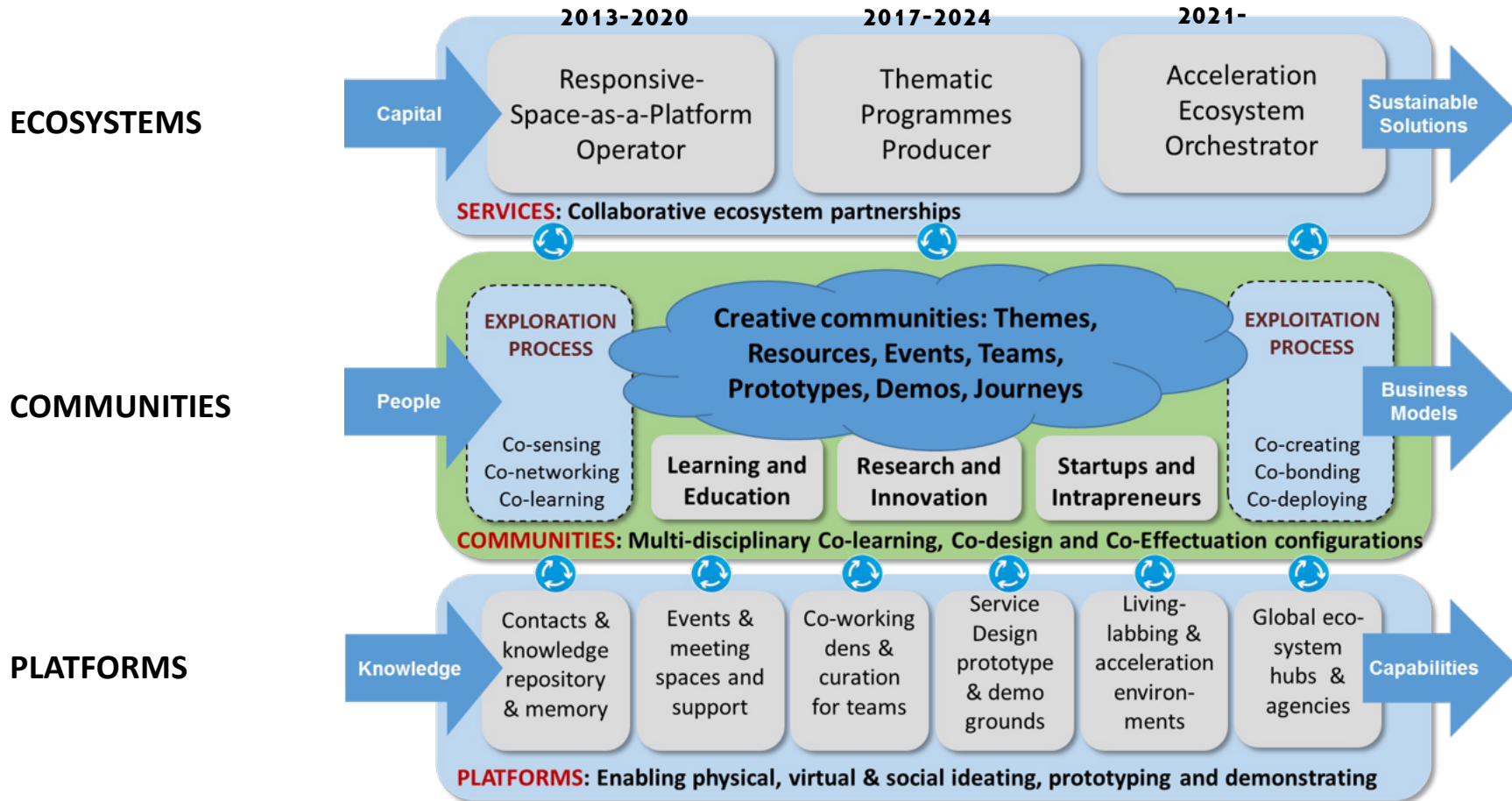
Facilitated by Urban Wheel™ Innovation Acceleration Process

“Life is lived forwards, but understood backwards.”

“If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go with others.”



Urban Mill's operational model: platform, community and ecosystem service elements



Co-working and Co-creation Platform for Urban Innovations
Espoo, Finland www.urbanmill.org

Kari Mikkela & Lars Miikki, Urban Mill 2.11.2016

Espoo Innovation Garden



CRESCENDO@CC Initiative Creative Sustainable Endeavours in Cities and Communities, 2021-

6.1 Pro Karhusaari

<https://prokarhusaari.com/prokarhusaari-ry/>
Contact person: Ulla Kuusimäki, puheenjohtaja, Pro Karhusaari ry

PRO KARHUSAARI

Karhusaari on ainutlaatuinen rakennushistoriallinen kokonaisuus meren rannalla. Otaniemen, Tapiolan, Keilaniemen, Westendin ja Helsingin Kaivosrajan läännyksienkantamien myötä Karhusaaren merkitys luonnontilaisena virkistysalueena lähimetsineen tulee kasvattamattomaksi.

"Itäpeluridin hyvät ihmiset", Sinebrychoffin auttoivat aikanaan espanolaisia marin tavoin. Tehdään Karhusaaren paikka, jossa suvun muisto nautuu osaksi espanolaisen elämästä. Samalla tavoin kuin suvun muisto näkyy Helsinkiä läpi eläessä: Hietalahdessa asustavat pönnömpöiset ovat tulle näky keskustassa, ja Sinebrychoffin puisto on yksi suosituimpia kohtaamispaikkoja

Tehdään yhdessä: Ajatuksena on kehittää yhdessä kaupungin, kuntalaisten, paikallisten yhdistysten, yritysten ja oppilaitosten kanssa kohtauspaikka menneelle maailmalle ja nykyisille. Karhusaaresta tulisi tulevaisuudessa uudelleen mahdollisimman omavarainen – kuten se oli aikoinaan kaupunkimaastiana. Karhusaaresta saatavat tulot käytettäisiin sen rakennusten kunnostamiseen ja ylläpitoon sekä palvelujen kehittämiseen ja ylläpitoon siten, että siitä tulee elämäkulttuurin paikka kaikkina vuodenaikoina. Tapahtuma-moeeen mukaan: Historiallerakoksia, musiikkiesityksiä, tanssimyymälöitä, vintage-kierrutuksia, kiveroiteellapaamia, laskuainehoja, tonttipolkuja, venetsialaisia, jouluja vappujuhlalta, firolingvopöydän juhla, musiikkifestareita, rantaaukkoja, juhannustansseja, konsertteja, petanqueturnauksia... **Yhteyshenkilö:** Tavoitteena on, että alueen ja sen rakennusten kunnostuksen ja restauroinnin osallistavat useat sponsorit ja yhteistyökumppanit, jotka myös hyödyntävät tiloja. Erityisesti ja kunnostusta tehdään kaupunginmuonon valvonnassa. **Rahoitus:** Alueen kehittämiseen ja alueellisen kulttuuriperinnön vaalimiseen etsitään rahoitusta ja tietotaitoa useilta taholta.



Urban Mill 

CRESCENDO@CC 13.4.2021

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6.2 Smart Otaniemi 2.0

<https://smartotaniemi.fi>
Yhteyshenkilö: Sanna Öörni, Co-Creation Manager, Smart Otaniemi @ VTT



Smart Otaniemi perustettiin kesällä 2018 älykkäiden energian innovaatioiden ja ratkaisujen synnyttämiseen. Innovaatiokeskukseen kävelsi parissa vuodessa yli 100 organisaation verkostoksi ja useiden yhteiskehittämissihankkeiden alustaksi, joissa kymmeniä yrityksiä mukana. Smart Otaniemi on saanut myös kansainvälisiä kinnostuksia ja luonut useita globaaleja verkostoja eurooppalaisin vastaavien verkostoihin. Smart Otaniemi on myös vierailut ty-kohteissa (esim. Japani, Intia, Saksa) sekä isännöintä useita eri tapamia Otaniemessä, joissa on ollut kansainvälisiä vieraita ja esintyjä. Tällä hetkellä Smart Otaniemi on laajentamassa ja kehittämässä älykkään energian teemasta puhtaisiin ja älykkäisiin kaupunkiratkaisuihin. Espoon kaupunki, VTT, Aalto-Yliopisto ja useat suomalaiset kärkiyritykset ovat rakentamassa Otaniemi – Keilaniemen alueesta maailmanluokan kehitysympäristön, joka auttaa kokoamaan eri ekosysteemejä, testbedejä ja organisaatioita yhteen

"At Smart Otaniemi, we're renewing the way research and development is done, and we're pushing the boundaries of new energy technology. With Finnish hi-tech excellence we're building the foundations of future standards. We create more sustainable world through pilots involving everything from AI and blockchain, to aggregator business models, smart EV charging infrastructure, and 5G and IoT services."



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8) Globally connected
Place-based Innovation (SDG17)
Ecosystem Hub model for Otaniemi

7) Boundary Spanning Champions network (UIIN)

4) Pro Karhusaari
Cultural and Creative
Heritage Ecosystem
(Citizens-driven)

5) Urban Mill Creative
Sustainable City
Ecosystem
(Entrepreneurship-driven)

6) Smart Otaniemi 2.0
Green Energy
Ecosystem
(Institutions-driven)

3) Activities, events and endeavours with, for
and by local, national and international actors

2) Hybrid collaboration and events service concept

1) Network of Innovation Hubs and Communities

Public good with a private risk!

Espoo Innovation Garden





Thank You!

URBAN MILL

Co-working and Co-creation Platform Prototype for Urban Innovations – Entrepreneurial Thought in Action!

Your access to Espoo Innovation Garden's people and services!

Additional information

www.urbanmill.org/stories

Urban Mill on Facebook

www.facebook.com/UrbanMill

Contact

Ecosystems & RDI Services

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Espoo Innovation Garden



WHY?

Think Local, Act Global!

- We have stepped to a **Postnormal VUCA Era**
- Old operational models don't fit to the new reality
- Individuals innovate, not institutions!
- Meaningful purposes motivate and engage people
- Multi-talented and -disciplinary teams thrive
- Connected platforms enable people to contribute
- Fresh entrepreneurial thinking and new business models emerge!
- Ecosystems and networks are new working contexts
- Systemic gaps should be filled and wicked problems solved!
- Ambidexterity rules: think local and build global impact!

