

2015-10-28

Norrköpings kommun

Testimonial endorsing Tampere's application for iCapital

My name is Monica Hjern and I work as a senior adviser which also includes being a process leader and coordinator in the municipality of Norrköping.

I have been fortunate to collaborate with Tampere since 2002, when the four Nordic Twin Cities (Tampere, Trondheim, Odense and Norrköping) created a platform, or network, for Knowledge Cities. The network has met at least once a year to share experience and knowledge on how to increase the collaboration between the city, the university and the students – so that all three partners will benefit from this. The participants of the yearly conferences have mainly been representatives from the universities, the municipalities, the students and creative industries/businesses.

In addition to the yearly conferences, I have collaborated with representatives from Tampere in an executive group that has been planning the conferences.

Furthermore, since 2012 the city of Norrköping has been a part of the Network EUniverCities, which is a network that brings together European city administrations and universities. The EUniverCities network aims to enhance cooperation between cities and universities to foster technological, economic and social innovation. The mission of this network is pretty much the same as the Nordic network, and that is to promote and support the members in developing long-term relations and partnerships via exchange of knowledge, experiences, mutual learning and project development. This network meets at least two times a year.

I have also been involved in some projects with Tampere regarding innovative ICT tools for the elderly that will permit the elderly to have a healthier and more comfortable life.

All in all, for the past 14 years I have been meeting and collaborating with representatives from Tampere.

Based on my experience in collaborating with Tampere I would like to emphasize and point out the following:

- When Tampere decides to do something – they go for it! They take the necessary steps to take an idea or project forward. They put in the funding, invest in human resources and find good ways to facilitate it.

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- Tampere is extremely good at inspiring others and they are very generous in sharing best practice and also bad practice –which sometimes is even more efficient than just sharing the good.
- Tampere has proven to be very innovative and consistent in the way they work with the collaboration with the universities in Tampere, and they are a very vital and active partner in our networks.
- Tampere has also been very good at involving students in the different projects in the municipality and to implement this in a structural way.
- Tampere is very successful in attracting and involving companies/the private sector to take things forward – Triple Helix is something they really have adopted and implemented. Demola is a very good example of this.
- Tampere is also very good at running processes and taking different perspectives into account, in a both informal and structured way.
- Tampere delivers. In addition, they are good at documenting processes, which has been very fruitful in our collaboration – it makes the process accessible and transparent to others.
- Tampere has an international approach on things, but is still a city comfortably grounded in Finland and in its region.

I know that Tampere would be the perfect European Capital of Innovation. The rest of Europe would have a great opportunity to learn from Tampere.

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