

What is the Future of the Finnish Success Story – and what is the Role of Europe ?

Timo Kekkonen,
Confederation of the
Finnish Industries, EK

What should we do – The Finnish Approach ?

- Strengthen our strengths
 - political and societal commitment
 - educational system
 - knowledge-base / technology-base
 - networking
 - dynamism & flexibility
- Develop our weaknesses
 - increase international mobility & cooperation
 - promote (knowledge-based) entrepreneurship
- Adapt to change
 - from technology policy to innovation policy
 - adapt our innovation system to changes eg. the growing role of services

What is the Finnish competitive advantage in the future?

- The ability to create a growing number of radical innovations
- Ensuring a world-class knowledge-base (in selected areas)
- An excellent capability to transform knowledge into a competitive advantage ... into innovations

How about Europe ... what is the European competitive advantage?

A good starting point can be found in the report by the "Aho group" – Creating an Innovative Europe

Simultaneous and synchronous actions are needed at all levels in:

- Creation of a market for innovative products and services
- Providing sufficient resources for R&D and innovation
- Improving the structural mobility of Europe, and
- Building positive attitudes and a culture favourable towards entrepreneurship and risk taking