



# Co-creating Urban Futures in Urban Living Labs: from Smart Kalasatama to Helsinki Innovation Districts

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INNOVATION  
DISTRICTS

FORUM  
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# Meet Forum Virium Helsinki



- A non-profit innovation company of the City of Helsinki.
- Established in 2005
- Annual project funding of EUR 6–10 million (ERDF, Horizon and other)
- 30+ national & international projects
- 60 experts
- Mobility Smart City and Data teams with wide project portfolios

# A smart city is co-created together

- Smart solutions and the urban environment are developed together with residents, companies and the City divisions
- Agile piloting to support public private collaboration
- Wide collaboration in Helsinki Region innovation ecosystem and networks



# What we offer for companies

- Piloting in a urban environment with residents
- The entire city as a test platform
- Research and product development
- Concept testing
- Innovation competitions and open calls for projects



# LIFE AND INNOVATIONS

Smart Kalasatama – a district for experimentation

Innovation platform for sustainable urban solutions  
2015-2021

SMART  
KALASATAMA

FORUM  
VIRIUM  
HELSINKI

Helsinki

# SUSTAINABLE URBAN SOLUTIONS & SMART LIVING

25 pilots

100 companies

3500 residents engaged



## Smart Energy



# Agile Piloting - scaling up the model



Smart Kalasatama 2015-2020

Finnish Six Cities

Best practices for Social Innovation  
International Network of Smart Cities  
2021

“Kvikk test”  
Stavanger 2019

Tallinn 2021



Better cities through  
100 pilots 2023-2025  
Helsinki, Porto,  
Amsterdam

# Agile pilot: Green Kalasatama

Participatory green space visualisation and planning tool with Augmented Reality (AR) technology for residents and urban planners

Possibility to view the plans of Loviseholm's Park, modify the plan or make your own

Pilot by Granlund Oy (2020)

*Nordic Healthy Cities- project*

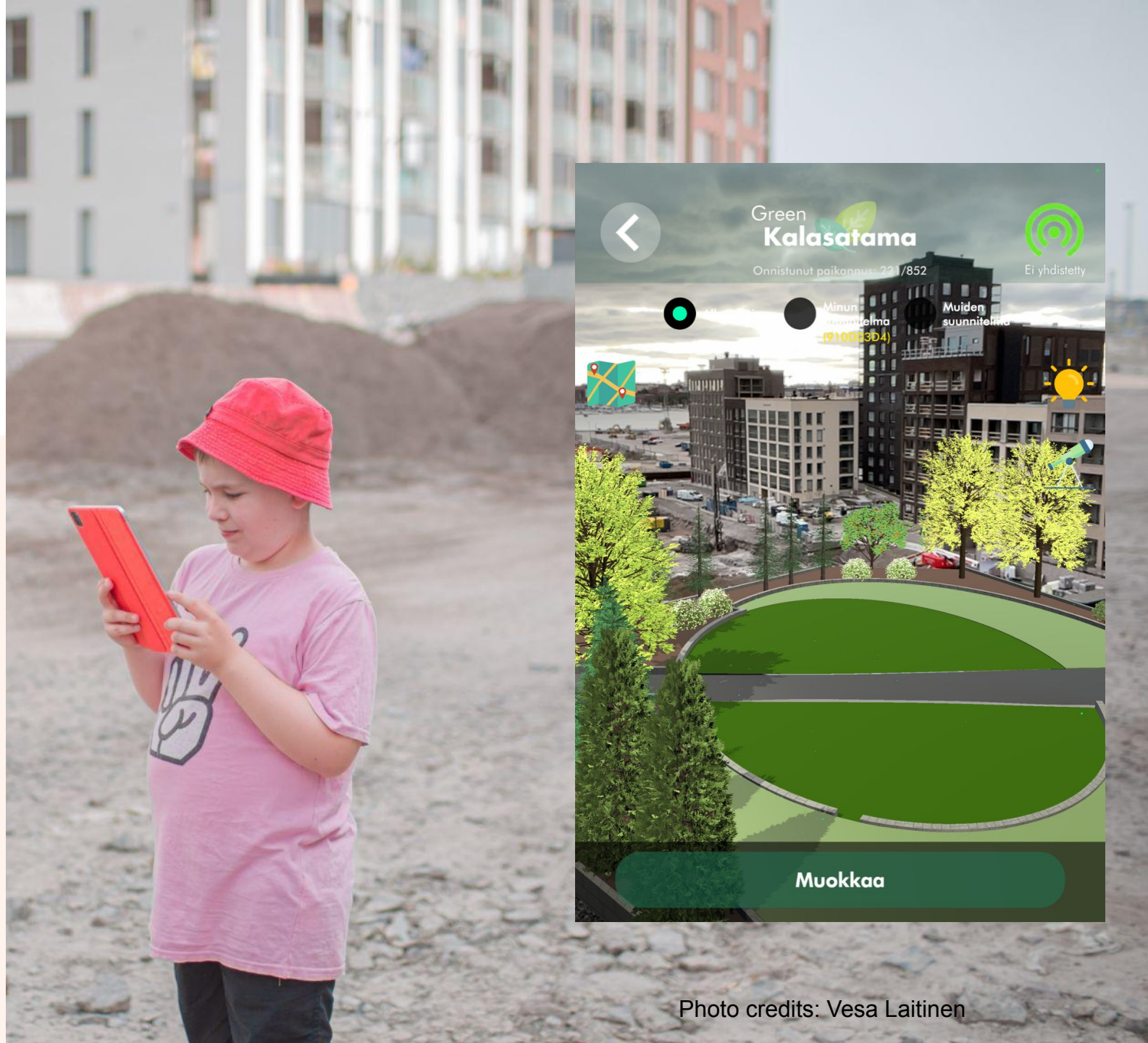


Photo credits: Vesa Laitinen



Modular street furniture bring temporary green in the residential block under construction  
Pilot by Parkly in Kalasatama  
(2020)



# Perspectives on scaling up



Re-use of models and sharing of best practices



Translating programme level lessons to recommendations for the city



New products/ services ->City investment/ procurement



New partnerships and projects

Photo: Jussi Hellsten, Helsinki Marketing

# HELSINKI INNOVATION DISTRICTS

Urban Labs and models of collaboration from smart city districts to the Suburban Regeneration districts and Pasila Mobility Hub under development.

2020-2023  
18 pilots  
60+ companies  
5 new projects  
(-2027)



# Trial Troops

A citizen pool with 500 residents is a model to engage residents to co-create, develop and test urban solutions.

Information on innovation projects in the local environment and possibilities to actively participate on different levels of the innovation process,

- surveys
- test users of new technologies and solutions
- lead users
- citizen activists



# Innovative urban greenery

Pilot in Helsinki Kalasatama-Pasila tramline tests if greenery at tram stops could cool them down, while also boosting local biodiversity. Irrigation is taken care with rainwater

Temporary green structures support the existing green spaces. The tram stop infra provides possibilities for scaling up.

Pilot in collaboration with WSP, JCDecaux, Metropolitan area Transport Ltd, InnoGreen (2024)



Euroopan unionin  
osallistuminen



# Playful city with lights and colors

A pilot project in Malmi Park explored smart lights with an interface that allows residents to change the colour and colour temperature of outdoor lighting by using a smartphone.

The pilot brought playfulness and feeling of safety in the park. It also provided the potential to extend the event season from summer to autumn and even winter.

The lights remain in the park and the solution was expanded in the entrance of the local cultural center.

Pilot with C2 (2022)

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# Radically Positive Futures

Co-visioning futures with Helsinki Suburban regeneration areas is a tool to pave the way to new collaboration and innovative solutions for futures making





# NBS for adapting and mitigating to climate change

In Helsinki, Longinoja park in Malmi will act as testbed for new green infrastructure.

The objective is to prepare for and adapt to climate change by developing and piloting transformative Nature-Based Solutions while valuing both human and non-human needs.

- Ensure the biodiversity of flora and fauna during the construction
- Build a coherent green infrastructure dataset to be utilised in new landscape planning tools and citizen engagement
- Visualise the impact of 25.000 new inhabitants in Malminkenttä on the flora and fauna of the Longinoja park



<https://fvh.io/co-creating-innovative-districts>

# Co-Creating Innovative Districts

Tools for Urban  
Innovators



# Thank you!

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# Smart lighting guides in areas under construction

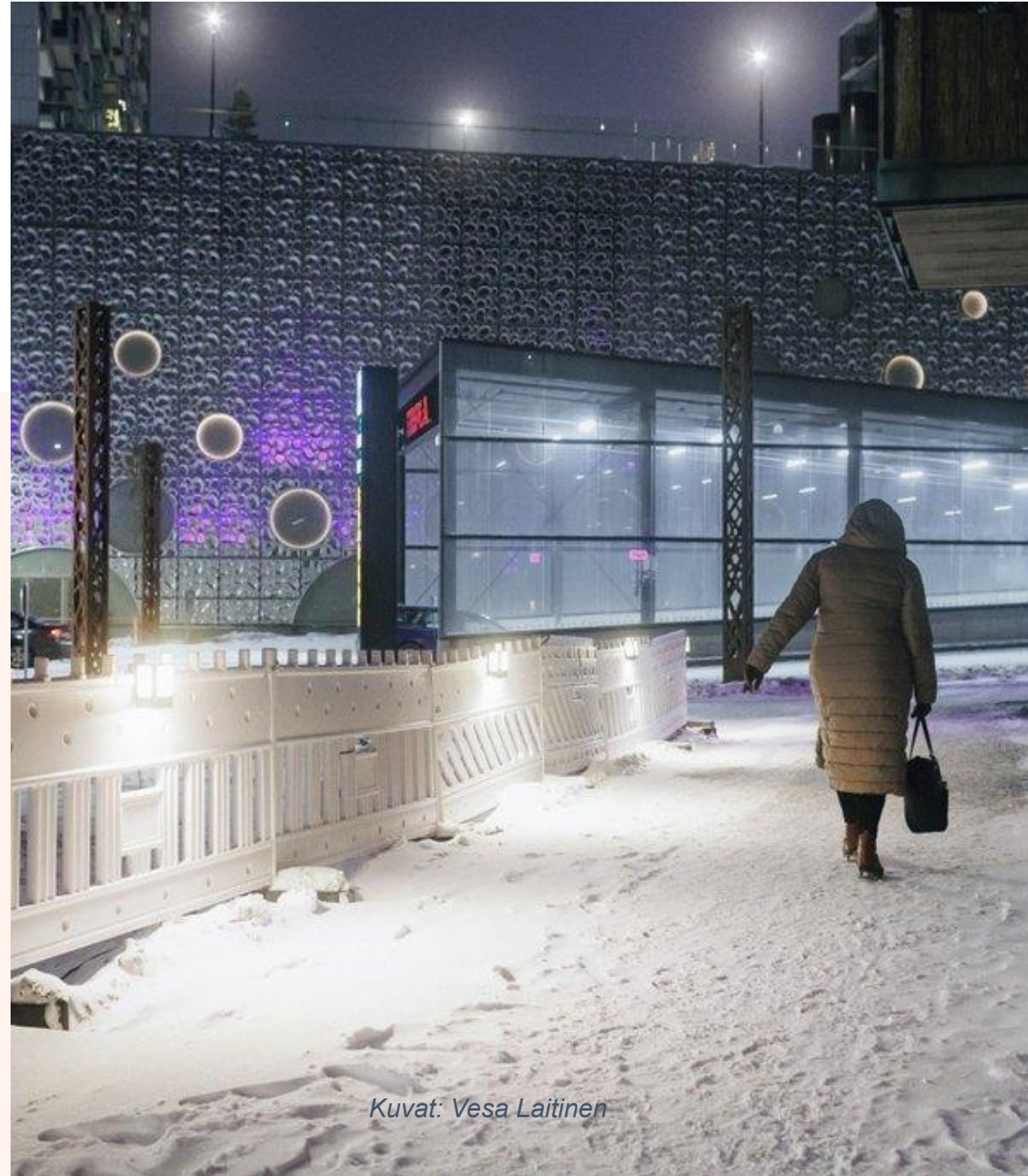
Smart lighting system to support safe and attractive routes in areas under construction was co-developed and piloted with Sun Effects Oy in Pasila (2023)

The aim of Signal product family was to explore how could light clarify detours, make them more inviting and safer for pedestrians.

The lighting supports wayfinding and creates a visually interesting effect.

City guidelines under work to be used in all construction sites

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*Kuvat: Vesa Laitinen*