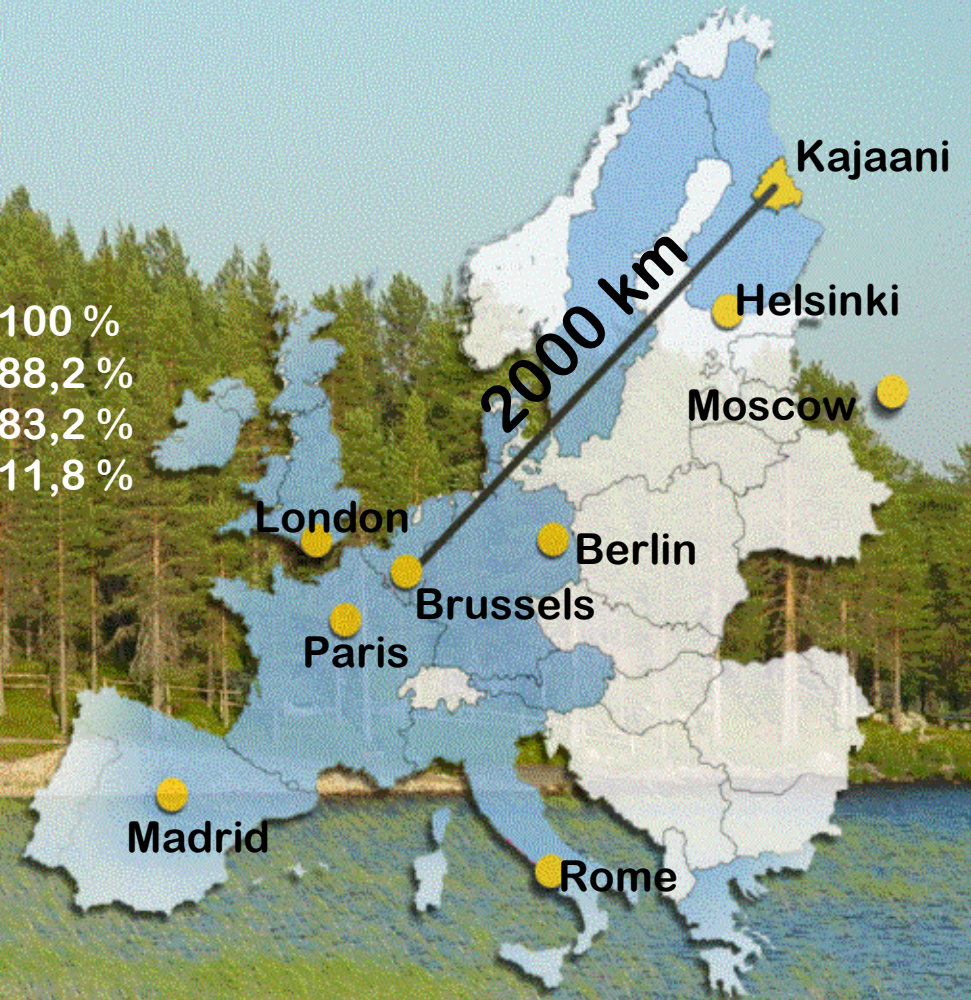
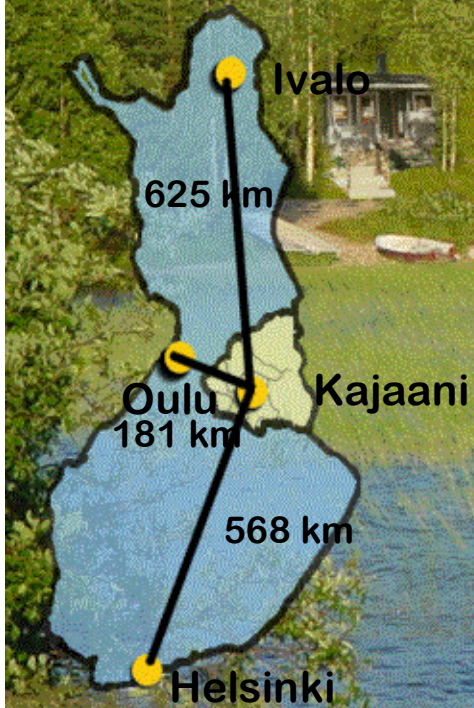




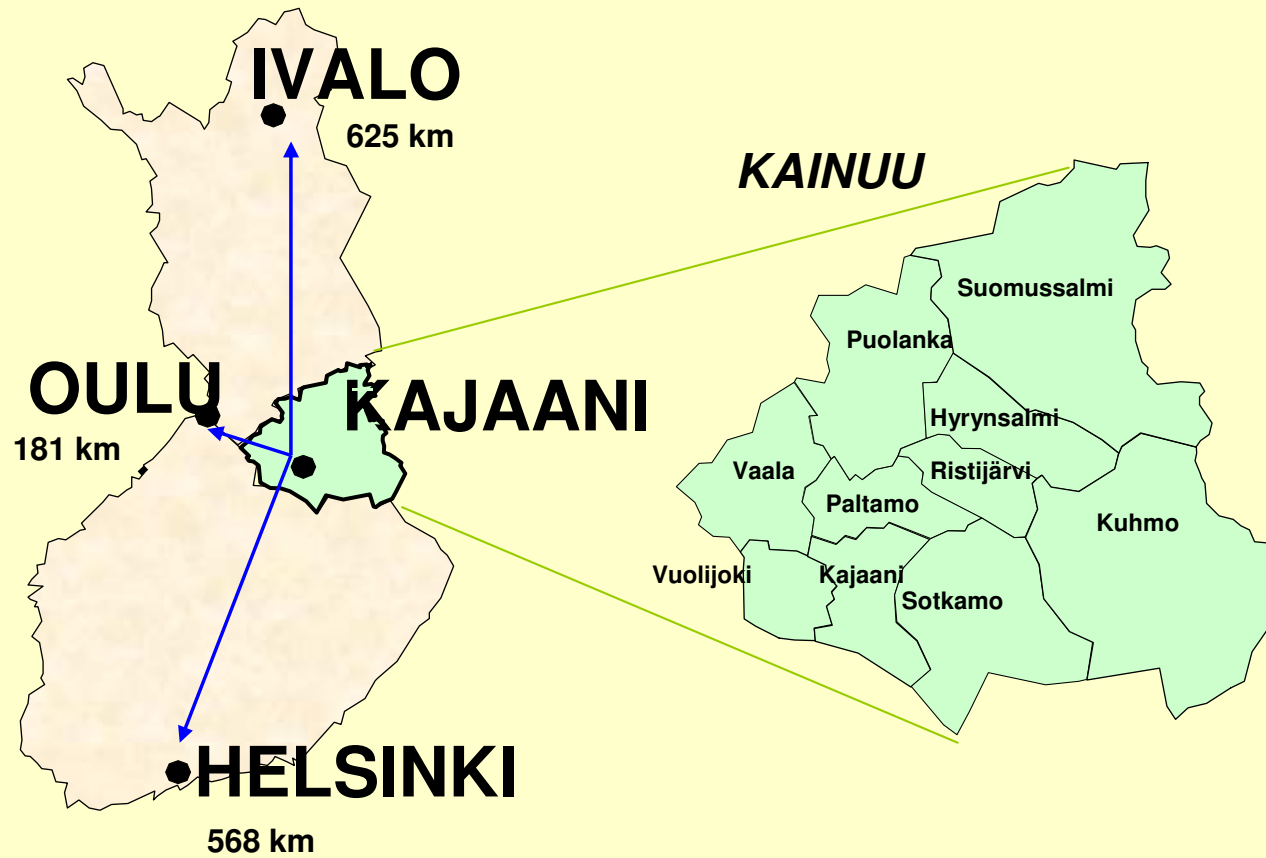
# KAINUU

Area	24 452 km <sup>2</sup>	100 %
- land	21 567 km <sup>2</sup>	88,2 %
- forest	20 439 km <sup>2</sup>	83,2 %
- water	2 885 km <sup>2</sup>	11,8 %





## KAINUU IN FINLAND





# The Regional Self-Government Experiment in Kainuu 1/3



- The Act on the Experiment was passed by the Finnish Parliament (in February 2003)
- Take force 1st January 2005, last until 31st December 2012

What does it mean:

## 1. REGIONAL DEMOCRACY

- Democratically elected Regional Council (first time on the Finnish mainland) – direct election was held in Kainuu 24<sup>th</sup> October



# The Regional Self-Government Experiment in Kainuu 2/3



## 2. INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY TO THE REGION FOR ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT – DELEGATION OF DECISION MAKING

- The Regional Council will be granted powers that traditionally have been the domain of the Governmental administration
- The regional administration will decide on the allocation of resources allotted in the national budget (included EU – funding)
- Regional planning and development and industrial policies will fall under regional authority



# The Regional Self-Government Experiment in Kainuu 3/3



## 3. PROVISION OF CERTAIN BASIC SERVICES ON REGIONAL LEVEL

- Responsibility for health care, and most of social and educational services will be transferred from the municipalities to the region
- Responsibility for the financing will remain with the municipalities



## REASONS BEHIND THE EXPERIMENT IN KAINUU 1/2



### FROM THE GOVERNMENTAL POINT OF VIEW,

- **A need to gain concrete experiences**
  - from strengthening regional self-government and its effects on regional planning and development
  - from reorganising basic services onto regional level
  - from citizen participation with direct regional democracy
  - from the relationships between regional and governmental district administration



## REASONS BEHIND THE EXPERIMENT IN KAINUU 2/2



### FROM THE GOVERNMENTAL POINT OF VIEW

- **An interest to boost cooperation between municipalities**

⇒ **more efficient practices**

⇒ **decreasing the number of the basic municipalities  
on longer run**



**FROM THE REGIONAL POINT OF VIEW,**

- **Kainuu is facing major development challenges**
    - **structural trends in industries**
    - **declining population with rapidly aging demographic structure**
    - **lack of entrepreneurship**
    - **weakening municipal economies**
- **to overcome and reverse the negative trends**



**FROM THE REGIONAL POINT OF VIEW,**

- **Kainuu is a suitable testing ground for new innovative practises**
  - **a small region with clear boundaries and strong identity**
  - **regional key actors are willing to change**



# THE REGION OF KAINUU



- has become an interesting piloting region, that - we believe - is of interest also on European level
- is interested in changing experiences,
- is open to good advise,
- is looking for cooperation, benchmarking and common projects.



# AIMS OF THE EXPERIMENT



- to ensure health care, social services and educational services for all the inhabitants of the region
- to bring the guidance of business subsidies under one regional democratic organization
- to better focus the regional development activities
- to initiate more effective projects
- to adopt new and better practises
- to create new enterprises and jobs



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact:**

**Mr. Hannu Leskinen**

**The self-government experiment in Kainuu**

**Secretary Deneral, PhD**

**[hannu.leskinen@kainuu.fi](mailto:hannu.leskinen@kainuu.fi)**

**Mr. Juhani Kärkkäinen**

**The Regional Council of Kainuu**

**Development Manager**

**[juhani.karckainen@kainuu.fi](mailto:juhani.karckainen@kainuu.fi)**

**[www.kainuu.fi](http://www.kainuu.fi)**