



## KARI KANKAALA

Dr. Sci., Lic. Tech, M.Sc. in Cities, M.Sc. EE

### Chief Sustainability Officer

Kari is the Chief Sustainability Officer with the city of Tampere, Finland. Kari has a broad and extensive experience in urban and economic development of cities since 2002. Prior to that Kari worked internationally on technology commercialization, venture capital funding of start-ups and on knowledge based regional. Currently, he is most actively involved with smart and sustainable city development, with innovation policy, sustainable economic and urban development, as well as with city's strategic initiatives on urban development, most notably the Hiedanranta brown field development for 25 000 people and 10 000 jobs. Kari has also a long experience in city's housing policy and land property and development.

Prior to joining the city in 2007, Kari had a career in the private and public sectors in Finland and in the US including CEO of a service innovation business consultancy, director at an innovation fund with focus on high tech venture capital investments as well as a short research career in physics.

Kari is a past or current chairman or board member of over twenty companies (some VC backed) and organizations and has acted as an expert both on smart city development and technology transfer in several international, national and regional working groups and committees. Kari has worked with and consulted organizations in the US, South Africa, Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Vietnam, Japan and the European Commission, among others. Kari holds a PhD from Tampere University of Technology.

### EDUCATION

#### 2020

London School of Economics, MSc in Cities, with commendation

#### 1994

Tampere University of Technology, Dr. Sci. in Physics, with honours

#### 1991

Tampere University of Technology, Lic. Tech. in Microelectronics,

#### 1987

Tampere University of Technology, M. Sc. in Electrical Engineering

### REGISTRATIONS

Academy of Urbanism, UK; academian  
Finnish Engineering Society, Finland; member  
Finnish Physical Society, Finland; member

### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, INTERVIEWS

#### 2000 - 2020

- Tens of speaking engagements of which some twenty invited talks to national and international audiences in international conferences, national meetings, focus group meetings (such as Japanese Universities, Vietnamese government and Croatian government) on topics ranging from smart city development to university IPR and start-up development
- Several interviews for national TV, national and local radio

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

2018

**Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Tampere, Finland**

*Design and execution of city's climate and environmental policies, road-map for carbon neutrality by 2030.*

2007- 2018

**Director, City Urban and Economic Development, City of Tampere, Finland**

*Various positions in leading economic and urban development of the city including economic and business development, urban development, housing, land use, employment*

*Foreign collaboration included smart city development path for St. Petersburg, Russia; smart city development consultation for Vietnamese cities*

2002 - 2007

**CEO, Professia Ltd, Tampere, Finland**

*Consulting on knowledge based regional development, on knowledge intensive business service development, on start-up creation and funding*

*Clients included Finnish Foreign Ministry, South African regional government, Finnish government offices, foundations, local governments in Finland*

1998 - 2002

**Director, Sitra Finnish Innovation Fund, Helsinki, Finland**

*Venture capital investments in start-ups, research-based start-up creation, technology commercialization, IPR protection*

*Permanent expert of EU Framework Program Innovation Committee in Luxembourg*

1996 - 1998

**Senior Technology Advisor, ABR Innova Ltd, Seattle, USA**

*Technology transfer and consulting firm; consulting in tech transfer and business strategy and on high tech materials, novel technologies to manufacture optical fibers, waste glass based materials in construction*

*Clients included government offices and multinational firms*

1989 - 1994

*Research work at Tampere U of Technology, Finland; NORDITA, Denmark; Academy of Finland; Brown University, Providence, USA; Finnish Supercomputing Facility CSC, Espoo, Finland.*

**In addition, Kari is a current or past non-executive director of over twenty companies in the following sectors:**

*ICT platforms and solutions for cities in education K-12, health care, smart cities (scope: national, status: current)*

*Ground water solutions for municipalities (regional, current)*

*Regional economic development (past; chairman)*

*Consultation of developing nations (past; global; two firms)*

*Network management solution provider (past; chairman; national)*

*Optical fiber manufacturing (past; global)*

*ICT solutions for cash management (past; global)*

*Nanotechnology technologies (past; chairman; global)*

*Research and technology commercialization (past; ten firms; global and national)*

*Invention foundations (past, two; national)*