

## **Sparkling Startups (SPARKS)**

Programme Priority: P1 Competitive economy

Programme Specific Objective: 1.1. New Central Baltic knowledge intensive companies

Sub-programme: Southern Finland - Estonia

Duration: 01.03.2016 - 28.02.2018

Total funding: 229.591 EUR

ERDF funding: 181.512 EUR ERDF

### Project Summary:

The vision of this small project is to establish a common methodology and a cross-border cooperation culture that will result in more joint and co-operating companies in the near future. This will be done using a range of methods, including mentoring, staff exchange, study visits and matchmaking. These activities will be extended also to companies who have already entered the platforms in both Turku and Tartu to use them as pilots for the methods that will be created in this project.

This project will implement joint practices and structures for cross-border co-operation between Finnish and Estonian start-ups and potential entrepreneurs. Turku Science Park has just recently kick-started its renovated, innovative start-up activities via its SparkUp society and Tartu is at the moment setting up its own similar program. This is the perfect moment to formulate joint practices, methods and structures for matching potential SMEs from both regions.

As a result of this project we aim to create 6 new joint and/or cooperating companies and to support their development through the early phases of the startup life-cycle by providing jointly developed business support activities by Tartu and Turku Science Parks.

We dedicate our efforts within SPARKS project foremost to establish 1 to 3 new joint companies.

We expect about 80 SMEs in total to benefit from the SPARKS project.

Additionally around 10 other business support organizations and universities will both contribute and benefit to/from SPARKS initiative with know-how.

## **Map of Partners**



## Partners

Lead Partner

### Sihtasutus Tartu Teaduspark

Country: EE

[www.teaduspark.ee](http://www.teaduspark.ee)

**Partner budget:** 93.187 EUR

**Amount of ERDF funding:** 79.209 EUR ERDF

Project Partners

### Turku Science Park OY

Country: FI

[www.turkusciencepark.com](http://www.turkusciencepark.com)

**Partner budget:** 136.404 EUR

**Amount of ERDF funding:** 102.303 EUR ERDF

## Results

## **Expected results**

SPARKUP project main result is to have 8 new joint or cooperating companies out of minimum 24 supported companies through joint platform which is in direct correlation with programme indicator R1.1.

## **Achieved results**

## **Project Visibility**

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