

Dear attendees,

On behalf of Laurea University of Applied Sciences, I would like to welcome you to the European Open Science Coordination meeting and to Laurea. We are proud to host this event, as its topic – Open Science – plays a vital part in Laurea's strategy, allowing for and benefitting from our key drivers: employability of Laurea graduates, attractiveness among applicants, and our regional impact.

Additionally, it also has been important for Laurea to actively participate in developing educational, science, and innovation policies. During the previous Finnish presidency of European Union in 2006, Laurea was one of the driving forces behind initiating the Helsinki Manifesto, the forerunner for open science and open innovation. Consequently, the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL), one of the members of the Open Science Policy Platform, was founded. During the past decade, Laurea has had a significant role in ENoLL, promoting co-creation and citizen-involvement in open innovation and open science. Thanks to ENoLL, the message of multiparty knowledge and innovation co-creation has spread far and wide among more than 400 international organisations. At the same time, Laurea has been able to benefit from collaboration with a wide international research community.

Today, pedagogy is no longer an internal matter of higher education institutions, but rather a common area involving the institution's partners and surroundings. Laurea pedagogy aims to integrate research and education with the surrounding region and society, further strengthening the role of Laurea in the development of Helsinki-Uusimaa region. This has been possible thanks to Laurea's educational action model called Learning by Developing (LbD).

Besides promoting and applying Open Science through the LbD model, at Laurea, there are currently two projects funded by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture that specifically concentrate on themes around open science, open innovation and co-creation. One of these projects is "Co-creation Orchestration" (CCO), and the other one "Developing open RDI, Learning and Innovation Ecosystem at Universities of Applied Sciences". Both of these projects research and aim to apply open science principles in both education as well as the RDI work. You can find the first outcomes of these projects in the poster exhibition outside this auditorium as well as in the collection of abstracts illustrating various co-creation cases from Helsinki-Uusimaa region and from our international partners.

Finland is a small country that relies heavily on export. Due to our small size, the way we succeed also in the future is by drawing on our strengths as one of the leaders in innovation. However, innovation cannot happen in a vacuum or continue to be done internally behind closed doors. To succeed, it is vital to our future to be able to create, maintain and orchestrate open science and open innovation ecosystems, as well as actively connect with international parties. This need has been recognized not only at Helsinki-Uusimaa region but also at the state level, as our current national government has expressed their intention to invest in RDI and public-private partnerships, in order to create "new billion-euro ecosystems and to strengthen the existing ones." The aim of the Finnish government is, "by connecting with international demand-driven ecosystems, to provide companies, research institutes, higher education institutions and other educational institutions an opportunity to together create new business and world-class innovations." In the concurrent environment of complexity, with increased interrelatedness and unpredictability, I trust, all Laurea stakeholders are benefiting from our active role in both regional, national and EU level policies and strategies.

At Laurea, we actively aim at developing and implementing education, research, and innovation through co-creation. Consequently, all our actions have led to Laurea being the second most attractive university in Finland and the employability of Laurea graduates is one of the highest in Finland. Besides this, Helsinki-Uusimaa being the most innovative region of the European Union, I trust we have had an impact also on this success.

I wish you all a fruitful conference with joint learning opportunities and good decisions that will lead to mutual understanding on how to benefit from and how to promote Open Science.