



Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences
Research and Development Strategy
for 2008-2011

Approved by the Board of Metropolia Ammattikorkeakoulu Oy on 14 May 2008.

From Idea to Practice!

Research and Development Strategy

The Research and Development Strategy is based on Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences' general strategy and the R&D objectives agreed upon in the performance contract between Metropolia and the Ministry of Education. The strategy takes into account national development guidelines and provisions on higher education, research, and innovation.

Metropolia is responding with its R&D to recognised needs for change in its operating environment. The strategic areas of focus were chosen as a result of R&D work done by the former Helsinki Polytechnic Stadia and EVTEK University of Applied Sciences in assessing their strengths and predicting future requirements.

Vision

In terms of quality and other indicators, Metropolia's R&D work will rank as one of Finland's most successful and competitive universities of applied sciences. Wherever it operates, Metropolia's R&D will be known for its high-quality service, efficiency, fresh ideas, reliability and modern approach. Metropolia's students, staff and partner network are valued for their R&D work both in Finland and abroad.

Operating principles

Metropolia's R&D work promotes international competitiveness, regional wellbeing and the development of urban culture in key parts of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. Metropolia takes an active part in predicting labour market changes in cooperation with its strategic R&D partners. By engaging in practical innovation and by promoting entrepreneurship that springs from R&D ideas, Metropolia will produce tools that will help to respond to these changes.

R&D work will help to reform Metropolia's course offering and teaching methods and improve staff expertise. On the other hand, through teaching new challenges to R&D can be identified, e.g. in terms of content and methods. Moreover, Metropolia aims to play an active part in building long-term, innovative R&D platforms and channels for national and international development networks.

Strategic objectives

- 1) All Metropolia clusters are committed to R&D work and have the readiness to engage in it.
- 2) Development and innovation platforms are put in place either within Metropolia clusters or between them, engaging in active cooperation with the local businesses and the labour market.
- 3) Metropolia will take care of integrating R&D work and teaching, and thus strengthen the R&D expertise. This is particularly true in Metropolia's labour market *Innovation Project* in which teaching and R&D activities are combined in new and creative ways.
- 4) Metropolia develops its R&D services to support the recognition of innovations created in its clusters, to help turn them into marketable products or services, and to promote enterprising spirit.
- 5) Metropolia produces high-quality and extensive publications on its R&D activities, teaching and artistic endeavours and the utilisation of these in labour market and business contexts.
- 6) Metropolia takes part in important Finnish and international R&D programmes.
- 7) Measured with key indicators, Metropolia's R&D activities rank as one of the country's most successful universities of applied sciences.

R&D areas of focus

At the moment Metropolia has identified the following areas of focus:

- 1) Clean technology that saves energy and the environment.
- 2) Intelligent systems and services.
- 3) Innovative and reporting infrastructure of the Metropolitan Area.
- 4) Service business models, service models and operating concepts
- 5) Impact and quality of methods and processes.
- 6) Learning technology and the digital media.
- 7) Anticipation of changes in professions.

The business aspect is present in all areas of focus.

Main principles of R&D work

- 1) R&D work is integrated with teaching. Students are given an opportunity to apply and deepen their expertise and to develop the skills they need for work and business, getting a good idea of professional practices in their field at an early stage and creating a network of connections to boost their career.
- 2) R&D work serves the needs of the labour market, regional development and Metropolia itself. The emphasis is on applied research, on development work that serves the stakeholders and on putting the research results into practice. Business skills and anticipation skills are the focus of all R&D operations. R&D projects support product development of enterprises and at the same time create a link to experts that will be graduating soon.
- 3) Each Metropolia cluster develops, implements and carries out R&D projects feasible for their operating area, networking in the process with other clusters and partners. R&D Services support R&D work through project guidance and counselling.
- 4) R&D work is flexible and efficient. The partners' needs are followed actively and responded to promptly. Innovations arise from expertise, courage and freedom, all of which our R&D operating principles support.
- 5) R&D activities create and utilise international networks, and international cooperation serves the objectives of Metropolia and its partners alike.
- 6) Sustainable development principles are applied to R&D activities. Our projects promote ecologically, socially and economically sustainable activities and social responsibility.