



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY

Deputy Director-General for Implementation and International Relations

Brussels
REGIO.DDG.03/DZ

Mr Jyrki Kaiponen
Executive Director of Keski-
Pohjanmaa

Subject: Invitation to take part in Pillar 2 of the Talent Booster Mechanism – technical assistance to regions at risk of falling into a talent development trap

Dear Mr Kaiponen,

The European Union is facing a remarkable demographic transition. Studies and reports¹ indicate that both long term trends and temporary phenomena negatively influence the demographic situation in most EU countries. Looking at the regional level, significant discrepancies exist, with some regions being more acutely impacted than others. This may lead to deepening territorial disparities, which in turn can hamper the resilience and competitiveness of the EU as a whole.

Recognizing the importance of these issues, the Commission adopted the Communication on *'Harnessing talent in Europe's regions'*² which identifies two groups of regions:

- 46 regions that are in a talent development trap, where sharp decline of their working age population is accompanied by low and stagnant share of persons with a tertiary education, and
- 36 regions from eleven EU countries that are at risk of falling into a talent development trap in the future, mainly affected by the net out-migration of the young population.

¹ The impact of demographic change – in a changing environment (SWD(2023) 21 final)

² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions *Harnessing talent in Europe's regions*; COM(2023) 32 final

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To assist the regions with overcoming these challenges, the Commission designed an eight-pillar 'Talent Booster Mechanism' that aims to help boosting talent in regions facing or at risk of facing a talent development trap. The Mechanism will support EU regions affected by the accelerated decline of their working age population and the departure of their young population to train, retain and attract the people, skills and competences needed to address the impact of the demographic transition.

In particular, **the 36 regions at risk of falling into a talent development trap** will have the opportunity to benefit from **direct technical assistance** to elaborate analyses, policy recommendations and an action plan to respond to their specific territorial challenges linked to demographic transition (Pillar 2 of the Talent Booster Mechanism).

To this end, a **Call for Expression of Interest** for these regions **will be open from 14 December 2023 until 7 February 2024**. The aim of the Call is **to select 10 regions** which will benefit from the expert support of a dedicated team led by the OECD that will assist the authorities in addressing their specific challenges in this area.

The 10 regions will be selected *inter alia* based on their motivation to receive expert support, the relevance of their challenges and needs and the operational readiness to engage with the experts.

I would therefore like to invite the region Keski-Pohjanmaa– as part of the *Pohjois- ja Itä-Suomi region* - to take part in the application process.

All the details about the Call will be available on the Harnessing Talent Platform ([Inforegio - Harnessing Talent Platform \(europa.eu\)](https://inforegio.europa.eu)).

Yours faithfully,

[E-signed]
Normunds POPENS

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