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FIIF Newsletter
1/2024

It is going to be a busy FIIF Spring

This year's first FIIF Newsletter focuses on the upcoming FIIF events. On March 14 we offer to you an opportunity to take part in an EU project dissemination event and learn about AI solutions aimed for the manufacturing industry. On April 11 FIIF will explore the potential of Industrial Metaverse across various industry applications. And on May 23 FIIF will do a deep dive into the next big and hairy European acronym, i.e. CSRD (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive), which will change the life of European companies already in 2025.




FIIF's event calendar will be updated continuously, so regular visits to the Events section in FIIF's web pages will help you stay on board and well informed!

The next FIIF Newsletter will be published in **March 2024**.

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Flash event: "Upskilling Opportunities for the industry talents"

 **Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 14:00-15:00, online**

 **More info** [Ms. Clémentine Arpiainen](#), tel. 358 40 6603424
 **Registrations** (You will receive a Teams link in return)

Are you prepared for the shifts in the industry brought by data, AI and emerging technologies? Don't let your business fall behind in a rapidly evolving industry and register to this webinar to stay ahead of the curve and to hear about new regulations, interesting company cases, and the offering available to reskilling or upskilling in new advanced technologies.



Agenda:

14:00 Welcome words (DIMECC)

Keynote: The Effects of EU's Data Act on Manufacturing Industry – **Joonas Mikkilä** (Teknologiateollisuus - Technology Industries of Finland)

Robocoast EDIH Success Story: Company Case: "Physical nano identifier to the digital world" – **Ari-Veli Starcke** (Starcke Oy)


Data and AI Accelerator: Company Case: "Digital lifecycle services in industrial cleaning solutions" – **Juhana Rikkinen** (FinnSonic Oy)

Upskilling Opportunities: The Finnish Collaboration Model at the service of the Manufacturing Industry SMEs - REBOOT SKILLS, Level Up Project and Project EAGLE (DIMECC and University of Oulu)

Discussion

15:00 Closing

FIIF Event: AI for Manufacturing – dissemination event for knowEdge EU project

 **Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 10:00-13:30, Tampere (Platform 6, Åkerlundinkatu 8) and online**

Note! One hour later than normally!

 **Event web page**  **Registrations**



Artificial Intelligence is a key component in the fourth industrial revolution changing the way we live and work. However, complex technologies and lack of skilled talent are hindering us

to fully leverage its potential to increase product quality and business sustainability. In this FIIF event we will hear key results from the three-year, EU-funded [knowlEdge](#) project, which will complete its operations at the end of March 2024.

The project aimed to address the need for new AI solutions for the manufacturing industry that are agile, reusable, distributed, scalable, accountable, secure, standardized, and collaborative. It developed a framework that optimizes different stages of production by utilizing the common inter-company infrastructure. The framework also ensures secure management of distributed data and facilitates effective knowledge exchange.

The project has validated its results with three use cases, addressing different sectors of the manufacturing industry.

Parmalat: Process optimization using digital twin (milk and dairy products)

Bonfiglioli: Zero-defect manufacturing (planetary gearboxes)

Kautex: Anomaly detection (plastic parts to automotive OEMs)

Preliminary agenda:

10:00 Welcome and opening

Introduction to the knowlEdge project

Technical overview (a.k.a knowlEdge platform architecture)

Data collection through edge-fog-cloud continuum

Data modelling with human-in-the-loop

AI-driven Decision Support System

AI on Demand: Trading AI models on the knowlEdge Marketplace


Use cases

The way forward

Joint discussion and Q&A

13:30 Closing of the event

FIIF Event on Industrial Metaverse

 **Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 9:00-12:30, Helsinki and online**

 [Event web page](#)  [Registrations](#)




Metaverse technologies, including Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR), present significant opportunities for the manufacturing industry. These innovative technologies enhance various aspects of manufacturing, from process improvement to product quality enhancement. Notable applications include design and prototyping, training and skills development, maintenance and repair, quality control, factory planning, remote collaboration, and safety training.

At this FIIF event, we will explore the potential of the Industrial Metaverse across various industry applications. The presentations will cover perspectives from technology providers and research organizations, highlighting diverse opportunities in the field.



FIIF Event: Corporate Sustainability

 **Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 9:00-12:30, Tampere (Platform 6 and online)**

 [Event web page](#)  [Registrations](#)

As part of the European Green Deal, EU requires all large companies and all listed companies to disclose information on what they see as the risks and opportunities arising from environmental, social, and governance issues (ESG), and on the impact of their activities on people and the environment. This helps stakeholders to evaluate the sustainability performance of companies.

On January 5, 2023, the **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)** entered into force to modernize and strengthen the rules concerning the ESG information that companies have to report. The first companies will have to apply the new rules for the first time in the 2024 financial year, for reports published in 2025. Companies subject to the CSRD will have to report their information according to **European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS)**, which were published on December 22, 2023.



Call to Action for SW Developers: Get Ready for ESG Tool Tender Opening in March 2024!

Attention software developers! Are you ready to play a pivotal role in driving corporate sustainability reporting? The [SusTool EU project](#) is excited to announce an upcoming procurement tender for the **development of a web-based ESG tool** (Environmental, Social, and Governance), tailored specifically for SMEs.

In April 2021, the EC adopted a proposal for Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), which, together with European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), extends the reporting responsibility to all large companies and all companies listed on regulated markets. Companies need to also report sustainability parameters of their suppliers, which means that the directive will impact many SMEs, too. At the moment there are several reporting standards and frameworks, which makes the situation challenging, especially for SMEs co-operating with several large companies. The SusTool project develops and pilots a Sustainability Reporting Tool consisting of a **digital reporting environment** and a set of **recommendations** for companies on how to efficiently align their operations with the required sustainability parameters.

Your expertise is crucial to the success of this project. Let's work together to innovate solutions that enable businesses to thrive sustainably. Stay tuned for the tender announcement in March 2024 and become an integral part of this transformative journey!

For more information, please contact Ms. **Lisbet Frey** at DIMECC (e-mail: lisbet.frey@dimecc.com, tel. +358 40 8400082).

The SusTool EU project (2023-2025) is financed by Interreg Baltic Sea Region program, and it contributes to EUSBSR PA Innovation Action 2 "Digital Innovation and Transformation". The project is led by Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications.

PoDoCo Spring 2024 application round is open from March 1 until April 15, 2024

Does your company have cutting-edge renewal ideas which could be further developed and investigated by a talented doctor?

The core of the PoDoCo is a collaborative project carried out by the company and the postdoc. The goal of the project is to create new business for the company with the help of the doctor's expertise and create a job for the postdoc in the company.

The first phase of the PoDoCo project is financed by the foundation, so the company's risks in recruitment are minimized. After the successful first phase, the project continues to the second phase financed by the company.

Since 2015, we have financed more than 230 PoDoCo projects, and in fully realized PoDoCo projects, 90% of the PhDs have stayed to work in the collaborative company.

PoDoCo is open for all companies operating in Finland and for all recently graduated doctors. More information [here](#). Contact: Dr. **Seppo Tikkanen** (email: seppo.tikkanen@dimecc.com , tel. +358 40 8402780).

Collaboration opportunities at the YHTÄ project (Collaboratively Smart City)

In the [YHTÄ project](#) (Collaboratively Smart City), a good and tested practice is created for the implementation of an analysis pipeline cutting through the data ecosystem of the city of Tampere in the context of the urban community. The project provides also a practical YHTÄ playbook, which software developers can use to build their own services that utilize the data produced in the ecosystem. The playbook also includes practical examples of how the data has been used.

There is still room for more companies! For information on collaboration opportunities, please contact Project Manager Kari Naakka (e-mail kari.naakka@tuni.fi, tel. +358 40 7294269).

The YHTÄ project is funded by the Council of Tampere Region from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Regional and Structural Policy Programme "Renewable and Competent Finland 2021-2027".

The project is led by Tampere University of Applied Sciences. Partners are City of Tampere and the following companies: Finnpark Oy, Insta Group Oy, Louhe Oy, and Maptionnaire.

Events calendar

February 22, 2024: [Flash event on "Upskilling Opportunities for the industry talents"](#)

February 26, 2024: [FCAI event on "Fast and Accurate Probabilistic Time Series Classification"](#)

March 1 ... April 15, 2024: [PoDoCo Spring 2024 round is open](#)

March 12, 2024: [Business Finland event "The second RF Summit Finland"](#).

March 14, 2024: [FIIF Event on "AI for Manufacturing" with knowlEdge EU project](#)

March 19-21, 2024: [Engineering Works Trade Fair \(Konepajamessut\), Nordic Welding Expo, and 3D & New Materials in Tampere](#)

April 4, 2024: [Business Finland event "Eurostars: Ready for take-off networking event"](#)

April 9-11, 2024: [6G Symposium: "Crucial Conversations at a Critical Time"](#)

April 18, 2024: [FIIF Event on "Industrial Metaverse"](#)

April 29, 2024: [FCAI event on "Tekoäly ja terveystiedot" \(partly in Finnish\)](#)

May 17-18, 2024: [Traficom's "Hack the Networks" 5G cybersecurity hack](#)

May 23, 2024: [FIIF Event on "Corporate Sustainability"](#)

If you have material that you would like to be included in the FIIF Newsletters or otherwise distributed to the FIIF community members, please contact the FIIF Manager (fiif.manager@dimecc.com). You can also suggest a topic for a FIIF event or activity or offer to give a presentation at a FIIF event.

*FIIF Manager also maintains the **FIIF mailing list**, which is used to distribute information to contact persons. Please contact the FIIF Manager regarding any changes to the FIIF mailing list.*

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