



Turku: where Nordic–Baltic security becomes business

MSI Global Alliance · Nordic Baltic Meeting · 17 September 2026

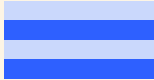
**BUSINESS
TURKU**

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The Turku region is Finland's third-largest urban region and it keeps growing



355,285

residents in the Turku region

September 2025

155,041

jobs in the Turku region

December 2023

28,659

companies in the Turku region

December 2024

€6.7 bn

exports from Varsinais-Suomi, 9.3% of Finland's exports

2024

€718 M

R&D expenditure in Varsinais-Suomi, all sectors

2024

€3.6 bn

private-sector investments in the Turku sub-region in one year

2023

Sources: Statistics Finland, Finnish Customs, City of Turku

Security has turned the Baltic Sea into a growth market

2023–24

Finland and Sweden joined NATO. Every Nordic and Baltic country is now an ally.

3%

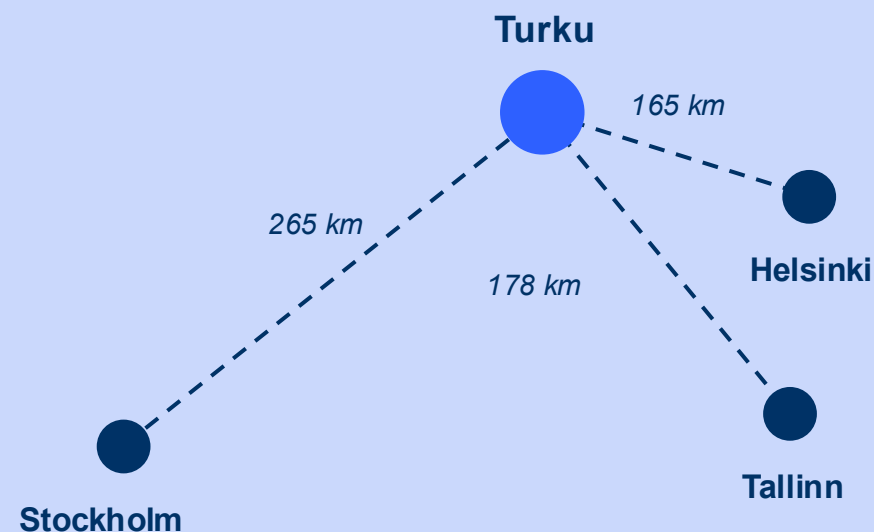
of GDP for defence in Finland by 2029

5%

NATO spending path agreed by allies for 2035

Governments now prefer suppliers inside the alliance, ideally inside the region.

Daily ferries Turku–Stockholm



Baltic Sea

Southwest Finland builds the ships Northern Europe depends on

~560

maritime companies in
Varsinais-Suomi

~8,200

employees in the maritime
cluster

€4.2 bn

cluster revenue (2023)

€1.9 bn

naval and security shipbuilding
2019–2029

Civil anchor

Meyer Turku: €2.14 bn turnover in 2025, capacity secured to 2036

~13,000 jobs at the yard and its supplier network

Elomatic, Deltamarin, Foreship, Wärtsilä R&D, Kongsberg Maritime
Finland

Defence and security

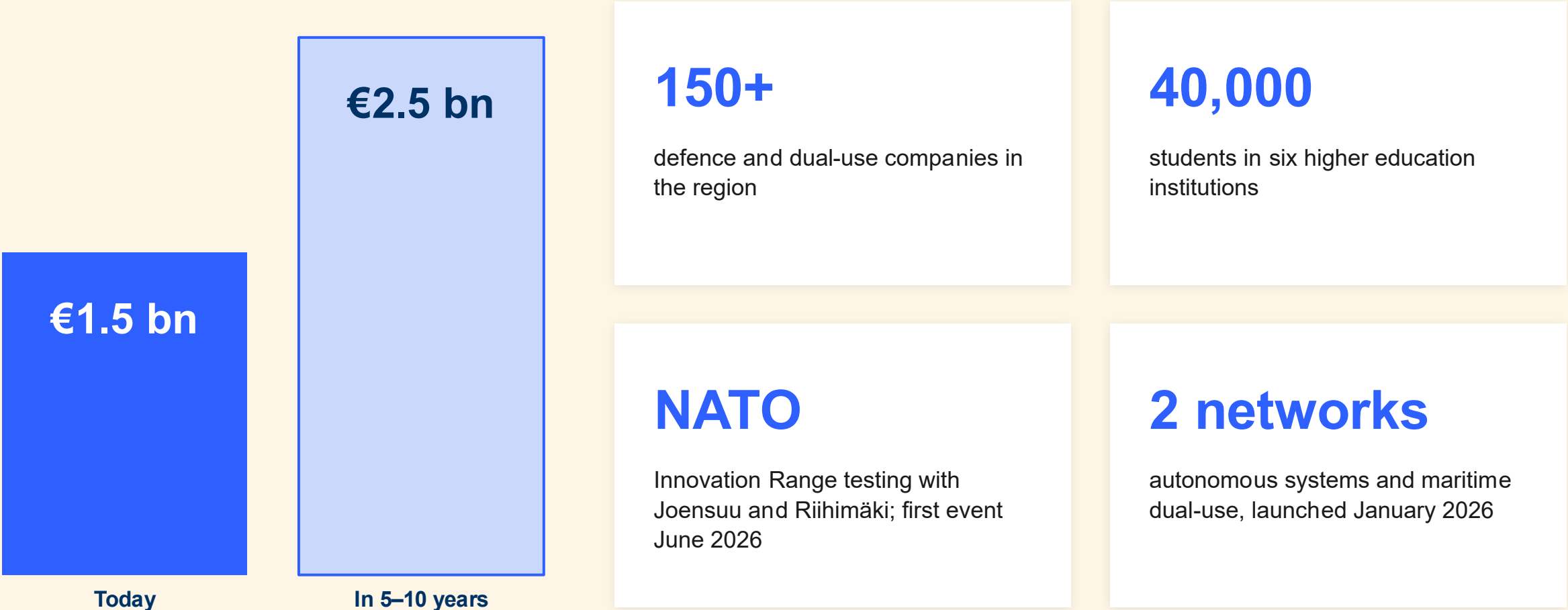
Pohjanmaa-class corvettes for the Finnish Navy (RMC, Rauma)

Turva-class patrol vessels for the Border Guard (Meyer Turku, €448 M)

Watercat craft for Sweden (Marine Alutech); Arctic Security Cutters for
the US Coast Guard (RMC)

The customers are here: Navy Command, Coastal Fleet and West Finland Coast Guard District

A €1.5 billion security and dual-use layer is growing toward €2.5 billion



Business Turku assessment

Rumble Tools chose Turku to build Europe's low-altitude infrastructure

~€30 M

investment programme for autonomous drone infrastructure in Northern Europe and the Baltics

1st

pilot area is Turku: Low Altitude Economy Hub with the City of Turku, Business Turku and Turku UAS

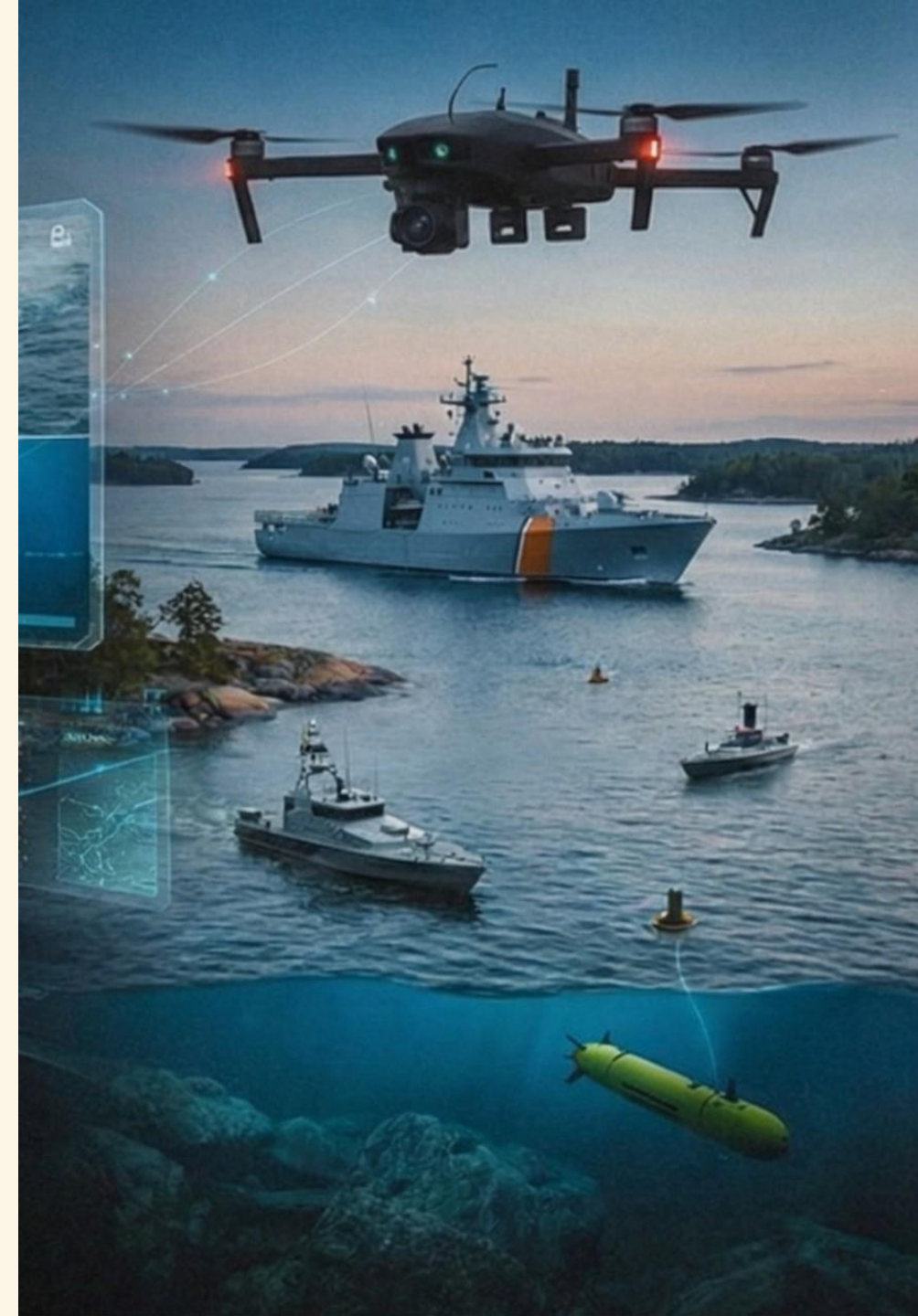
24/7

autonomous drones with docking stations for border surveillance, critical infrastructure, inspections and logistics

For advisors: airspace rules, data protection, dual-use export controls, public procurement and cross-border company structures

Rumble Tools Oy, founded 2016 in Imatra. Letter of intent signed November 2025.

Business Turku | MSI Nordic Baltic Meeting, Turku, 17 September 2026



Five growth sectors carry the region, with maritime security as its backbone



Maritime Security

Shipyards, shipbuilding and defence-relevant maritime deep tech

Examples

**Meyer Turku,
Cadmatic, Marine
Alutech**



Health & Life Sciences

Drug development, diagnostics and health technology

Examples

**Faron
Pharmaceuticals,
3PBIOVIAN,
CardioSignal**



Food & Nutrition

Functional foods and nutrition science

Examples

Raisio, Hesburger



Clean Transition

New energy, hydrogen, batteries and circular economy

Examples

**Green North Energy,
Metgen, Rester**



Creative Content & Immersive Tech

Games, XR and creative content

Examples

Filmgate Finland

Business Turku and Turku Startup Hub key sectors 2026. Each sector has 30–39 identified growth companies.

€3.8 billion of announced investments are in the regional pipeline

Announced investments by sector, € million

Green transition: energy, hydrogen, circular economy



Maritime security



Food and nutrition



Other sectors



In green transition, €463 M is decided or under way. The rest is still in planning.

Largest announced projects

€1.5 bn	Data centre in Raisio NCC and Virtanen companies, planning stage
€600 M	Green ammonia plant, Naantali Green North Energy
€500 M	E-methanol project Liquid Wind
€160 M	Shipyard investments, Turku Meyer Turku
€100 M	Maritime investment Langh Ship

Varsinais-Suomi, excluding Rauma. Source: Dataikkuna 30.6.2026; announced projects, largely pipeline and not committed capital.

The launchpad for Nordic innovation

A permanent Business Turku programme, anchored at Axelia, that brings together the region's startups, investors, companies, universities and support organisations.

Community

One place — physical and virtual — where founders, investors, mentors and researchers meet. Practical support, expertise, networks and peer encouragement.

Programmes

An annual cycle from idea to scale-up: Boost Startup Journey, Turku Startup Prize, the Early-stage track and the ScaleUp track — plus events every month.

Research to business

Together with the City of Turku, ten municipalities, the four universities and the business community, we build the path from research to companies.

OUR AMBITION

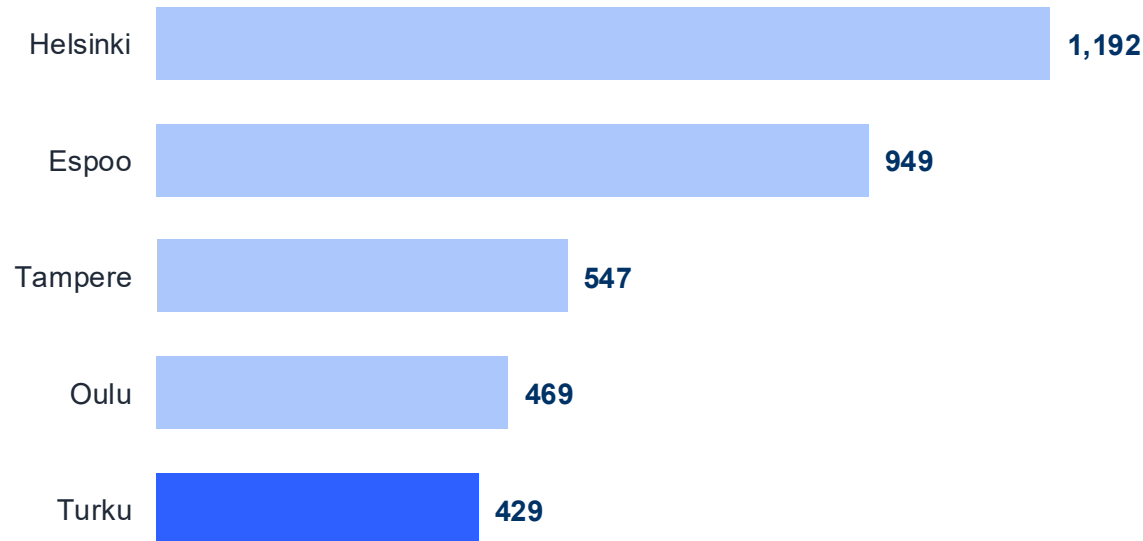
2030 · 2035

By 2030, Turku is known as the city where new startups are created from research faster than anywhere else in Finland. Target: grow the region's startups from 117 today to 250 by the end of the decade and to 500 by 2035.

Turku starts lowest of Finland's five startup cities

Startup Study 2025 counts every Finnish city on one definition. Per million inhabitants, Turku has a third of Helsinki's startup density — and a city of our size, Tallinn, has about four times ours.

Startups per million inhabitants · Finland, one definition



Startup Study 2025 (Tesi, Finnish Startup Community, FVCA); populations end-2025.

117

active startups

in the Turku sub-region, up
from 105 a year earlier

~15

founded per year

the number we most need
to change

598

people employed

€46.9m combined revenue

€40m

raised in total

a quarter have raised
nothing yet

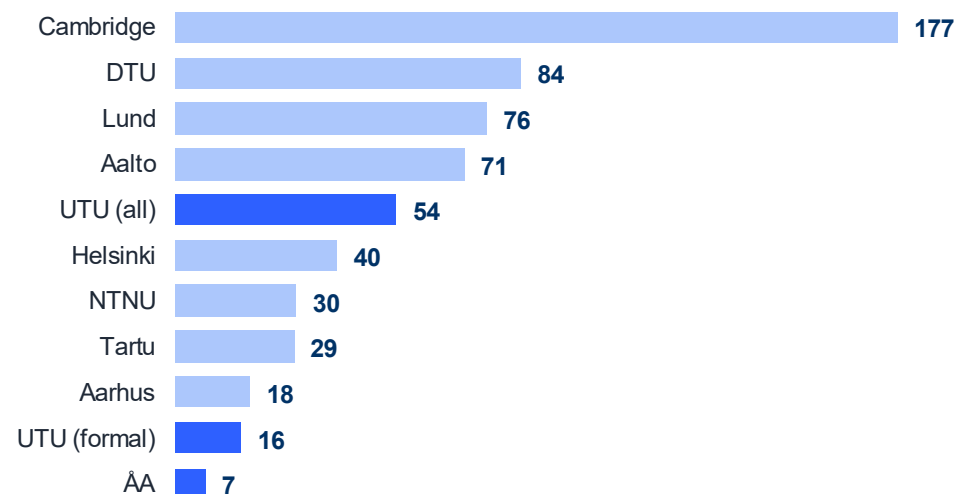
Business Turku, Turun seudun startup-selvitys 2025 (Q2 2025).

Sources: Startup Study 2025 (Tesi / FSC / FVCA); Kuntaliitto populations; Business Turku regional startup survey 2025; Dealroom city profiles, September 2026 (Tallinn 1,253 per million on Dealroom's stated 400k metro population).

Many ideas, few companies — so far

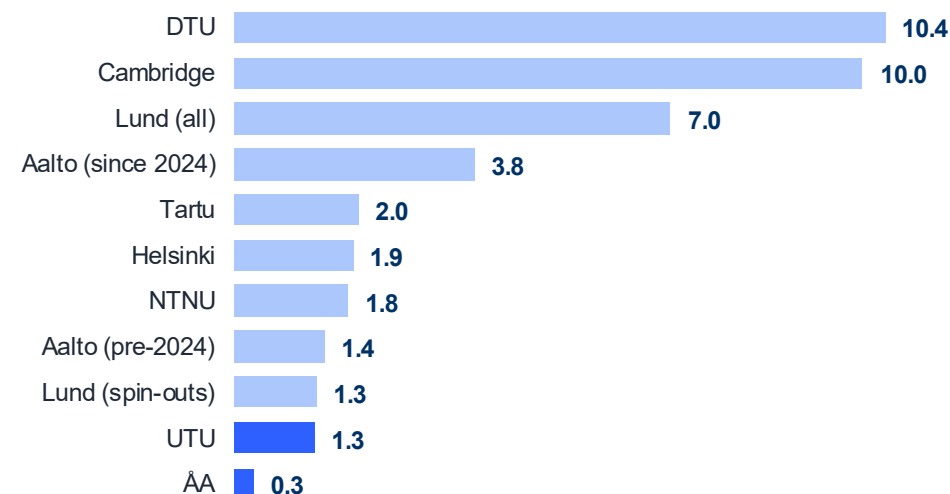
Per 10,000 students, so universities of different sizes can be compared. Direction, not a ranking — Turku region in blue.

Ideas reaching the transfer office, per year



UTU = University of Turku (all ideas; formal invention disclosures only). ÅA = Åbo Akademi.

New companies started, per year



Lund (all) includes companies started by its own students and researchers.

We are not short of ideas. About 125 ideas a year reach the University of Turku's transfer office — on a par with similar universities in Europe.

This is the part we can change. The gap is the step from invention to funded company. Aalto went from 1.4 to 3.8 in two years by rebuilding that step.

Sources: University of Turku Innovation Services 2012–2025; Åbo Akademi, September 2026; each other institution's own reporting.

Axelia — our Startup and Growth Hub

Agricolankatu 4, Turku. The Hub team, member startups and the community share one address between the universities and the city centre.



159 m²

offices — Hub team, private offices and hot desks

55 m²

meeting rooms — workshops and investor meetings

115 m²

laboratory — in use from 1 October 2026

+ 761 m²

options: 133 m² lab and 628 m² high hall (2027)

A community, not an office. Community memberships and hot desks for startups; founder and investor networks meet here.

Events every month. Co-founder matchmaking, roundtables, pitching and investor days.

Build-and-test environments. Lab benches now; the high hall option opens hands-on prototyping with the four universities.

From 117 to 250 by 2030 — and 500 by 2035

500 startups in the Turku sub-region is Helsinki's density today. It takes about 70 new startups a year instead of 15. No single actor delivers that — the ecosystem does, and this is how the pieces fit.

117 today

250 by 2030

500 by 2035

01 Universities

Active R2B with the four universities and Sitra: a supported pre-company stage, an open founder route for students and researchers, and one shared way of counting.

02 Student community

Boost Turku's Startup Journey and community as the entry point — with a named next step into the Hub's tracks for every team.

03 Programmes

Early-stage track from idea to first traction; ScaleUp track for investor readiness and international growth — the path from Prize finalist to funded company.

04 Turku Startup Prize

The annual showcase: 148 applications, investors in the room, and a Startup World Cup ticket that puts Turku on the global map.

05 Capital

Monttu Ventures and FIBAN angels for the first cheque; a City-backed €300–600k fund with private VCs in preparation for the round the region is missing.

06 Home base & networks

Axelia as the shared address; board and mentor network; Nordic & Baltic partners (GNB) and a presence at TechBBQ, Slush and San Francisco.



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