



**MY TOWN**

**2020**

# Erasmus+

# Lappeenranta

# General information

Population: 72 705 people

Area: 1723,56 km<sup>2</sup>

Lappeenranta is located in the south-east of Finland, in a region called South Karelia, near the Russian border. It's on the southern shore of Lake Saimaa, which is one of the largest inland waterway systems in Europe. Because of the vicinity of the border, thousands of Russian tourists visit our town annually.

Forestry and wood processing are the most important industries: we produce paper and pulp and convert pine oil into biodiesel.

Fun fact: This year Lappeenranta is 370 years old

# Sights: Harbour

The harbour has always been important to the local people. In the past, it was the center of trading. Now it's a centre of leisure: there are many free-time activities, for example kiosks, cafés and playgrounds. In summer, there are events like concerts and market days.

Finland's largest sandcastle is located in the harbour. It is one of the most beautiful and unique sights in summer. Artists use more than 3 million kilos of sand to build it. They have a new theme every summer, so far they have taken both locals and tourists to jungle, space and Medieval Finnish castles.

# Sights: Fortress

- The Fortress of Lappeenranta was constructed as a border fortification, between Eastern Sweden and North-Western Russia. The first fortification structures were built in the 1720s by Swedes. As the border was pushed east and west over the centuries, the Fortress was alternately held by the Swedes and the Russians.
  - During the Russo-Swedish war in 1741-43, there were battles in the Fortress. After the war, South Karelia became a part of Russian Empire.
  - After the Napoleonic Wars in 1809 Sweden ceded the whole of Finland over to Russia, and South Karelia was incorporated into the Russian Grand Duchy of Finland. During the Russian rule between 1809 and 1917 the Fortress was a garrison area.
  - In 1917 Finland gained independence followed by the civil war in 1918, when the Fortress became a prison camp.

Nowadays the Fortress is a popular tourist attraction and a centre of culture in Lappeenranta. Many museums, art galleries and cafés are located there. There are also art and dance schools.



Sandcastle

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lappeenranta, Finland - panoramio \(4\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lappeenranta,_Finland_-_panoramio_(4).jpg)

# Lappeenranta University of Technology - LUT

Lappeenranta University of Technology is a global, modern, green-thinking university located in our city. It was established in 1969 and is fairly high in various international university rankings.

There are 4503 students from practically all over the world

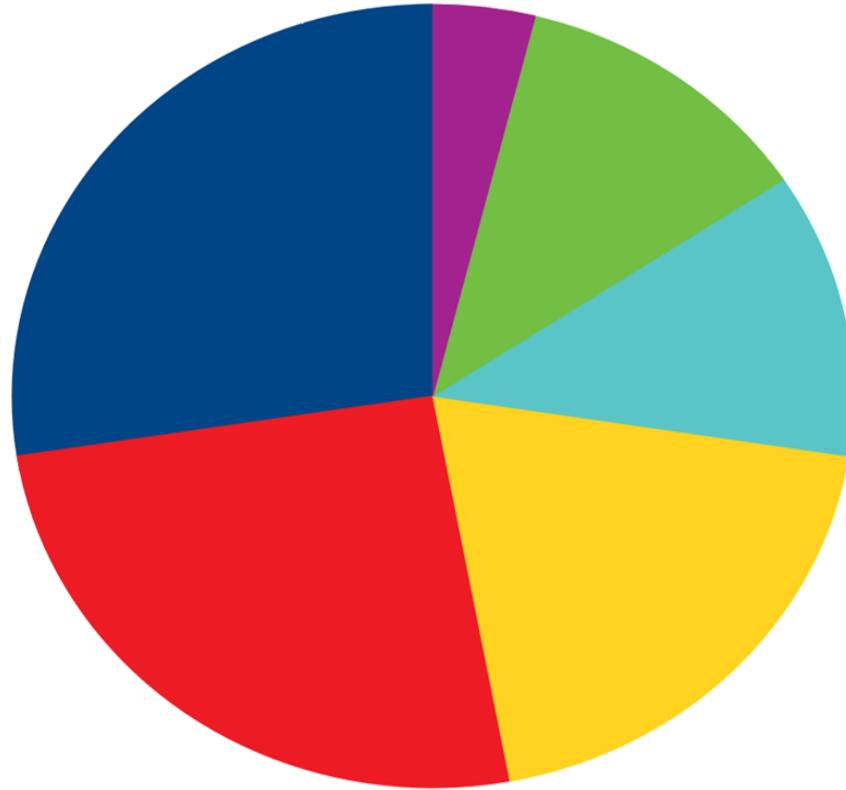
The university offers many programs in the fields of technology and business administration. It specialises in energy systems, engineering science and business management.

LUT has been awarded for its sustainable campus.

# Local Government

- Mayor: Kimmo Jarva since 2011.
- The highest decision making body is the 51-member City Council. It is elected every four years in municipal elections. The council nominates trustees to the City Board and all municipal committees.
  - 8 municipal committees. For example city development and culture and sport committees.
- Youth Council (38 members between the ages of 13 and 19)
  - Youth Council brings out the voice of the young people in the decision-making process.

## Lappeenranta City Council (2017-2021)



- National Coalition party
- Finnish Social Democratic Party
- Centre Party
- True Finns Party
- Green League
- Christian Democratic Party of Finland



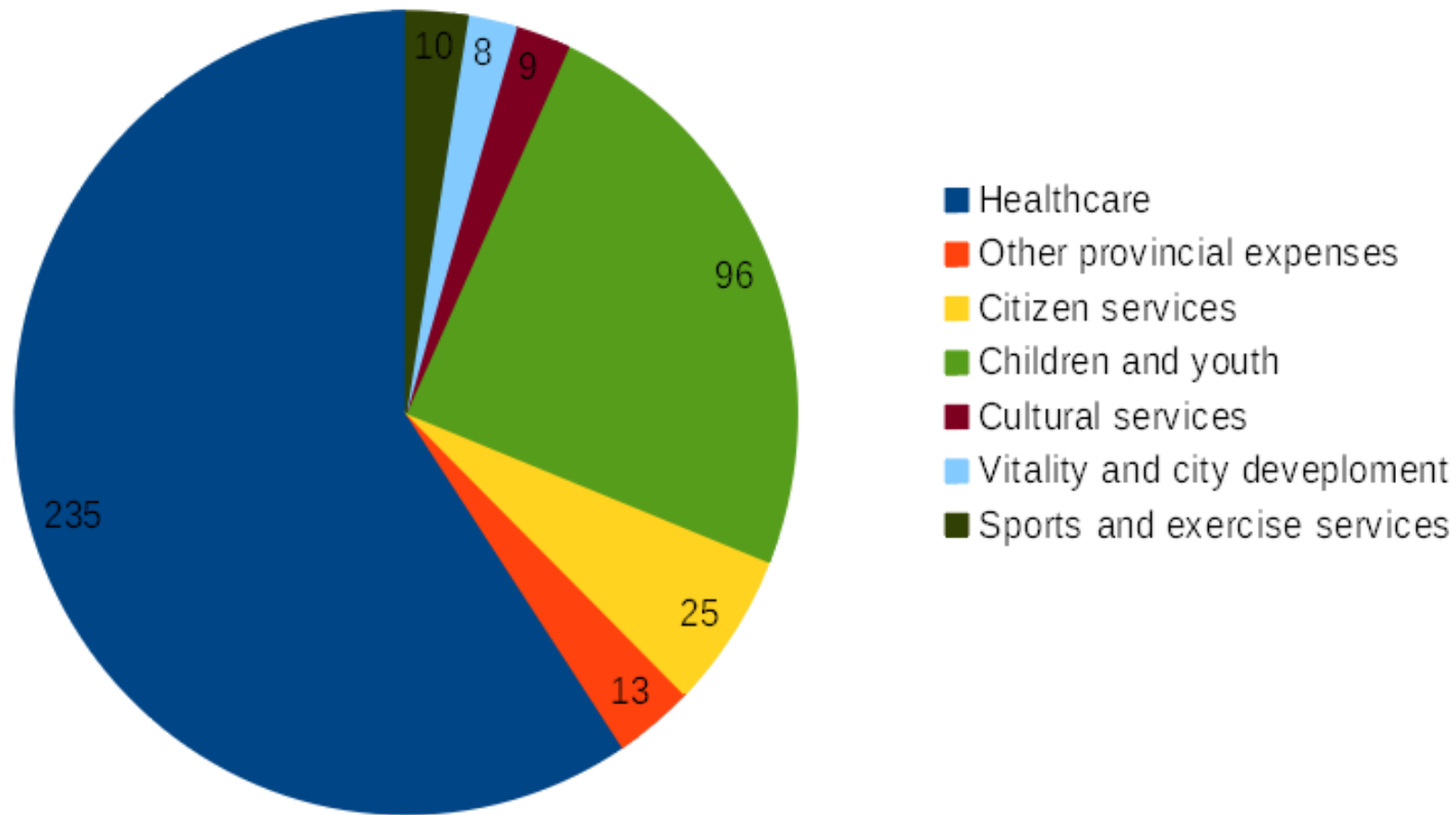
# Economy

Largest employers: UPM-Kymmene (paper, pulp, biodiesel) South Karelia Social and Health Care District, Lappeenranta University of Technology, Nordkalk (limestone-based products), VR Group (the Finnish railways), Fazer (confectionaries), The Armed Forces, Outotec (mining and refining equipment), and City of Lappeenranta.

South Karelia Social and Health Care District, City of Lappeenranta, The Armed Forces, Lappeenranta University of Technology, and VR Group are the only employers which are not privately owned.

# Lappeenranta town expenditure

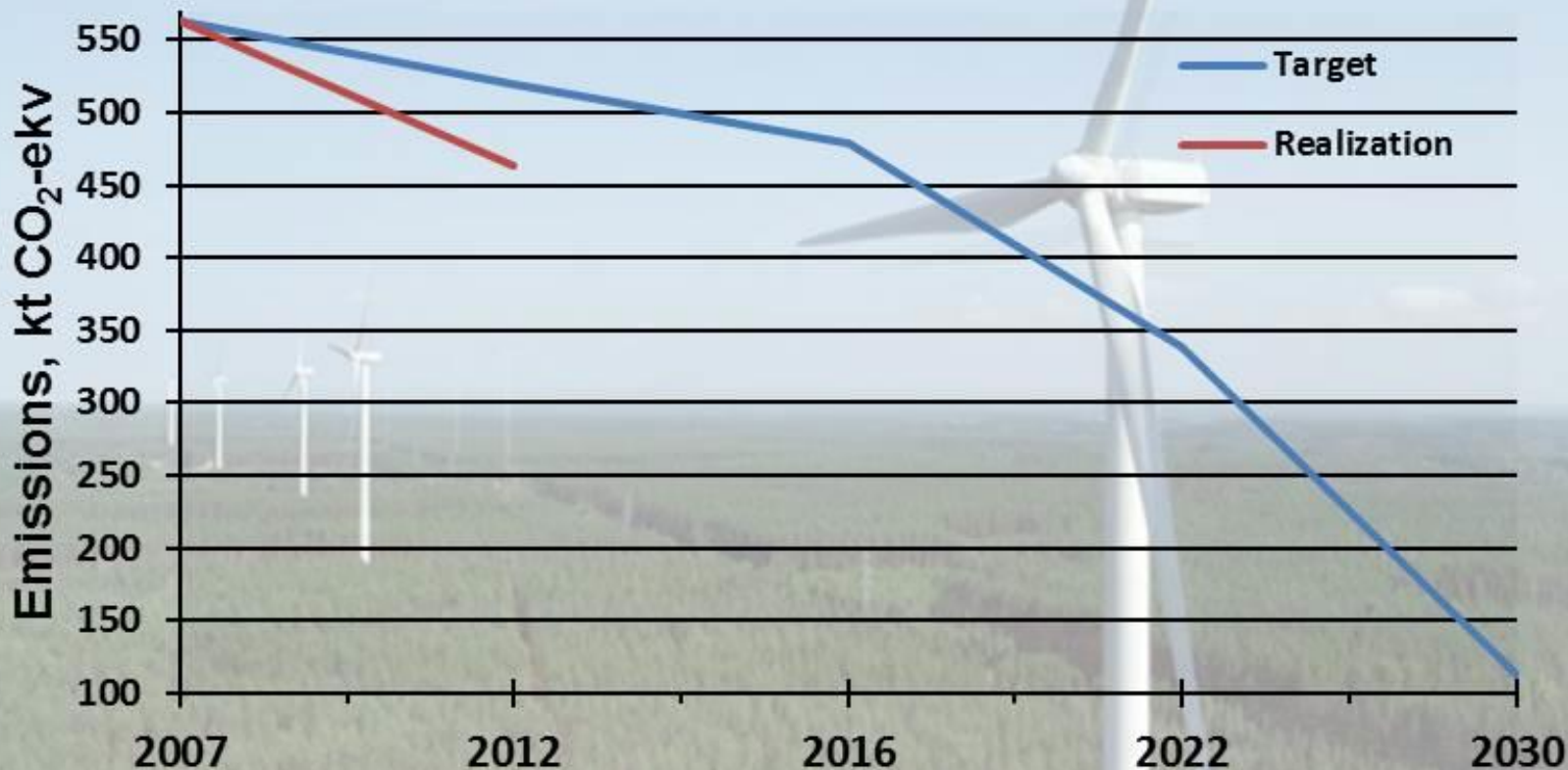
In millions (€)



# Sustainable development in Lappeenranta

- Lappeenranta follows 3 sustainable development principles: social, ecologic and economic.
- The city is reducing the environmental impacts of its operations. Within the next 10 years, the aim is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% from the year 2007 level. Lappeenranta has already taken measures to move towards a greener community:
  - Finland's first inland wind farm with 8 Alstom turbines of 8 MW each
  - Waste treatment is environmentally friendly and only 5% of all waste goes to landfill
  - There is bio-power plant burning forest industry by-products, tree stumps and logging residue as well as peat and natural gas

# Greenhouse gas emissions in Lappeenranta



# Our school: Lappeenrannan Lyseo Upper Secondary School

## Facts about Lappeenrannan Lyseo Upper Secondary

- Established in 1892 (126 years old)
- There are 728 students.
- In the same school building there is also the South Karelian IB World School and the Finnish-Russian school of Eastern Finland.
- There are many international projects as well as dedicated art and science programmes.

# Lyseo

It takes three years to graduate.

Subjects are divided into thematic parts we call courses.

The school year is divided into two terms: autumn and spring term. We have 5 grading periods per year - two in the autumn and two in the spring and one in the middle of winter - and each of them is 6 weeks long. At the end of each period there is an examination week.

We have a new selection of courses for each grading period.

Every student must take at least 75 courses to graduate. Some of them are compulsory, some optional and can be chosen at will.

# School events

School-leaving Masquerade is an event where third-graders celebrate their final day at the school. On that day most of them wear funny costumes and go around the city by trucks, throwing candy to the people who gather to watch them.

Seniors' Day Dance:

Second-graders dance when they become the oldest students of our school.

Second-graders dress up very formally, in evening gowns and tuxedos. Usually they dance classic European dances, such as cicapo, pompadour and Vienna waltz.

Graduation ceremony is held two times during the school year. Once before Christmas and once before the summer vacation.







