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Vantaa semiconductor industry foresight

Applying the EU's best regional foresight practice

Background and purpose. The semiconductor industry is expected to double globally and triple its turnover in Finland in ten years by 2035, according to the Chips from the North strategy. Growth in the sector is most constrained by the availability of skilled labour. The sector is important in the green transition, for example because of energy-saving innovations. Vantaa has a concentration of industrial jobs in the sector. According to the Chips from the North strategy, the challenges facing the sector must be tackled through cooperation between educational institutions and businesses. The main question is, what are the most important concrete measures for Vantaa to meet the challenges of development and growth in the semiconductor industry?

Methods. The project previously applied of the methodology assessed as the European Union's best regional foresight practice in an evaluation commissioned by the EU Commission from the UN ILO, applying them for the first time at local level instead of at the larger regional level. The method emphasises the acquisition of foresight data relevant to decision-making and its interpretation into recommendations for action. The method was originally developed for anticipation a few years ahead. Central to the method are personal interviews with companies in the selected industry using the Delphi-type, anonymous interview method, as well as the processing and interpretation of the results into recommendations for action in the workshop for the future, where representatives of educational institutions and other parties influencing the development of the field from the region are present in a sufficiently diverse manner to interpret business information.

Findings. We focus on presenting short-term trends in more detail in the following themes: development of the number of personnel, competence and additional training needs, current recruitment problems, economic situation. We also discuss the outlook for sustainable development, digitalization and security issues in business. We also highlight the most important TOP 12 follow-up actions prioritized.

Conclusions and implications. In the conclusions, we considered how the regional foresight method piloted for Vantaa's semiconductor industry worked at the city and local level. Municipalities play an important role in coordinating foresight at the local level. Municipalities also exercise ownership steering power in several educational institutions operating in their area. In Finland, the transfer of health and social services to the county level in particular, and the transfer of employment services from the county level to the municipal level, further emphasises the role of municipalities in this type of foresight.

Keywords: *Regional foresight model, urban foresight, semiconductor industry, short-term foresight, Delphi, Futures workshop.*