



Hall of Fame of Research at Lahti School of Innovation, recent years

In **2009–2010** Metsäkangas suburb walk tour, Riihelä suburb walk tour and the coming Tonttila suburb walk tour are part of Living Lab activities and research carried out by LUT Lahti School of Innovation in a national suburban project “From shopping malls to suburb centres”. **Innovation walk tour** is an application of the Swedish-based Gåtur method which is used in community planning and it follows the same principles as Gåtur method.

Innovation walk tour is a method which strives to answer the need in the public sector to involve for instance the municipality residents and companies as resources in development activities. The goal of the innovation walk tour is to increase interaction and networking between the different actors.

Another successful approach of LUT LSI in the suburban project involvement municipality residents in the development of their own suburb is the **use of social media, especially Facebook**. This approach is found interesting both among the national and the international scholars. It also wakens the interest of the media.

3.12.2009 Professor Vesa Harmaakorpi is given the Päijät-Häme Medal as an acknowledgement of his meritorious work for the Päijät-Häme Region. To develop, the region needs new approaches, creativity and innovations, and this is what Professor Harmaakorpi has given to Päijät-Häme. His significance to the region is emphasized by his extensive international activities.

11.9.2009 Senior Researcher **Juhani Ukko** defends his doctoral thesis in Lahti. The topic is *Managing through Measurement: A framework for successful operative level performance measurement*. His opponents are Professor **Marko Järvenpää** (University of Jyväskylä) and Professor **Antti Lönnqvist** (Tampere University of Technology), and the custodian is Professor **Hannu Rantanen** (LUT). The doctoral thesis belongs to the field of Industrial Management, and it has been written for the Faculty of Technology Management, within Lahti School of Innovation. The doctoral

thesis has been published in the research series of Acta Universitatis Lappeenrantaensis, no 348.

23.1.2009 The Tooth Troll project is presented on regional television news.

28.11.2008 Leena Peuhu defends her doctoral thesis in Lahti. The topic is *Business Strategic Requirements' Emergence and Evaluation of Realisation of them in ERP Projects of Medium-Sized Enterprises. Case study of three industrial companies and grounded theory*. Her opponent is Professor **Vesa Puhakka** (University of Oulu), and the custodian is Professor **Timo Pihkala** (LUT). The doctoral thesis belongs to the field of strategic information systems development, and it has been written for the School of Business of Lappeenranta University of Technology, within Lahti School of Innovation. The doctoral thesis has been published in the research series Acta Universitatis Lappeenrantaensis, no 323.

26.11.2008 Lappeenranta University of Technology Lahti Unit is renamed LUT Lahti School of Innovation. The name change offers the opportunity to be better recognized in international research and development activities of innovative capability and performance management.

25.11.2008 The City of Lahti grants the University Award of the Year recognition to Professor **Vesa Harmaakorpi** from Lappeenranta University of Technology. The recognition has been awarded since 1995, and it is the first time that it is given to a single person.

31.10.2008 Senior Researcher **Tuomo Uotila** defends his doctoral thesis in Lahti. The topic is *The Use of Future-oriented Knowledge in Regional Innovation Processes: Research on knowledge generation, transfer and conversion*. The opponent is Professor **Markku Sotarauta** (University of Tampere), and the custodian is Professor **Vesa Harmaakorpi** (LUT). The doctoral thesis has been written for the Faculty of Technology Management, Department of Industrial Management at Lahti Unit, and it has been published in the research series Acta Universitatis Lappeenrantaensis, no. 318.

17.-20.9.2008 Senior researcher **Tuija Oikarinen** and researcher **Anne Pässilä** from LUT Lahti Unit are invited to a conference at Heidelberg University (Germany) to give a presentation on Theatre-based methods in developing organizational innovativeness.

1.8.2008 Professor **Hannu Rantanen** begins his post as vice rector of Lappeenranta University of Technology. Rantanen is professor at the Faculty of Technology Management, Department of Industrial Management. His successor as the director of LUT Lahti Unit is Professor **Timo Pihkala**.

18.4.2008 A collection of articles, Innovation Policy in the interface of systems (translated from Finnish), are published in the publication series ACTA of Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities. The publication is edited by Professor **Vesa Harmaakorpi** and Senior Fellow **Helinä Melkas** (LUT). All the researchers at Lahti Unit have articles in the publication.

22.2.2008 Senior Researcher **Tuija Oikarinen** (LUT Lahti Unit) defends her doctoral thesis in Lahti. The topic is *Organisational Learning – case study of tensions in*

learning processes in industrial enterprises. The opponent is Professor **Riitta Viitala** (University of Vaasa), and the custodian is Professor **Timo Pihkala** (LUT).

10.1.2008 The article *The Regional Development Method as a Tool for Regional Innovation Policy* by Professor **Vesa Harmaakorpi** is given the Best Paper Award in 2006 by the esteemed European Planning Studies.

17.10.2007 The innovation system research and development activities in the Lahti Region are accepted as members of the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL). This is a significant recognition of the successful research and development activities in the field of innovation and business in the Lahti Region and LUT Lahti Unit's important role in it.

2.5.2007 Innovation Club is founded in the Lahti Region. The Club consists of about 80 regional companies and organizations. The basic idea of the Club is to assist their members in recognizing weak market and technology signals and future mega trends.

2.6.2006 **Jarkko Tenhunen** M.Sc. (LUT Lahti Unit) defends his doctoral thesis in Lahti. The topic is *Management Accounting in Networks. Application possibilities and companies' needs*. The opponents are Professor **Jukka Pellinen** (University of Jyväskylä) and Docent **Harri Kulmala** (Technical Research Centre of Finland). The custodian is Professor **Hannu Rantanen** (LUT). The doctoral thesis is written for the Department of Industrial Management at LUT Lahti Unit. It has been published in the research series Acta Universitatis Lappeenrantaensis -tutkimussarjassa, no. 241.

19.5.2005 The first public defence of a doctoral thesis from LUT Lahti Unit is arranged in Lahti. **Helena Forsman**, Licentiate of Tehcnology, defends her doctoral thesis *Business Development Efforts and Performance Improvements in SMEs, Case Study of Business Development Projects Implemented in SMEs*. The opponent is Professor **Mika Hannula** (University of Tampere), and the custodian is Professor **Hannu Rantanen** (LUT).

1.11.2004 The first professorship in innovation systems is established at LUT Lahti Unit. The professorship is given to **Vesa Harmaakorpi**, Doctor of Science.