



D I M E S
DIGITAL
MEDIA
SERVICE
INNOVATIONS

Forum Virium Helsinki & DIMES
Annual Seminar 2024

annual
review

Forum Virium Helsinki

- a community on a quest for better services

Celebrating its third birthday, Forum Virium Helsinki (FVH) is poised to head towards a more open and more community-oriented direction, as outlined in a strategy update from autumn 2008. In future, the scope of interaction between the members and cooperation partners of FVH will be wider, and new ideas will collide, catch fire and start spreading both online and in face-to-face encounters.

Starting this year, community-based tools will be adopted as an integral part of all the activities of Forum Virium Helsinki. Some of these tools have already been introduced in FVH office, and during the spring new online innovation communities will be set up.

In the project activities, Forum Virium Helsinki will focus on five themes: health and wellbeing, traffic and geographic information, media, learning and education, and innovation communities.

Self-promoted health and new travel services

In year 2008, Forum Virium Helsinki kicked off the Healthy Helsinki programme, now already well on its way. The programme, which is being implemented in the district of Herttoniemi, encourages people to take an active role in taking care of their own health and wellbeing. The first projects involve the pilot of a tool, which is used for mapping the condition of different kinds of outdoor exercise facilities, e.g. school yards. Based on the information received, it is possible to develop and offer these areas for wider use. A second project that is

already running is the MobileHealth project, which provides impetus and new ideas for exercise via mobile phones.

Year 2008 saw the completion of the long and nationally significant Finnish Mobile TV project, where Forum Virium Helsinki played an important role as the project's homebase. The results of the project indicate that in the years to come mobile television and the internet will be integrated more closely. Users of mobile television have big expectations: it has to have momentum, it has to provide locally meaningful information, and it has to titillate the senses.

The windows of Helsinki City Tourist and Convention Bureau will feature bigger screens during spring 2009. The Tourist Studio involves screens presenting the tourist attractions of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area by means of audiovisual methods. During office hours, the service operates inside the premises of the Tourist Bureau, and after closing time it can be watched on the windows. In future, tourists will also be able to give feedback on their visit to Helsinki by using words and images. This project is part of the Urban Media service entity, run by Forum Virium Helsinki and its partners.

Year 2009 will also see the production of the first pilot episode of the Stadi.TV media channel, targeted at residents of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area.

Growth Coaching, an established training

The SME Partnership Programme is constantly on the lookout for innovative small and medium size enterprises involved in the digital business. A pool of these enterprises has been set up, meant to act as a reservoir of suitable partners for any projects that may come up. A good example that illustrates the way the SME Partnership Programme works is from spring 2008, when Destia Traffic was brought

in contact with several SMEs that wanted to utilise its traffic and timetable data.

The best-known service is Growth Coaching produced by the Digibusiness Finland of Culminatium Innovation. During the three years that Growth Coaching has been provided, it has established itself as a good support for digital businesses willing and able to grow. Almost 50 companies within the Helsinki Metropolitan Area have participated in this programme so far. The Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences has evaluated this training, and, as a result, encourages the organisers to expand Growth Coaching into a nationwide project.

Living Labs and the Flexible Services programme focus on user-drivenness

In the Living Lab concept, products and services are continuously being developed in cooperation with the users in authentic everyday situations. FVH is one of the collaborators in the Helsinki Living Lab, which belongs to a network of real-life test laboratories, the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL). It involves more than 50 towns and cities. In 2008, the Helsinki Living Lab continued going global by, for example, organising business summits in Paris and Seoul.

The Finnish ICT SHOK, Strategic Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation, was launched in autumn 2008. Forum Virium Helsinki participates in the activities of the cluster, contributing to the development of more user friendly services. Open innovation and user-drivenness are key focus areas especially in the Flexible Services programme, and particularly in its UDOI (User Driven Open Innovation) Booster project. One of the main goals of this programme is to create a service network based on a new type of cooperation between the participants.

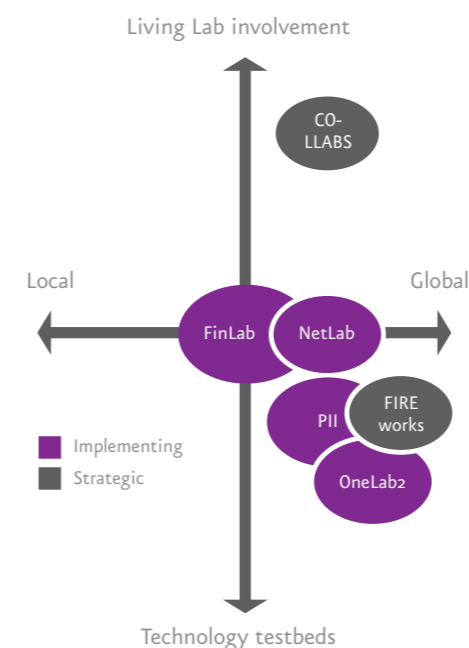
www.forumvirium.fi

Dimes - one small step for us, one giant leap for the digital ecosystem

After an eventful and very successful year, Dimes is proudly celebrating the growing open innovation environment and the adaptation of collaborative, user-driven, productive and entertaining digital services.

Nationally and internationally networked Dimes programme **LiTeOpen** (Living Labs and Test Beds Open Innovation Forum) had a productive year in developing testing and usage validation platforms and environments for new technology and services productivisation.

Through LiTeOpen, Dimes organised numerous meetings and workshops in Finland and abroad, especially in the European Union, the USA and Japan. Dimes actively participated in formation



of the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL) framework. Furthermore, Dimes is also a partner of the Future Internet Assembly (FIA), which is the constituency of all 90 Future Internet related projects in EU Framework Programmes 6 and 7. Other activities in the programme are related to projects including Pan-European Laboratory Integration and Implementation (PII), Netlab, Finlab and FIREworks in various roles, from project coordinator to project partner and contributor.

Connecting Brussels and Finland

Through **DEFCoN** (Dimes EU Finland Cooperation Network) programme's annual trip and seminar at Brussels Dimes invited Commission representatives, policy makers and lobbyists to the same table with its members and their representative delegation. Themes for last year were the formation of ICT SHOK (Strategic Centre for Science Technology and Innovation) for the Finnish industry and Academia; and boosting SME motivation for EU cooperation. Dimes EU Service Office provided advice, guidance and help to members.

Dimes **SIF** (Service Innovation Foresight) programme presented its first report at the **Global Rush Hour** Seminar in Helsinki. The report raised interest and resulted in initial discussions on international collaboration.

Year 2008 was very busy for Dimes from an extracurricular point of view. One of the biggest efforts was giving birth to ICT SHOK (TIVIT). Dimes facilitated the legal framework and governance model for TIVIT, as well as provided input to ICT SHOK SRA's (Strategic Research Agenda) Flexible Services, Future Internet and Devices & Interoperability.

The rising sun in Asia

Dimes has also built a good cooperation network beyond Europe in **Asia**. As a result, launched were

successful ICT service export projects in China and Japan. Three Dimes' member organisations have started their service business in these markets. All in all, year 2008 was very successful for Dimes and its members. In addition to important steps in advancing the cause of the digital ecosystem, the association also grew; we now have five full time employees on the payroll.

The year 2009 shows no signs of slowing down. Through dedicated coordination, active participation and contribution in EU programmes Dimes will enable a range of national and international LiTeOpen, PII and Future Internet activities in Europe, China and Japan.

You are welcome to join us and attend Dimes' Future Internet Seminar that will be arranged in April 2009 in Brussels. Act now!

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