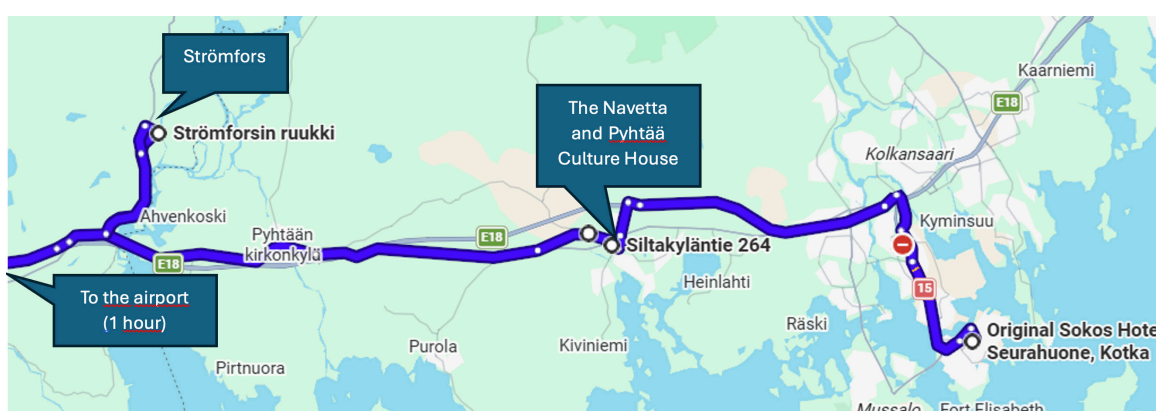




Strengthening a diversified rural economy in the post-2027 period

01 October 2026 – Study visits with the Finnish Rural Network (Day 3)

BUS 2



8.30

Departure from the hotel Original Sokos Hotel Seurahuone
Drive via Mussalo to Siltakylä

8.55

Arrival to **Pyhtään Kulttuuritalo**, Siltakyläntie 175, Siltakylä
<https://www.pyhtaankulttuuritalo.fi/>

Pyhtään kulttuuritalo/Pyhtää Cultural House is a community-driven cultural venue in the village of Siltakylä. It hosts concerts, exhibitions, creative residencies, cafés, meetings, celebrations, and cultural events throughout the year.

Pyhtään kulttuuritalo/Pyhtää Cultural house is a former municipality hall. It is an excellent example of smart specialisation and community-based entrepreneurship: how culture can strengthen the local economy while fostering new forms of entrepreneurship and community spirit.

Pyhtää is a vibrant municipality of around 5 000 residents on Finland's south-eastern coast, just over an hour's drive from Helsinki and less than an hour's drive from the Russian border. With a history dating back to the Middle Ages, Pyhtää was first mentioned in historical documents in 1347, and its medieval stone church was built around 1460. Today, Pyhtää is a bilingual municipality, with Finnish and Swedish as its official languages, and is known for its lively cultural scene and close connection to nature. It is a place where everyday life retains a distinctly human scale.

Hosts

Event Producer, Entrepreneur Vesa Ristimäki, Pyhtään kulttuuritalo
Mayor Terhi Lindholm, Municipality of Pyhtää
Manager Marjo Tolvanen, LAG Sepra

Contact details

Event Producer, Entrepreneur Vesa Ristimäki
Website: <https://www.pyhtaankulttuuritalo.fi/>
Email: info@pyhtaankulttuuritalo.fi

Mayor Terhi Lindholm
Website: <https://pyhtaa.fi/fi>
Email: terhi.lindholm@pyhtaa.fi

Manager Marjo Tolvanen
Website: <https://sepra.fi/>
Email: marjo.tolvanen@sepra.fi

9.40

Departure from Pyhtään Kulttuuritalo

9.50

Arrival to **The Navetta**, Siltakyläntie 264,
Siltakylä <https://www.thenavetta.fi/>

Local community preparedness means that within a local community, people look after those who need help and support and are able to act together effectively when something unusual or unexpected happens.

Finland has developed a model for local community preparedness. Development work is being carried out in villages and local communities across the country. What does this model look like, and what kinds of preparedness measures and activities have been implemented at the local level?

Hosts:

Senior Adviser **Ritva Pihlaja**, Finnish Village Movement Association
Project Manager **Siru Ahopelto**, Kymenlaakso Villages Association

Contact details:

Senior Adviser Ritva Pihlaja
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Project Manager Siru Ahopelto
Email: siru.ahopelto@kymenlaaksonkylat.fi

10.40

Departure from The Navetta

11.10

Arrival to **Strömforsin Ruukki**, Ruukintie 11, Ruotsinpyhtää,
<https://stromforsinruukki.com/>

Strömforsin Ruukki/Strömfors Ironworks is a destination where history, tourism, and business come together. Founded in 1695, the historic ironworks village is now home to cultural attractions, museums, artisans, restaurants, and events. It also provides modern facilities for a wide range of companies. Together, they create a vibrant environment where industrial heritage, tourism, entrepreneurship, and innovation thrive side by side.

Hosts

Entrepreneur, Investor **Aleksi Uusitalo**, Strömforsin Ruukki, Run Group
Business Development Manager, **Päivi Muurikainen**, Strömfors Business Park
Managing Director, **Miika Hämäläinen**, Cupbio Ltd.
Founder and Mentor **Pekka Ropa**, Kymifloor Ltd.

12.00

Lunch

12.45

Departure from Strömforsin Ruukki

14.00

Arrival to Helsinki-Vantaa Airport

Something to ask? Please contact

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