

A man wearing a plaid shirt, waders, a cap, and sunglasses is standing in a shallow lake, holding a fishing rod. In the background, there is a red house with a white roof and a chimney, surrounded by lush green trees. The scene is reflected in the calm water.

KOUVOLA

Kouvola – the City for the Active

Christina Suni, Brand Manager, the City of Kouvola

Welcome to Kouvola!

- We are happy to have you here!
- In Kouvola, you can live the life that looks like you.
- We say that we are the city for the active people, as there is so much to do and experience.
- Some of our strengths are **nature**, **short distances** and **convenient connections** to elsewhere.



What is Kouvola?

Kouvola

Kouvola is a developing city with an excellent location and good connections.

Located in the heart of South-Eastern Finland, the city resides next to the Kymijoki River, surrounded by forests.

Half a million people can be reached within one hour of Kouvola.

Still, nature is always close. Kouvola is a city of sports, culture and nature and a mix of urban and rural.



For exmples, this is Kouvola

Over **100** sports clubs and organisations

Home of Kookoo (ice hockey), Kouvot (basket ball) and KPL (Finnish baseball).

Garrison city, rock music city, sports city, logistics city

Relaxed and easy-going lifestyle is characteristic to people in Kouvola.

350 km

Outdoor routes, 11 nature trails

Must visit destinations: Repovesi National Park, Tykkimäki Amusement Park area and Verla Mill Museum (Unesco World Heritage Site).

65 %

Of Finnish people live under 3 hours radius from Kouvola.

80 000

inhabitants

11th biggest city in Finland

Kouvola is one of the most popular locations for a holiday house in Finland.

Kouvola is known also for the best licorice candy in the world!

450
lakes

The City for the Active

- The brand promise of the City of Kouvola is "the City for the Active".
- It means that in Kouvola, there is lot to experience, do and achieve, just as you like. Sports, culture or taking it easy.
- We are proud of our city, its versatility and possibilities.



The name of Kouvola

- The story has it that Kouvola was named after a resident named Kouvo.
- The word means bear, among other things.



The areas of Kouvola



- Kouvola consists of different areas which all have their own characteristic points.
- North, more rural: Valkeala, Jaala
- Urban areas: Voikkaa, Kuusankoski, Kouvola centre
- South, more rural: Korja, Elimäki, Anjalankoski (Myllykoski, Inkeroinen as sub-urban areas)

History

- The present Kouvola came about in 2009 when six municipalities (Kouvola, Kuusankoski, Anjalankoski, Elimäki, Jaala, Valkeala) merged.
- The area has long history: River Kymijoki became the border between Sweden and Russia in 1743.
- An important milestone was the building of the railway track to St Petersburg in 1870. Kouvola started to develop in the railway junction.
- Kouvola's later history includes paper mills, Alvar Aalto (famous Finnish architect) and many mergers of municipalities.



Excellent location

Kouvola has an excellent logistics position: it has rail connections to **all principal compass points** and main road connections to **six directions**.

Kouvola has room for companies to operate flexibly, and short distances also for commuting: people who work elsewhere can travel easily home for the evening by train.



Central location



Rail junction - rail connections to all principal compass points.

Main road connections to six directions.

Main route for rail cargo traffic.

Hub in rail passenger traffic.

Closest cities are Kotka, Lappeenranta, Mikkeli and Lahti.

Short distances

1 h Most important export port in Finland **Port of HaminaKotka**

1 h 30 min **Vuosaari Harbour, Helsinki**

1 h 30 min International airport
Helsinki-Vantaa

1 h 19 min Train connection
Kouvola-Helsinki

1 h Russian border
(Vaalimaa border station)



Living in Kouvola

- Kouvola is a place where you can live spaciously.
- The housing costs in Kouvola are among the smallest in Finland. The price of a two bedroom apartment in Helsinki will buy you an apartment and a holiday home in Kouvola.
- The natural environment in Kouvola starts right from your back yard.
- When you live in Kouvola, everything you need is just 10 minutes away!



Villages along the city

60 VILLAGES

population density **31,5**
inhabitants per square km

70% LIVE IN HOUSING
THEY OWN

28% LIVE IN RENTED
HOUSING

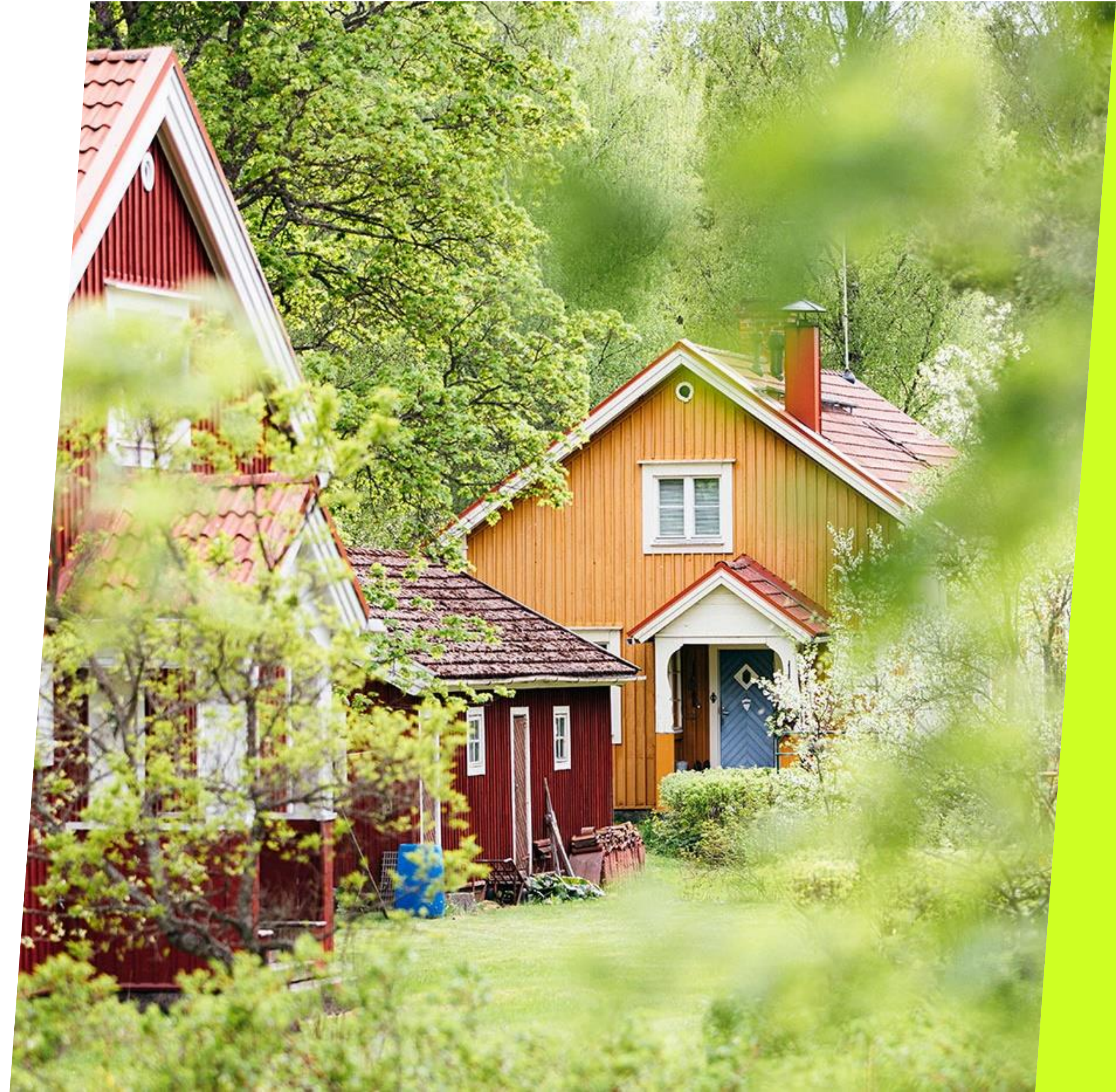
48% HOUSEHOLDS OF
ONE PERSON

7,128 HOUSEHOLDS
WITH CHILDREN

Approx. 48,620
APARTMENTS

PRICE PER SQUARE METRE
1,045 euros per square m

RENT PER SQUARE METRE
10 euros per square m



Kouvola to a growth track

**Strategy 2019-2030:
A chance for new growth.**

Everyone is taken care of, but
the growth must have spearheads:

- **Children's growth** - best everyday life of families
- **Growth of adolescents** - education and training
- **Growth of businesses** - logistics



Cornerstones of vitality

- Logistics, rail logistics in particular
- Food industry
- Forest industry has traditionally been strong
- Our region also has considerable potential in bioeconomy and circular economy.

Kouvola has solid industrial traditions.

The City of Kouvola invests in the logistics business, in particular in the development of rail logistics, and promotes the project for building a new rail connection to the east of the Helsinki region.



Key figures of vitality

NUMBER OF COMPANIES

4,792

in 2/2021



POINTS OF OPERATION
OF COMPANIES

5,205

in 2020



NET SALES OF
COMPANIES

4,983 million euros

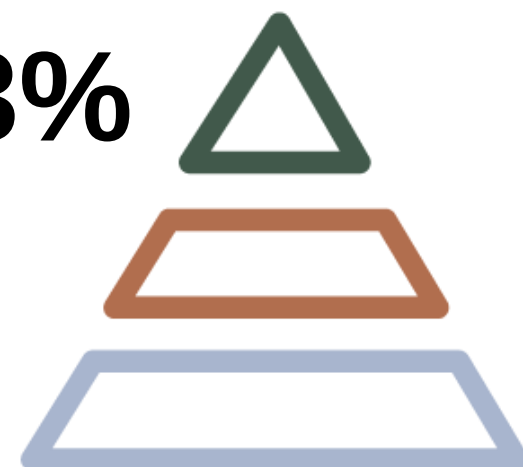
in 2020

EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE
in 2019

Primary production **3.3%**

Processing **21.7%**

Services **73.4%**



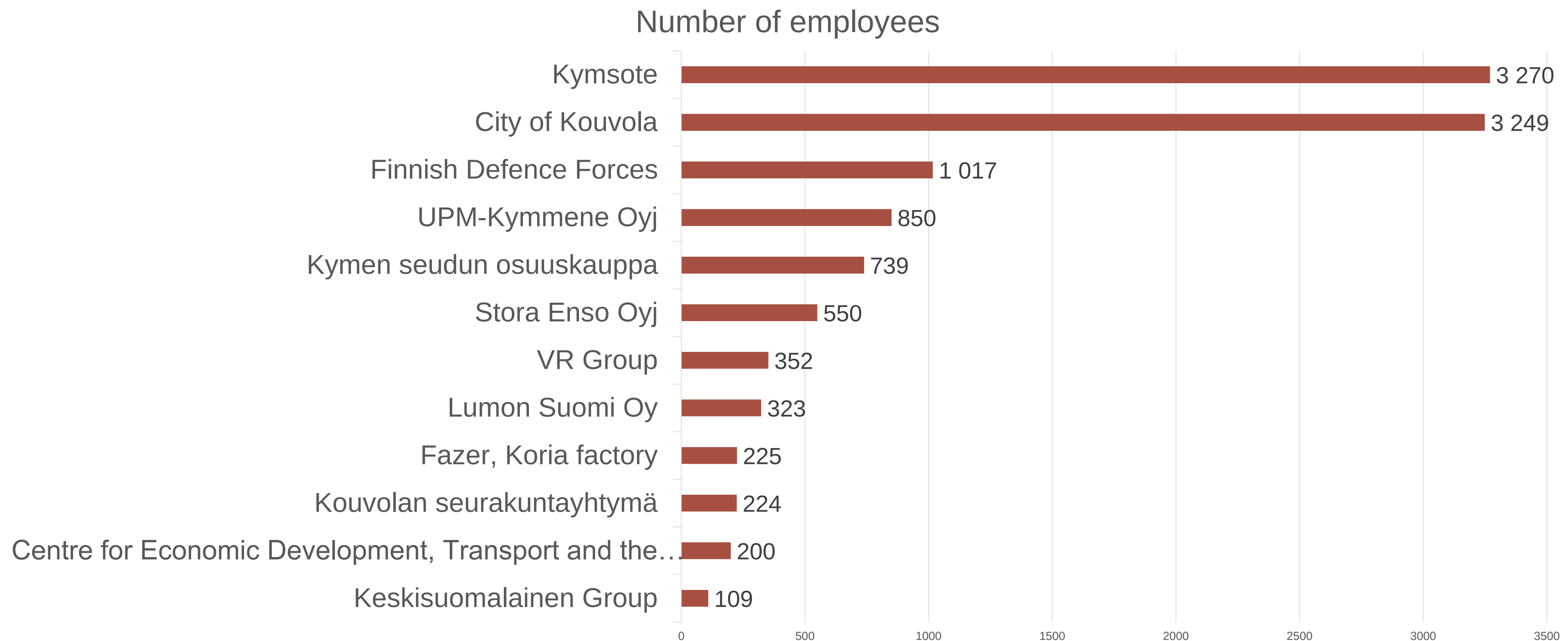
JOB

approx. **29,549**

in 2020



The biggest employers in Kouvola



Refreshing free time in Kouvola

Music and experiences

- [Patoklubi](#) event space in Kuusaankoski – gigs, art, happenings, small shops in the building
- House of Rock in the city centre for rock music
- Kymi Sinfonietta for classical music
- Jättömaa - a cross-art festival on summertime



For the love of culture

- Kouvola Theatre
- Kuusankoski Theatre and Anjalankoski Theatre. Also numerous other amateur theatres and theatre groups
- [Antares Art Centre](#) in Sippola (summertime)
- Main library and eight local libraries, six of which are self-service libraries, plus a library bus.



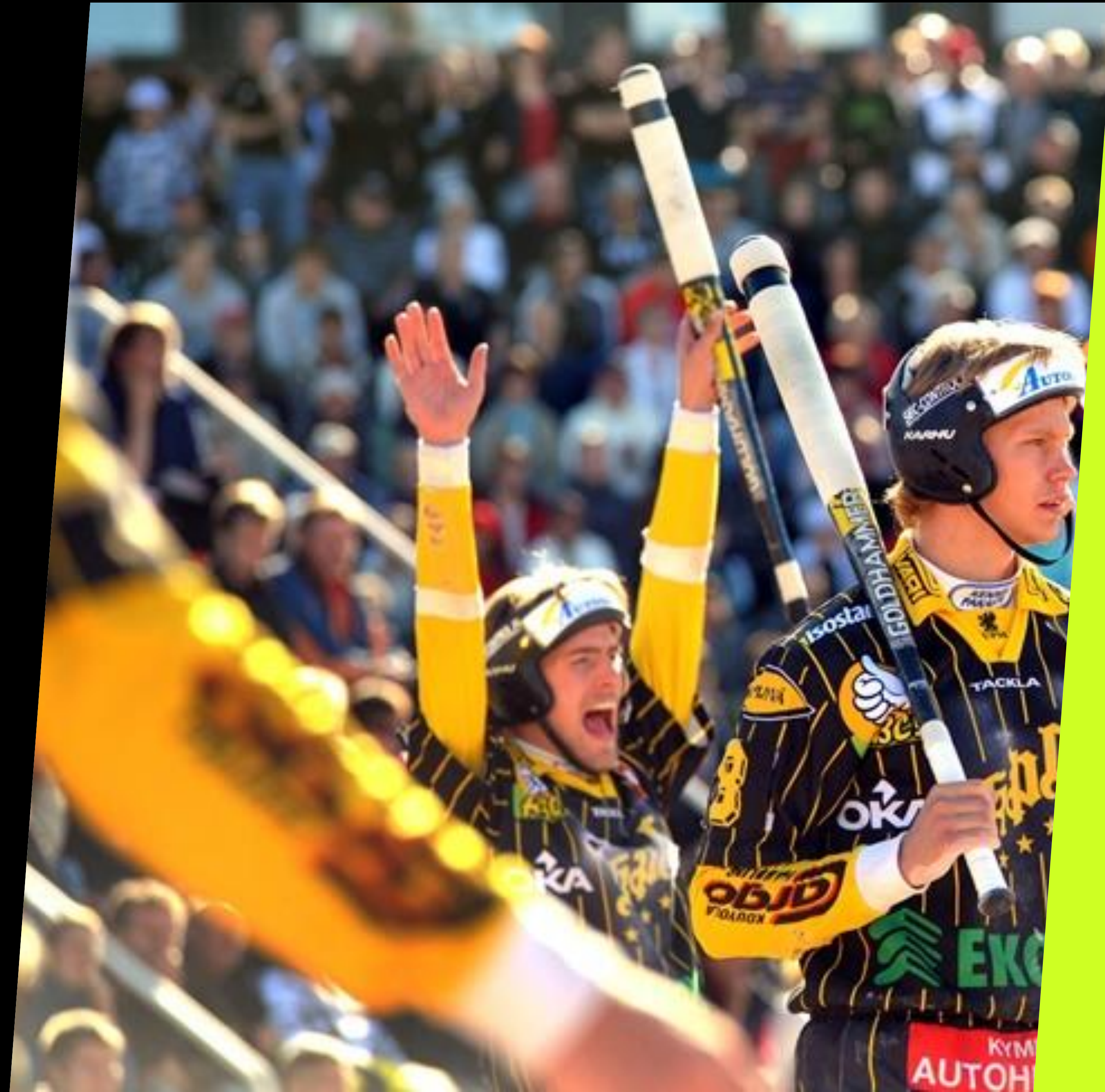
Museums and Culture venues

- Poikilo Museums: Kouvola Art Museum and City Museum, KOUTA Gallery, Poikilo Gallery, Kino-Poikilo and Museum Shop. Located in Kouvola Hall, city centre. <https://www.poikilo.fi/en/>
- Kuusankoski Hall, also with an art gallery.



Sports city

- Top-ranking teams KOOKOO (ice hockey), KPL (Finnish baseball) and KOUVOT and KOUVOTTARET (basket ball) in professional sports keep Kouvola on the sports map.
- Many possibilities for sports hobbies!



Sports facilities owned by the City

4 INDOOR SWIMMING POOLS AND ICE RINKS

13 INDOOR EXERCISE FACILITIES

11 BEACHES

2 WINTER SWIMMING PLACES

34 OUTDOOR ICE FACILITIES AND SKATING AREAS

8 GRASS FIELDS

5 ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS

2 ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS WITH SAND FILL

8 ATHLETICS FIELDS

Also numerous local sports facilities such as skateboarding venues, tennis courts, outdoor gyms, beach volley courts, fitness steps and multifunctional playgrounds.

More information on website [in English](#) and [in Finnish](#).



Kouvola also has

5 SHOOTING RANGES

3 GOLF CENTRES

3 BOWLING ALLEYS

12 FRISBEE GOLF COURSES

- Sami Hyypiä Arena
- Mielakka Ski Resort
- Utti and Selänpää airports for parachute sports and glider flying
- Good opportunities for motor sports, for example Tykkimäki Motor Sports Centre



Excellent setting for outdoor exercise

- Easy access to exercise - 128 km of jogging and skiing tracks.
- Comprehensive network of cycle paths - 292 km.
- 350 km of nature trails.
- Nature trails have been renewed, such as the [River Kymijoki outdoor route](#) in the river landscape.
- Excellent canoeing routes, one of the most well-known of which is the Välliväylä route from the River Kymijoki to Lake Saimaa.
- There are also orange city bikes available (also electric bikes).



Visit Kouvola

Kouvola has many places to see, experience and visit. Most famous tourist destinations in Kouvola:

- **Käyrälampi-Tykkimäki area**
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site
Verla's Groundwood and Board Mill**
- **Repovesi National Park**
- **Kimola Canal**
- **Arboretum Mustila**



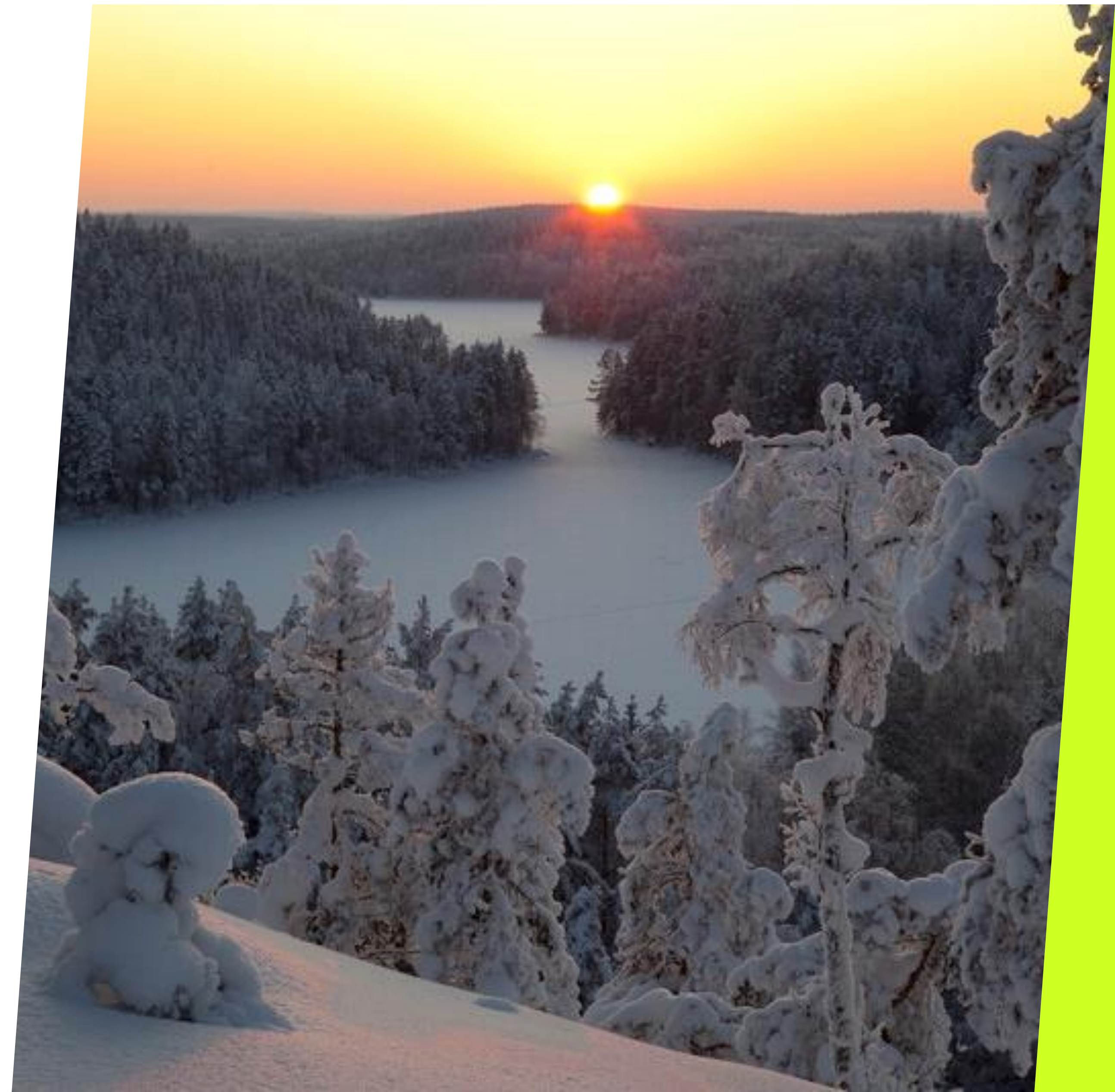
Repovesi National Park

- The varied forest and lake landscapes of the Repovesi National Park make it one of the most popular hiking destinations in Finland.
- Approximately 45 km of marked hiking trails from Ketunlenkki (3.5 km) to Kaakkurin Kierros (26 km).
- Olhavanvuori Hill for climbing.
- Scenic canoeing routes.



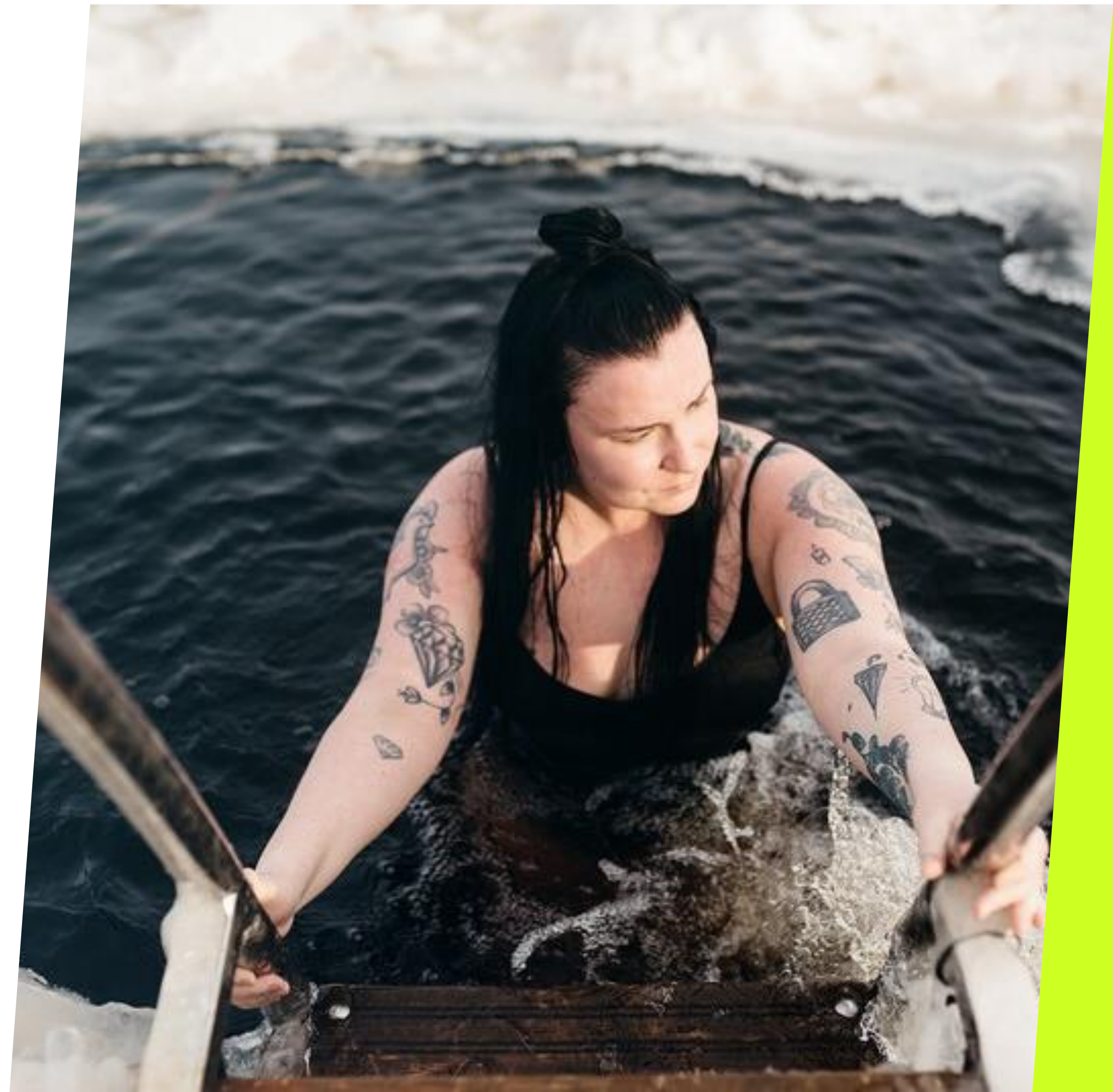
Tip!

- Until the end of October, you can access Repovesi National Park by bus on Saturdays and Sundays. Take bus line 15 from the railway station. The one-way cost is 2,8 euros.
- It will be worth it!



Käyrälampi- Tykkimäki Area

- A wide range of entertainment, swimming and sports near city center.
- Public sauna called Tykkimäen Sauna.
- Tykkimäki Amusement Park, Aquapark and Camping. New Tykkimäki Resort for dining and clamping.
- Beach, frisbee golf course and beachvolley, ski tracks in winter time.
- Tykkimäki Motor Sports Centre.
- New outdoor routes being planned.



Shopping and delicacies

- Veturi shopping center, over 80 shops.
- Prisma, a large supermarket.
- Pedestrian street Manski in the city centre. Restaurants, some shops. [Map of Kouvola city centre.](#)
- Movie theatres in Veturi and Kuusaankoski.
- Papulaari is a café and tea room in the city centre.
- Café Kaarnasydän in Valkeala.



Tip!

- Get to know Kouvola through exercising:
- Climb Mielakka's rag rug painted on a ski slope.



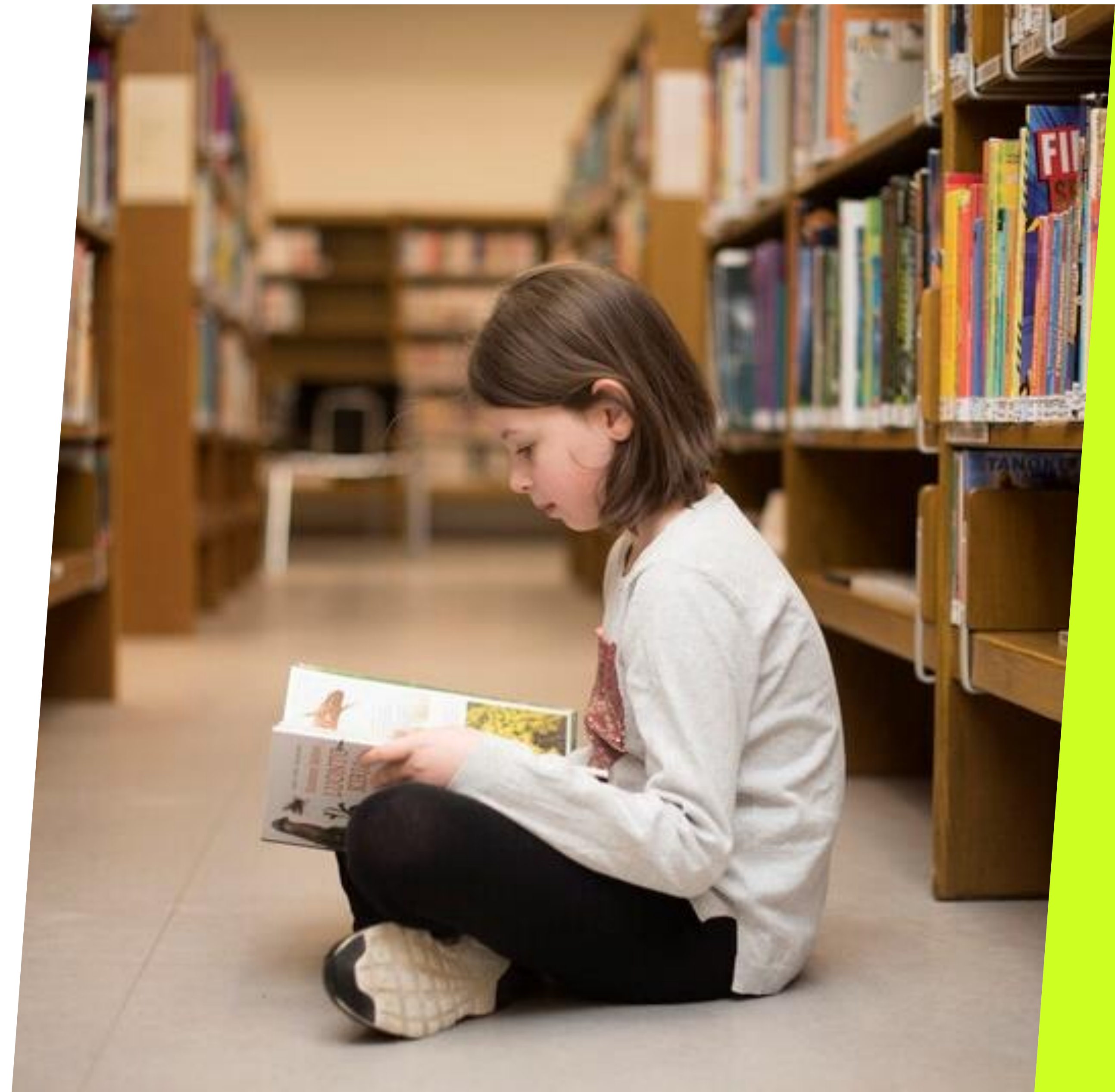
Special greetings and useful tips

Library services in Kouvola

- Get a library card to the Kouvola City Library at the library: the closest one is located in the city centre, but smaller libraries are located also in other parts of the city.
- With a library card and a pin code you can see the collection and make reservations as well as use electronic services.
- Website of the library:
<https://kyyti.finna.fi/en>
- The library offers E-services and a Pressreader service: 7,000 newspapers and magazines from 12 countries in 60 languages.
- You can read the magazines either in library or remotely at home.
- <https://kyyti.finna.fi/Content/eaineistot>

Tip!

- Use the libraries as a working space: calm space for studying.
- Reserve a room for teamworking [online](#) (only in Finnish) or contact the library.



Public transport

- Check timetables, plan your routes and buy electronic tickets on Waltti app. The app is available in English, too, except the names of the stops.
- Route planner is available also online: <https://kouvola.digitransit.fi/?locale=en>
- Single ticket in Kouvola public transport costs 2,8 euros and covers the whole city for 2 hours.



Service and support for public transport

- Bus travel office service point is located at **Torikatu 2**, Kouvola. Everything related to public transport can be handled there. Service is available also in English.
- In case you know (or want to practice) Finnish, follow Koutsu (Kouvola public transport) on Facebook. There you can find information about current topics.
- Website: [Waltti Travel Card services – Bussimatkatoimisto](#)

Tip!

- In case you are travelling to the City of Kotka, you can travel with the same ticket in public transport of both Kouvola and Kotka as well as trains running between the cities.
- Buy the common Kouvola-Kotka ticket through Waltti app, the cost for a single ticket is 7 euros.



Youth services

- Ohjaamo, a one-stop guidance center, provides information, advice and guidance related to employment, education, participation, housing and freetime for young people (up to 30 years old). All services are free. Website: www.nuortenkouvola.fi (in Finnish)
- Examples of services: well-being support, social services, but also movie nights and music events.
- Youth service point is open from Monday to Thursday at 13–16 in Kouvolaankatu 28A.



Get to know Kouvola in English

- <https://www.kouvola.fi/en/>
- General information about the city, but also regarding moving to Finland
- <https://visitkouvola.fi/en/>
- What to see, experience and do in Kouvola



A skateboarder wearing a dark jacket, dark pants, white sneakers, and a green cap is performing a trick on a stone ledge. The skateboarder is in a crouched position with arms outstretched for balance. The background features a light-colored brick building with several windows and a tree with green leaves. The scene is set outdoors during the day.

KOUVOLA

We hope you enjoy Kouvola!

Christina Suni, Brand Manager of the City of Kouvola