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During the 1960s he worked as a planning engineer in a state rural development organisation and as the managing director of two regional planning organisations, in Lapland and in Southern Ostro-Bothnia. In 1967-1993 he served as the managing director of the Association of Finnish Regional Councils. After the amalgamation of the national associations of Finnish local and regional authorities he served as the director of Structural Policy and EU-Affairs within the new Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities between 1993-1998.

He retired in 1998 and established Talvitie Consulting as a free-lance activity and hobby. He is the author and editor of many studies, books and articles relating to regional development and planning.