

# **REPUBLIC OF FINLAND**

## **Public Administration Country Profile**

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
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# Finland

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## **Government type**

Republic

## **Independence**

6 December 1917 (from Russia)

## **Constitution**

1 March 2000

## **Legal system**

civil law system based on Swedish law; the president may request the Supreme Court to review laws; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

## **Administrative divisions**

6 provinces (laanit, singular - laani);

Source: [The World Factbook](#) – Finland

Source: [The World Factbook](#) – Finland

The population of Finland is 5.2 million, which is about 17 inhabitants per square kilometer. 67% of the population live in towns or urban areas, 33% in rural areas. The principal cities are Helsinki (560,000), Espoo (227,000), Tampere (203,000), Vantaa (185,000), Turku (174,000) and Oulu (124,000). About one million people live in the Helsinki metropolitan area. Finland also has a Sami (Lapp) population of 6,500. In addition, Finland has two official languages: Finnish and Swedish. Finnish, a Finno-Ugric language, is spoken by 91,3% and Swedish by 5,4 % of the population. Sami (Lappish) is the mother tongue of about 1,700 people.

The total area of Finland is 338,000 square kilometres, of which 10% is water and 69% forest; with 187,888 lakes, 5,100 rapids and 179,584 islands. Finland is also Europe's largest archipelago, including the semi-autonomous province of Åland. The climate of Finland is marked by cold winters and fairly warm summers. In the far north of the country the sun does not set for about 73 days, producing the white nights of summer. In winter the sun remains below the horizon for 51 days in the far north. In summer the temperature quite often rises to +20 Celsius or more and

occasionally goes close to +30 in southern and eastern parts of the country. In winter, temperatures of -20 Celsius are not uncommon in many areas. Finnish Lapland invariably has the lowest winter temperatures. The mean temperature in Helsinki in July is +17 Celsius and in February -5.7 Celsius.

There are three exports sectors in the Finnish economy: electronics and electrotechnical goods account for about 27.5% of exports, metal and engineering products account for about 27.1% and forest industry products account for about 26.5%. The fourth biggest export sector is the chemical industry. The volume of exported goods grew by 6%. Trade with developing countries accounted for 13.2% of total exports. In regard to imports, Finnish industry is particularly dependent on raw materials, machinery and components that it needs for manufacturing products for both domestic and export markets. Consumer goods, including textiles, clothing and cars, make up almost 25% of total imports. During the period 1997-2001, the electronics industry experienced rapid growth, which required a significant increase in production. In 2002, imports decreased by 1%. The main reason was the big 11% drop in imports of investment goods. Trade with developing countries accounted for 10.4% of imports.

### History and governance

Some important events in the history of Finland:	
1155	The first crusade to Finland by the Swedes. Finland becomes part of the Swedish realm.
1809	Finland is handed over to Russia by Sweden and becomes a autonomous Grand Duchy under the Russian emperor.
1917	Finland's declaration of independence on December 6.
1919	The present constitution is adopted and Finland becomes a republic
1955	Finland joins the United Nations
1995	Finland becomes a member of the European Union
The head of state is the President of the Republic. The President is elected for a six-year term by direct popular vote. The incumbent, President Mrs. Tarja Halonen, was elected in 2000.	

Source: Virtual Finland (2006)

# 1. General Information

<b>1.1 People</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Population</b>				a
Total estimated population (,000), 2003	5,207	8,877	4,533	
Female estimated population (,000), 2003	2,664	4,481	2,287	
Male estimated population (,000), 2003	2,543	4,396	2,246	
Sex ratio (males per 100 females), 2003	95	98	98	
Average annual rate of change of pop. (%), 2000-2005	0.18	0.09	0.43	
<b>Youth and Elderly Population</b>				b
Total population under age 15 (%), 2003	18	18	20	
Female population aged 60+ (%), 2003	24	26	22	
Male population aged 60+ (%), 2003	17	21	17	
<b>Human Settlements</b>				c
Urban population (%), 2001	59	83	75	
Rural population (%), 2001	41	17	25	
Urban average annual rate of change in pop. (%), '00-'05	0.07	-0.1	0.74	
Rural average annual rate of change in pop/ (%), '00-'05	0.07	-0.27	-0.77	
<b>Education</b>				d
Total school life expectancy, 2000-2001	16.7	15.9 <sup>i</sup>	16.9	1
Female school life expectancy, 2000-2001	17.3	16.8 <sup>i</sup>	17.7	1
Male school life expectancy, 2000-2001	16.2	15 <sup>i</sup>	16.9	1
Female estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 2000	..	..	..	2
Male estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 2000	..	..	..	2
<b>Employment</b>				e
Unemployment rate (15+) (%), 2000	9.1 <sup>iii</sup>	4.7 <sup>ii</sup>	3.4 <sup>ii</sup>	1
Female adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 2000	64 <sup>ii</sup>	76 <sup>ii a</sup>	69 <sup>ii</sup>	2
Male adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 2000	71 <sup>iii</sup>	80 <sup>ii a</sup>	78 <sup>ii</sup>	2

Notes: <sup>i</sup> 1999-2000, <sup>ii</sup> Persons aged 16 to 64 years, <sup>iii</sup> Persons aged 15 to 74 years <sup>a</sup> Including armed forces

<b>1.2 Economy</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>GDP</b>				a
GDP total (millions US\$), 2002	130,797	229,772	189,436	
GDP per capita (US\$), 2002	25,158	25,748	41,735	
PPP GDP total (millions int. US\$), 2002	134,442	225,913	163,609	
PPP GDP per capita(int. US\$), 2002	25,859	25,315	36,045	
<b>Sectors</b>				b
Value added in agriculture (% of GDP), 2003	1.5	1.8	3.5	
Value added in industry (% of GDP), 2003	37.5	27.9	30.5	
Value added in services (% of GDP), 2003	61.0	70.3	66.0	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				c
GDP implicit price deflator (annual % growth), 2004	4.8	0.8	1.0	
Private consumption (% of GDP), 2003	46.2	49.0	52.4	
Government consumption (% of GDP), 2003	22.6	28.3	22.1	

<sup>1</sup> [United Nations Statistics Division](#):

<sup>a</sup> [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); <sup>b</sup> [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); <sup>c</sup> [Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); <sup>d1</sup> [UNESCO](#); <sup>d2</sup> [UNESCO](#); <sup>e1</sup> [ILO](#); <sup>e2</sup> [ILO/OECD](#)

<sup>2</sup> [World Bank - Data and Statistics](#):

<sup>a</sup> [Quick Reference Tables](#); <sup>b</sup> [Data Profile Tables](#); <sup>c</sup> [Country at a Glance](#)

1.3 Public Spending	Finland	Sweden	Norway	
<b>Public expenditures</b>				3
Education (% of GNP), 1985-1987	5.5	7.3	6.5	a
Education (% of GNP), 1995-1997	7.5 <sup>i</sup>	8.3 <sup>i</sup>	7.7 <sup>i</sup>	a
Health (% of GDP), 1990	6.4	7.6	6.4	
Health (% of GDP), 1998	5.2 <sup>ii</sup>	6.6	7 <sup>ii</sup>	
Military (% of GDP), 1990	1.6	2.6	2.9	b
Military (% of GDP), 2000	1.3	2.1	1.8	b
Total debt service (% of GDP), 1990	..	..	..	
Total debt service (% of GDP), 2000	..	..	..	

Notes: <sup>i</sup>Data may not be strictly comparable with those for earlier years as a result of methodological changes, <sup>ii</sup>Data refer to 1999.

1.4 Public Sector Employment and Wages						
<i>Data from the latest year available</i>		Finland 1991-1995	Finland 1996-2000	European Union Average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000	High income OECD average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000	High income group average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000
<b>Employment</b>						
Civilian Central Government <sup>5</sup>	(,000)	110	123			
	(% pop.)	2.2	2.4	4.1	..	2.8
Sub-national Government <sup>5</sup>	(,000)	389	416			
	(% pop.)	7.8	8.1	4.1	..	2.8
Education employees	(,000)	36	32			
	(% pop.)	0.7	0.6	1.2	..	1.3
Health employees	(,000)	90	3			
	(% pop.)	1.8	0.1	1.2	..	1.1
Police	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	..	..	..
Armed forces	(,000)	31	32			
	(% pop.)	0.6	0.6	0.5	..	0.5
SOE Employees	(,000)	65	..			
	(% pop.)	1.3	..	..	..	..
Total Public Employment	(,000)	721	..			
	(% pop.)	14.37	..	..	..	..
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of GDP)	3.4	2.9	3.6	..	4.2
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of exp)	6.6	11.2	12.8	..	16.4
Average gov't wage	(,000 LCU)	117	148			
Real ave. gov't wage ('97 price)	(,000 LCU)	..	146			
Average gov't wage to per capita GDP ratio		1.1	1.1	..	..	..

Source: World Bank - Public Sector Employment and Wages

<sup>3</sup> UNDP - Human Development Report 2002

<sup>a</sup> Data refer to total public expenditure on education, including current and capital expenditures.

<sup>b</sup> As a result of a number of limitations in the data, comparisons of military expenditure data over time and across countries should be made with caution. For detailed notes on the data see SIPRI (2001).

<sup>4</sup> Averages for regions and sub regions are only generated if data is available for at least 35% of the countries in that region or sub region.

<sup>5</sup> Excluding education, health and police – if available (view [Country Sources](#) for further explanations).

## 2. Legal Structure

The pillars of government in Finland are a constitutionally governed state and a democratic system. One of the most important constitutional amendments introduced in the 1990s has been the reform of fundamental rights which came into force at the beginning of August, 1995.

Source: Finland Public Administration Profile from UNPAN (2000) - edited

### 2.1 Legislative Branch

unicameral Parliament or Eduskunta (200 seats; members are elected by popular vote on a proportional basis to serve four-year terms)<sup>6</sup>

*Women in parliament:* lower house 75 out of 200 seats (37.9%)<sup>7</sup>

Finland has a unicameral Parliament with 200 seats. Members of Parliament are elected every four years in general elections and are elected directly using a proportional system. Parliament has 14 permanent special committees and the Grand Committee.

For parliamentary elections, the nation is divided into 15 electoral districts, according to the division into regions. The number of Members of Parliament returned by each district depends on the population. The number of seats allocated to each district is revised half a year before elections.

**Fact box:**

*elections:* last held 16 March 2003 (next to be held March 2007)  
*election results:* percent of vote by party - Kesk 24.7%, SDP 24.5%, Kok 18.5%, VAS 9.9%, VIHR 8%, KD 5.3%, SFP 4.6%; seats by party - Kesk 55, SDP 53, Kok 40, VAS 19, VIHR 14, KD 7, SFP 8, other 4.<sup>8</sup>

Any citizen who is entitled to vote and who has not been placed under guardianship is also entitled to stand for Parliament, with the exception of career soldiers and certain high-ranking officials such as the Chancellor of Justice and members of the Supreme Court. These must resign from their posts before they can stand for election or serve as Members of Parliament.

Source: Parliament of Finland (2005)

### 2.2 Executive Branch

*elections:* president elected by popular vote for a six-year term; election last held 15 January 2006 (next to be held January 2012); the president appoints the prime minister and deputy prime minister from the majority party or the majority coalition after parliamentary elections and the parliament must approve the appointment

*election results:* percent of vote - Tarja HALONEN (SDP) 46.3%, Sauli NIINISTO (Kok) 24.1%, Matti Vanhanen (Kesk) 18.6%, Heidi HAUTALA (VIHR) 3.5%; a runoff election between HALONEN and NIINISTO was held 29 January 2006 - HALONEN 51.8%, NIINISTO 48.2%

<sup>6</sup> Source of fact boxes if nothing else stated: [The World Factbook](#) - Finland

<sup>7</sup> [Inter-Parliamentary Union - Women in National Parliaments](#)

<sup>8</sup> Source of fact boxes if nothing else stated: [The World Factbook](#) - Finland

Under the Constitution of Finland executive power is vested in the President of the Republic and the Government. The Government refers to the Cabinet of Finland which consists of the Prime Minister and the necessary number of ministers. It also denotes a decision-making body consisting of the Government plenary session and the ministries.

The Prime Minister is elected by Parliament and thereafter formally appointed to office by the President of the Republic. The President appoints the other ministers in accordance with a proposal from the Prime Minister. Ministers must be Finnish citizens known for their integrity and ability to serve.

The functions and powers of the President of the Republic are defined in the Constitution. In addition to those specified there, the President also discharges functions assigned to him or her in other laws. The President of the Republic is the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces. The President also nominates most of the top civil servants. The President of the Republic is elected by direct popular vote and must be a native-born citizen of Finland. The term of office is six years.

**Fact box:**

*chief of state:* President Tarja HALONEN (since 1 March 2000)

*head of government:* Prime Minister Matti VANHANEN (since 24 June 2003) and Deputy Prime Minister Eero HEINALUOMA (since 24 September 2005)

*cabinet:* Council of State or Valtioneuvosto appointed by the president, responsible to parliament

Source: The President of Finland - The Government of Finland (2006)

### 2.3 Judiciary Branch

Supreme Court or Korkein Oikeus (judges appointed by the president)

The President and other members (justices) of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President of the Republic. The justices of the Supreme Court have earlier experience from different branches of the legal profession, including drafting of legislation, academic positions and as legal practitioners. According to the law, the Supreme Court shall have a President and at least 15 members. At present the Court consists of 18 members.

The most important function of the Supreme Court is to establish judicial precedents in leading cases thus ensuring uniformity in the administration of justice by the lower courts. Decisions of courts of appeal and land courts, as well as certain decisions of the Insurance Court and Water Court of Appeal may be appealed against to the Supreme Court, provided that the Supreme Court grants leave to appeal. The Supreme Court also gives advice to the President of the Republic in cases concerning his/her right to grant a pardon, and to the Ministry of Justice in cases concerning extradition. The Supreme Court may further provide legal opinions on Government Bills at different stages of the legislative process.

Source: The Supreme Court of Justice (2006)

The Chancellor of Justice is entrusted with the task of supervising the legality of the actions of the Government, as well as advocates (members of the Bar). The Chancellor of Justice shall, upon request, provide the President of the Republic, the Government and the Ministries with information and opinions on legal issues.

Source: Chancellor of Justice (2006)

## **2.4 Local Government**

According to the Finnish constitution, Finland is divided into municipalities, whose administration shall be based on the self-government of their residents. The Finnish local government system is single-tiered. Only the primary municipalities are, beside the state, reserved the right to levy taxes. Only the primary municipalities are governed by bodies elected in direct, popular elections. The self-governmental branch of the regional level in Finland is constructed indirectly through sector based joint municipal authorities. The joint municipal authorities are financed by the primary municipalities and governed by decision-makers appointed by the primary municipalities.

The number of municipalities in Finland is 444, of which 428 are situated in the Finnish mainland, and 16 in the self-governing Åland Islands. The Åland Islands, as a self-governing area, has its own local government act. Finnish local authorities provide basic public services for their residents, most importantly those related to education, social welfare and health, and maintenance of the technical infrastructure. Among the key state local authorities are the police departments, Register Offices, employment offices and tax offices. The members of the municipal council are elected in municipal elections, but the manager of the municipality (the Mayor) is not elected but nominated by the municipal council.

Source: Institute for Comparative Nordic Politics and Administration – Siv Sandberg Local government in Finland (2005), Information on the Structure of the Civil and Public Services of EU Member States and Applicant States (2005) & Finland Public Administration Profile from UNPAN (2000) - edited

## 3. The State and Civil Society

### 3.1 Ombudsperson

The Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Chancellor of Justice are the most important Finnish ombudsmen. Their task is to see that law and order are upheld and that irregularities are corrected and faulty officials punished. For this purpose they examine complaints made by citizens and also take action when they suspect shortcomings in the activities of government officials.

Source: Finland Public Administration Profile from UNPAN (2000)

The Ombudsman investigates complaints lodged by people. Anyone, irrespective of status or citizenship, may complain directly to the Ombudsman. A complaint can be made on one's own behalf or on behalf of another person or a group. As such, the Parliamentary Ombudsperson: (i) ensures that public authorities, civil servants and also others when they perform public tasks obey the law, fulfil their obligations and respect constitutional and human rights; (ii) observes the administration of justice and public affairs, as well as watch for shortcomings in legislation; (iii) monitors the lawfulness of the official actions of the Government, Ministers and the President of the Republic. The term of office is four years and it may be renewed. It is not tied to the parliamentary term.

Source: Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland

In addition, Finland has a wide range of private and public ombudsman in different fields of activity such as the Ombudsman for Bankruptcy and the Consumer Ombudsman.

Source: Speech Minister of Justice at the United Nations (2003)

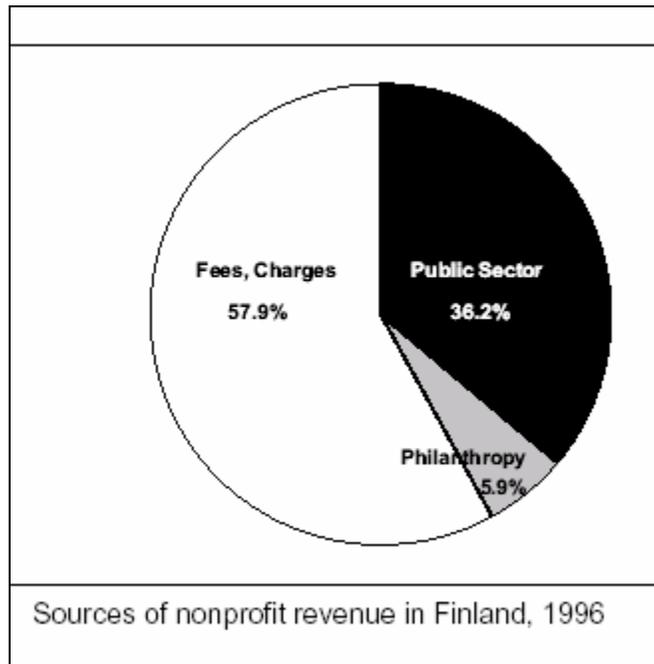
### 3.2 Civil Society

Finland has a "Nordic-type" government social welfare system based on the principle of universal coverage and a strong tradition of popular social movements has greatly influenced the development of the Finnish nonprofit sector. Therefore, the Finnish nonprofit, or "third," sector was relatively small in terms of paid employment, with a lower concentration of employees in social welfare fields than in most other countries. Reflecting this, the sector has been less reliant overall on public sector payments than its counterparts elsewhere in Western Europe. The picture changes dramatically, however, when account is taken of the involvement of volunteers in Finnish social movement organizations. Excluding its religion component, the nonprofit sector in Finland had operating expenditures of \$4.7 billion in 1996, or 3.8 percent of the country's gross domestic product, a significant amount.

The dominant source of income of nonprofit organizations in Finland is fees and charges for the services that these organizations provide, as well as membership dues. As reflected in Figure 1, this source alone accounts for nearly three-fifths, or 57.9 percent, of all nonprofit revenue in Finland. In addition, Private philanthropy and the public sector provide much smaller shares of total revenues. Thus, as Figure 1 shows, private philanthropy—from individuals, corporations, and foundations combined—accounts for only 5.9 percent of nonprofit income in Finland, while public sector payments account for 36.2 percent.

Source: Center for Civil Society Studies at the Johns Hopkins University Institute for Policy Studies – Finland (2005)

**Figure 1**



Source: Center for Civil Society Studies at the Johns Hopkins University Institute for Policy Studies – Finland (2005)

## 4. Civil Service

Human resource or personnel policy issues of the Finnish state administration (covering the 124 000 employees) are dealt with by the Ministry of Finance Personnel Department. The Minister responsible is the Minister of Finance. The personnel policy guidelines are decided at the central level. These include (1) Government decisions-in-principle on the state personnel policy and (2) the states participation in national incomes policy agreements. The state operating units are independent on their own personnel policy strategies and their implementation. They decide upon their own Human resources issues including the number of staff, recruitment, personnel development, salaries, etc. The ministries are responsible for the guidance of the operating units in their particular fields of administration in the spirit of management-by results.

Source: Information on the Structure of the Civil and Public Services of EU Member States and Applicant States (2005)

### 4.1 Legal basis

The Finnish civil service has open recruiting, clear legal but open qualifications for entry to the civil service and a promotion system which is also open. The examinations which are claimed are the normal university examinations. The state employees are either civil servants (in 1998 there were 96,500) or employees on labour contract. Municipal personnel consist of almost equal numbers of officials and employees on labour contracts. The rights and duties of state civil servants are stipulated in the State Civil Servants Act. The act (1986) changed the legal status and general terms of civil servants to be more equal to those of other employees.

Source: Finland Public Administration Profile from UNPAN (2000)

### 4.2 Recruitment

Finland does not belong to those countries that have built their civil service system on the so-called career system. There is no official system of political appointment of civil servants, but there exist "hidden political appointments", especially at the highest level of the state central administration and at the municipal administration. Regardless of the political background of appointment, the position of these civil servants is the same as other civil servants.

Source: Finland Public Administration Profile from UNPAN (2000)

### 4.3 Promotion

The in-service training of civil servants supports the targets to develop the qualifications of civil servants, but it is not a key element of the recruitment or promotion system.

Source: Finland Public Administration Profile from UNPAN (2000)

### 4.4 Remuneration

Since 1970 the salaries and other conditions of employment of the state employees have been determined by collective agreements. Collective bargaining is to a large extent the same as in the private sector. The lowest civil service salaries in Finland are 1,200 euros a month and the average 2 600 euros a month for all wage earners.

Source: Finland Public Administration Profile from UNPAN (2000) & Confederation of finish industries

The single most important Human Resource reform at the time of writing in the Finnish state administration is the transfer to the new pay systems, which are based on the job evaluation and the individual performance. At the moment, about 50% of state employees are within new pay systems. New pay systems will be in place by end- November 2005. Other reforms under preparation include a programme to enhance productivity and competitiveness in the public sector, implementation of the new management development strategy, and a new Human Resource information management system.

Source: Information on the Structure of the Civil and Public Services of EU Member States and Applicant States (2005)

#### **4.5 Gender**

The qualification structure of the Finnish civil service is clearly higher than in the private sector. There are 2 to 3 times more university graduates in the public sector than in the private sector. The share of female employees is also higher in the public sector than in the private sector because of its nature as a service branch.

Source: Finland Public Administration Profile from UNPAN (2000)

#### **4.6 Training**

Finland does not have any elite educational establishment for the production of future high ranking civil servants.

Source: Ministry of Foreign affairs of Finland (2006)

## 5. Ethics and Civil Service

### 5.1 Corruption

2003 CPI Score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts and ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt).

Corruption Perceptions Index							
Rank	Country	2003 CPI Score	Surveys Used	Standard Deviation	High-Low Range	Number Inst.	90 percent confidence range
1	Highly clean	9.7	8	0.3	9.2 - 10.0	4	9.5 - 9.9
1	Finland	9.7	8	0.3	9.2 - 10.0	4	9.5 - 9.9
133	Highly corrupt	1.3	8	0.7	0.3 - 2.2	6	0.9 - 1.7

Source: [Transparency International - Corruption Perceptions Index 2003](#)

**Surveys Used:** Refers to the number of surveys that were used to assess a country's performance. 17 surveys were used and at least 3 surveys were required for a country to be included in the CPI.

**Standard Deviation:** Indicates differences in the values of the sources. Values below 0.5 indicate agreement, values between 0.5 and c. 0.9 indicate some agreement, while values equal or larger than 1 indicate disagreement.

**High-Low Range:** Provides the highest and lowest values of the sources.

**Number Institutions:** Refers to the number of independent institutions that assessed a country's performance. Since some institutions provided more than one survey.

**90 percent confidence range:** Provides a range of possible values of the CPI score. With 5 percent probability the score is above this range and with another 5 percent it is below.

There is a special chapter in the Finnish Penal Code concerning crimes committed by government officials (as well as judges). Particular crimes mentioned in this law (revised 1990) concerning corruption and breaking against a government official's duties. The penal sanction system has been an effective means of creating respect for the law among the government officials. In the 1970s there was a sad wave of corruption cases within the state administration in Finland. Most of these cases involved the use of travel and other gift-type services from private sector cooperation partners. In spite of wide marketing and privatizing of the public services, there has not been an increase of corruption problems in the public administration of the 1990s. On the other hand, ethics of the civil service and the public activities has been a core theme of public debate, especially because of a decrease in public sector resources. There has been a clear need to activate public value discussion, for instance, on how to evaluate and implement cuts in public services.

Source: Finland Public Administration Profile from UNPAN (2000)

In Finland there is no special programmes against corruption. The definition of economic crime (or white collar crime) covers also corruption. In this sense it can be considered that the Program Against Economic Crime and Grey Economy accepted by the Finnish government in the beginning of year 1996 also covers these problems. In addition, Finland ratified several international instruments against corruption are, among others, the EU Corruption Convention, the EU Joint Action on Corruption in the private sector of, EU legislation in Finland is in line with the Joint Action, Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, Civil Law Convention on Corruption and OECD Convention on Combatting Bribery of Foreign Public officials in International Business Transactions

Source: Baltic Sea region - situation report on corruption in the Baltic sea region (2000)

## **5.2 Ethics**

Their competences are prescribed by the Constitution. Both the Chancellor of Justice and the Parliamentary Ombudsman shall ensure that the courts of law, other authorities, civil servants, public employees, and other persons performing public tasks observe the law and fulfil their obligations. In performing their duties they shall supervise the implementation of basic rights and human rights.

Source: Speech Minister of Justice at the United Nations (2003)

## 6. e-Government

### e-Government Readiness Index:

The index refers to the generic capacity or aptitude of the public sector to use ICT for encapsulating in public services and deploying to the public, high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools that support human development.

The index is comprised of three sub-indices: Web Measure Index, Telecommunications Infrastructure Index and Human Capital Index.

### Web Measure Index:

A scale based on progressively sophisticated web services present. Coverage and sophistication of state-provided e-service and e-product availability correspond to a numerical classification.

### Telecommunications Infrastructure Index:

A composite, weighted average index of six primary indices, based on basic infrastructural indicators that define a country's ICT infrastructure capacity.

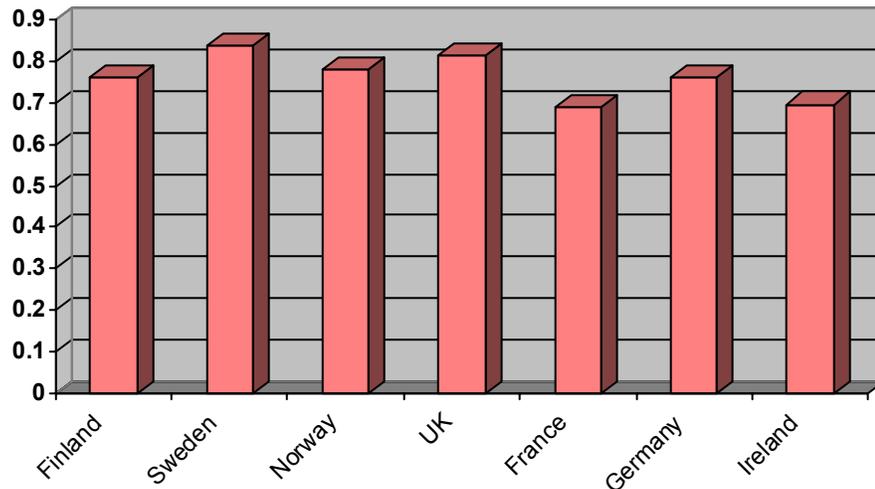
Primary indicators are: PC's, Internet users, online population and Mobile phones.

Secondary indicators are TVs and telephone lines.

### Human Capital Index:

A composite of the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio, with two thirds of the weight given to adult literacy and one third to the gross enrolment ratio.

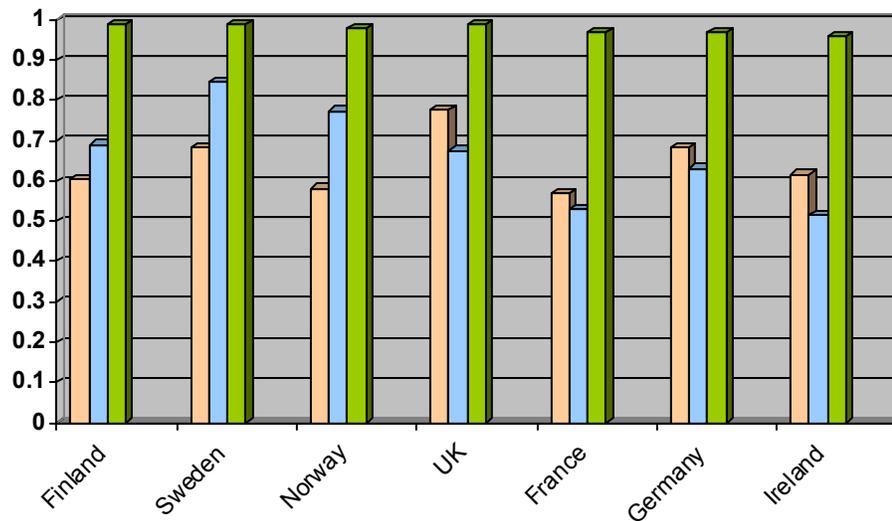
### e-Government Readiness Index



Source: United Nations – World Public Sector Report 2003

### Web Measure Index

### Telecom. Infrastructure Index



Source: United Nations – World Public Sector Report 2003

**e-Participation Index:**

Refers to the willingness, on the part of the government, to use ICT to provide high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools for the specific purpose of empowering people for able participation in consultations and decision-making both in their capacity as consumers of public services and as citizens.

**e-information:**

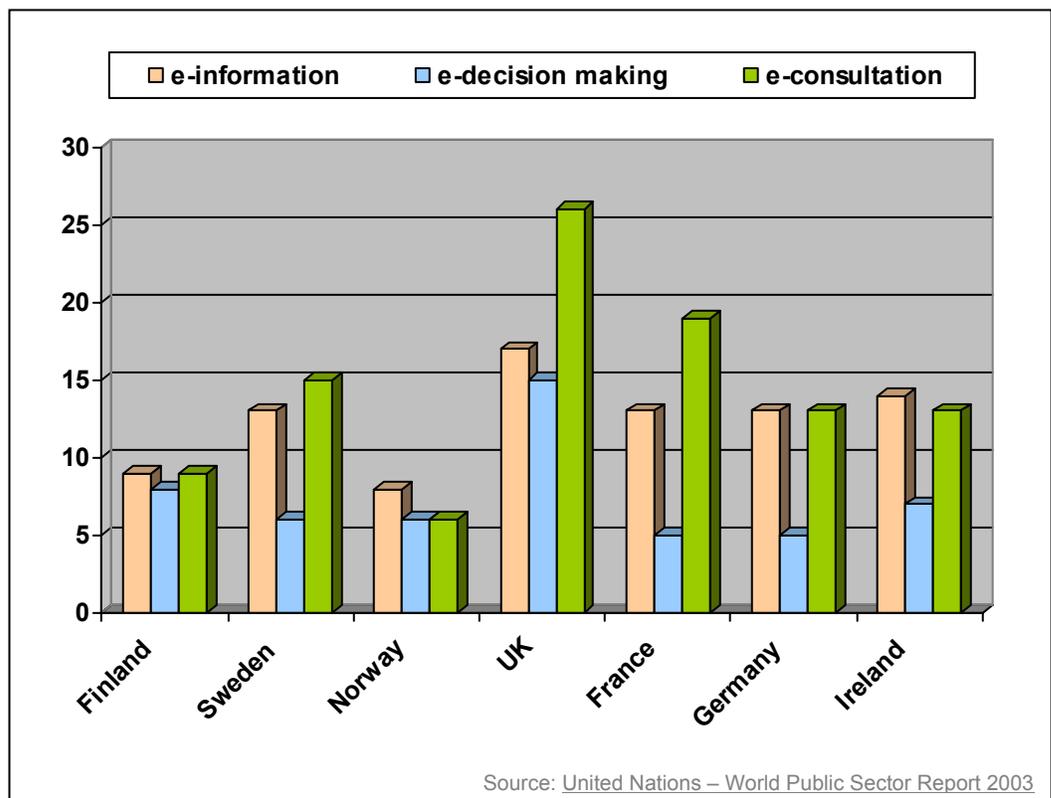
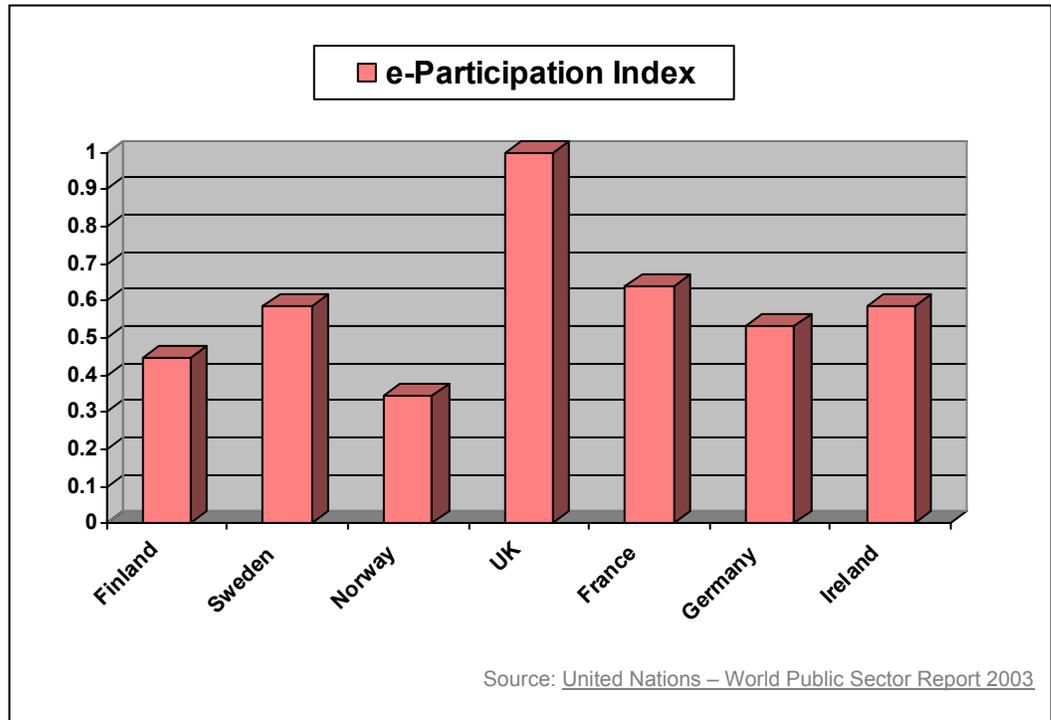
The government websites offer information on policies and programs, budgets, laws and regulations, and other briefs of key public interest. Tools for disseminating of information exist for timely access and use of public information, including web forums, e-mail lists, newsgroups and chat rooms.

**e-decision making:**

The government indicates that it will take citizens input into account in decision making and provides actual feedback on the outcome of specific issues.

**e-consultation:**

The government website explains e-consultation mechanisms and tools. It offers a choice of public policy topics online for discussion with real time and archived access to audios and videos of public meetings. The government encourages citizens to participate in discussions.



## 7. Links

7.1 National sites	
Authority	Topic
Parliament of Finland	<a href="http://www.parliament.fi/">http://www.parliament.fi/</a>
The Government of Finland	<a href="http://www.valtioneuvosto.fi">http://www.valtioneuvosto.fi</a>
The President of Finland	<a href="http://www.president.fi">http://www.president.fi</a>
Supreme Court of Finland	<a href="http://www.kko.fi">http://www.kko.fi</a>
Chancellor of Justice	<a href="http://www.chancellorofjustice.fi/i">http://www.chancellorofjustice.fi/i</a>
Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman in Finland	<a href="http://www.eduskunta.fi/">http://www.eduskunta.fi/</a>

7.2 Miscellaneous sites	
Institution	Topic
OECD	<a href="http://www.oecd.org">http://www.oecd.org</a>
World Bank	<a href="http://www.worldbank.org">http://www.worldbank.org</a>
European Union	<a href="http://www.europa.eu.int">http://www.europa.eu.int</a>