

Finland and the 2030 Agenda

A follow-up report by CSOs

2018





SERIES OF REPORTS NO. 127

PUBLISHER

Kepa ry

PUBLISHED IN

July 2018

ISBN (PDF)

978-952-200-256-3

ISSN

1236-4797

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Kepa receives development cooperation funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

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Sustainable development to guide all decision-making

FINLAND'S NEXT GOVERNMENT has a lot to attend to. It is going to make the very first government programme following the agreement in the autumn of 2015 by the world's countries on the Sustainable Development Goals, and after the Paris Agreement was approved in December the same year. These commitments will also be binding on Finland's next government.

Finland promptly set to work to promote the 2030 Agenda programme of sustainable development. The current government was among the first countries to draw up the national implementation plan, at the beginning of 2017, and defined the national indicators required to monitor Finland's progress. A multidisciplinary group of experts was formed to decide on the indicators to be used, and recently the permanent status of this group has been established. Its mandate has been widened to cover the development of the monitoring process. Also, more human resources have been designated to the Prime Ministers' Office for coordinating and developing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Ministry of Finance initiated a special process in which the national budget is assessed from the sustainable development perspective. However, the initial work has been quite modest. The budget proposal for 2019 will be estimated mainly from the climate change perspective, and will focus on the section of the national implementation plan that covers the themes of Finland being carbon neutral and resource-wise. It is necessary to widen the approach of taking sustainable development into account in the budget planning to cover other sections as well. It is also necessary to take a bold look at decisions that are detrimental to sus-

tainable development, such as tax support for fossil fuels and other activities that may even conflict with sustainable development.

The external evaluation on the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda programme will be carried out during the current government period and will provide information for drawing up the new government programme. Hence, the structures built during the recent years will provide good resources for decision-makers and civil servants, though there is a need to greatly develop them.

Reducing consumption requires attention

The Sustainable Development Goals are tightly intertwined but might in some areas be mutually at odds with one another. This requires that decision-makers set clear objectives and priorities.

Climate change mitigation is one of the most essential sectors of sustainable development, which is connected to other sectors, including the goals covered in this report. There will be a need for Finnish water management know-how when climate change impacts fresh water resources globally. It would be wise to strengthen that know-how. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), carbon emissions reached a historic high in 2017.¹ This direction is unbearable and Finland must do its share to get emissions on a downward path. The government is expected to propose a bill in the second half of 2018 to stop the use of coal as an energy source by 2029. It also

¹ International Energy Agency, IEA (2018). Global Energy and CO2 Status Report. <http://www.iea.org/geco/>.

promises support for those power plants that would stop using coal in a faster timeframe. This is a welcome move, although the target date should be 2025. There needs to be space in the government's agenda for ending the use of peat by 2025, for far more support for developing countries' climate actions and for advancing different local and communal clean energy solutions.

Besides climate change, our natural environment will be threatened by administrative turmoil, if the resources and effectiveness of nature conservation are not secured by current reforms. The new version of the regional government model being worked out removes the rights of civil servants to appeal when considering certain projects, for example if they are ecologically unsustainable.

“ *It's crucial for sustainable development that the overall impact of our consumption is understood in decision-making.* ”

There is also a fear that planning would be weakened in terms of the control of environmental permits, as it has been suggested that the supervision unit that focuses on the common good would be abolished. For good reason, the proposed model raises concerns about how ecological values and biodiversity are to be safeguarded in Finland and environmental degradation prevented (see SDG 15, Life on land, p. 18–21). It is also important to remember the upcoming regional government elections and the way by which the tasks of the regional government administration will be defined and organised. It would be insupportable not to take into account the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels of the decision-making.

It's crucial for sustainable development that the overall impact of our consumption is understood in decision-making. For example, almost half of Finns' water footprint is caused by production chains outside Finland. The group selecting national indicators made the startling observation that there is no reliable or even partially comprehensive information available in Finland on the external impacts of Finnish consumption, i.e. how we exploit natural resources outside of our own country. This kind of information is crucial for being able to estimate our global impact and to take our responsibility for direct consumption in a more sustainable direction. New indicators should be urgently developed in Finland to measure our global impact and to respond to other possible information shortcomings.

The contexts of the products we consume contain linkages to child and forced labour that is often unpaid and to such

wages that barely covers basic needs of life. Studies show that 68 per cent of Finns find it important or very important that the product or service they buy is produced responsibly. Three out of four Finns are ready to pay more for a product that is produced responsibly.¹ The Finnish government and municipalities could increase responsibility, among other things, by legislation, by integrating responsibility into their own purchasing strategy and by strengthening resources and proficiency of the personnel responsible for public procurement (see the SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production, pp. 15–17.)

Drawing on civil society expertise

Finland has justly received positive feedback for involving civil society in the implementation of sustainable development. Besides being in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, it is also a wise thing to do. It is worthwhile involving the experience and know-how of all social actors in promoting sustainable development.

However, civil society participation is not self-evident even in Finland. For example, the cuts made to public funding of civil society organisations (CSOs) and increased administrative demands by public institutions have limited their working environment. On the other hand, it is good that CSOs have broad and permanent representation in such institutions as the Sustainable Development Committee and the Development Policy Committee. CSOs are also represented in the expert group formed for setting the national indicators.

In this report a group of CSOs share their long-term experience and knowledge of enhancing sustainable development. Each of the seven CSOs is responsible for its own area of expertise. The Finland and the 2030 Agenda follow up report provides information about the state of sustainable development in Finland, describes visions about the future and above all makes specific recommendations for decision-makers to carry out the objectives discussed in the report. The report covers the six SDGs that will be focused on at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2018: Clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), Affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), Life on land (SDG 15) and Partnerships for the goals (SDG 17) which are dealt with annually at the HLPF. The forum brings together all countries annually to share information and to report their implementation of sustainable development. This report is the second in a series of follow-up reports. In the first we dealt with those SDGs which were focused on at the HLPF in 2017. This 2018 report will be published in Finnish in May and in English at the time of the HLPF as part of the international Spotlight report package coordinated by Social Watch. Kepa has coordinated the production of this report and is responsible for the text on the SDG 17, Partnerships for the goals.

¹ Milton (2017). Vastuullisuustutkimus. http://www.milton.fi/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Milton_vastuullisuustutkimus_2017_yhteenvetoraportti2.pdf.



Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation

Equal access to clean water and sustainable sanitation is a human right and foundation of all development.

Global Dry Toilet Association of Finland¹

Global level

CURRENT SITUATION: Approximately 2,1 billion people have no safe drinking water, and over 2 billion people live in areas with great water-stress². In the future, the world's fresh water resources are expected to decrease because of climate change, population growth and increase in water usage. The phenomenon is called water crisis, and it also concerns Finland and its water stewardship – our commitment to manage water-related activities responsibly. In the globalised world, we cannot simply observe water consumption inside our own borders, as nearly half of the Finns' water footprint is formed by production chains abroad, especially food production³. We must therefore pay attention to the water-efficiency in food consumption and production.

Safe and appropriate sanitation is a central factor in water supply and wastewater management, as well as in health promotion. Approximately 4,5 billion people in the world are still lacking safe sanitation³. The problem is not only the lack of appropriate sanitation, but also defective waste water management that allows infectious diseases, micro plastics, remnants of medicines, and nutrients causing eutrophication to enter the water system. On a global scale, 80% of wastewater is conducted to water systems untreated or with insufficient treatment.

“ *Nearly half of the Finns' water footprint is formed by production chains abroad, especially food production.* ”

Goal 6 is crucially related to other sustainable development goals, such as ending hunger and achieving gender equality. Investments in water and sanitation are recouped many times over as reduced costs in health care. Efficient recovery of nutrients improves the condition of water systems and enables the utilisation of nutrients important for food security.

Food security, water and energy availability, and the sustainable use of natural resources are some of the focal points of Finland's development cooperation. Finland has bilateral WASH-projects (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) in Ethiopia and

Nepal, to name a few, and owing to those projects, millions of people now have access to appropriate drinking water and sanitation. Moreover, NGOs and research centres working in the sector have development cooperation projects and international, high profile research.

The often contradictory necessities relating to the use of water entail challenges. Many conflicts are linked to control over water, and thus cooperation in the issues of frontier waters is also proactive and anticipatory peace work. Finland has actively promoted international water security, cross-border water cooperation, and the good management of water resources, and placed the themes at the centre of international water policies⁴.

Despite good outcomes, Finland's investments in water sector projects have been reduced on average more than the cutbacks in development cooperation. Our good reputation in water sector cooperation is at risk, which affects the scope of actions and expertise of actors working in the sector.

FINLAND TOMORROW: In order to reach the goal and have safe water and sanitation for everyone by 2030, investments especially in developing countries will have been increased significantly. Proficiency and procedures are being developed world-wide. Finland will lead by example and, as a pioneer country, will allocate sufficient funds for water sector development. We can offer the world our extensive institutional and technical know-how, such as good governance, risk control, cleantech, environmental health, social inclusion of marginalised groups, research, and education. The CSO's local knowledge and human rights -based approach will help to achieve sustainable results and strengthen the companies' and other actors' chances of success. Our companies will be committed to water stewardship, in which the usage of water in the production chain is both monitored and made more efficient, while water-related risks are defined.

1 Data collected from workshops, Nov 19, 2017 and Jan 1, 2018.

2 World Health Organization, WHO & United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF (2017). Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene – 2017 update and SDG baselines. Published 12.7.2017. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

3 WWF Suomi (2012). Suomen vesijalanjälki – Globaali kuva suomalaisten vedenkulutuksesta. WWF Finland, Helsinki.

4 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (2017). Suomen ja Venäjän rajavesistöyhteistyö arvioitiin maailman parhaaksi. Press Release, Dec 12, 2017.

Finland must:

- ✓ Update its international strategy for the water sector to ensure fruitful action.
 - ✓ Contribute and actively promote other financiers, private sector, and local investment allocation to the water sector, especially in sanitation.
 - ✓ Increase international cooperation. Extensive partnerships may bring innovative models of action to Finland, strengthen know-how, and make the sector more attractive. International operations in the sector create new income flows for the Finnish economy.
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Water stewardship commitment: an example of sectoral cooperation

The Finnish water stewardship commitment challenges companies to assess water risks in their international value chains and to develop sustainable water use and governance. Even though the state of water resources in Finland and the state of water management and governance are predominantly good, Finnish companies operate and their value chains extend also to areas suffering from different kinds of water related problems. Companies have a central role and responsibility for sustainable water use and governance.

Aalto University, Natural Resources Institute Finland, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of the Environment and WWF Finland have pledged themselves to the water stewardship commitment. They are also challenging Finnish companies to make their own commitment. Using the commitment, companies can manage their water risks in a systematic manner and ensure their water use and water related actions are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The commitment offers concrete steps for the companies to control the water risks linked to their actions and to be pioneers of good water use. The commitment includes issues such as water risk assessment and water strategy development.





Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation

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Global Dry Toilet Association of Finland¹

National level

CURRENT SITUATION: In terms of water acquisition, Finland has rich ground and surface water reserves, and the use of water supplies does not exceed the regeneration rate. Water distribution networks are extensive and the level of activity is high. The state of water systems has improved significantly. Attaining preeminent status in water management has required the allocation of resources and will to invest in good and safe water services and the state of the waterways. The great number of water supply and sewerage establishments has nevertheless made the sector fragmented, and the scarce resources of small facilities increase risk susceptibility^{2,3}.

As a result of strict emission regulations, positive results have been achieved in the community and industrial wastewater management, especially regarding nutrients. However, these nutrients are not utilised enough in food production, and instead, sludge becomes a part of urban landscaping. Nutrient recycling is not encouraged enough, and the price of recycled fertilizers is not competitive with that of virgin nutrients⁴. Also, the sewage water loading in dispersed settlements is a challenge, as the amount of nutrients released is over three times larger than in the cities [3]. Policy inconsistency in the implementation of wastewater management legislation decreases inhabitants' investments in renovation and inhibits the reduction of the loading caused by overpopulation. However, the greatest nutrient burden is from agriculture, and for this reason more attention should be given to the reduction of nutrient emissions³.

The aging of the water distribution networks is the biggest challenge as our water management infrastructure is for the most part 50–60 years old. It has been estimated that managing the renovation debt would require an annual investment of EUR 200–300 million, instead of the current 100 million³.

Our internationally acknowledged, high-level training in the water sector needs to be reformed. The training structure is relatively fragmented and research lacks strategic focus and sufficient funding.³

FINLAND TOMORROW: Resource-efficient thinking will direct Finland's water supply and wastewater management, and sustainable actions will be exemplary. The decision-makers will have understood that water-smart promotion of circular economy requires holistic and target-oriented direction of politics, as well as integration into

the decision-making processes. The state of water and other ecosystems will still be mapped, and the sustainable use of water resources will be promoted.

By developing water-saving and recycling technologies, better options will be created to reduce the water footprint. Waterworks and wastewater plants will be involved in ensuring the usability of these innovations. In this way, these establishments as well as companies acquire references that are important for exports. In order to realise resource-efficient thinking and circular economy, incentives will be developed for water facilities.

It is acknowledged that the realization of the nutrient cycle requires legislative support and financial guidance from both Finland and the EU. The recovery of energy and removal of harmful substances from the wastewater will be developed further.

Funding for product development and research is increased. Education in the water sector is made more attractive and the activities are developed by both allocating funding as well as cooperating with universities and water supply sector. More employees will be trained in the sector.

Finland must:

- ✓ Prepare for the changes caused by climate change.
- ✓ Ensure the sustainable use of the existing water resources.
- ✓ Ensure that sufficient resources and policy definitions support the management and sustainability of water resources, as well as water supply and wastewater management. Moreover, sufficient investments for new projects, renovation, and realization of nutrient cycle should be secured.
- ✓ Invest in making water consumption, wastewater management, and recycling and re-using technologies more efficient. Also, investments should be directed at education and research.

1 Data collected from workshops, Nov 19, 2017 and Jan 1, 2018.

2 WWF Finland (2012). Suomen vesijalanjälki – Globaali kuva suomalaisten vedenkulutuksesta. WWF Finland, Helsinki.

3 Silverberg, Paul (2017). Vesihuollon suuntaviivat 2020-luvulle. Publication series of Finnish Water Utilities Association n: o 44. Finnish Water Utilities Association (FIWA), Helsinki.

4 Salminen, Jani & Sarianna Tikkanen & Jari Koskiahio (eds.) (2017). Kohti vesiviiasta kiertotaloutta (in Finnish). Suomen ympäristökeskuksen raportteja 16/2017. Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki.



Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation

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Global Dry Toilet Association of Finland¹

Local level

CURRENT SITUATION: Household water consumption has decreased due to water-saving devices, water meters in apartments, and higher payments in wastewater management². Also, the consumption of water has become more efficient in industrial sectors. However, it has been estimated that leakage in the water distribution network is around 58 million cubic meters annually, which means 15 per cent of all household water and a EUR 100 million loss in revenue annually³. In particular, weak water pipes and sewers on building sites are susceptible to leakages and breakdowns. There is little information available about the condition of these water pipes⁴.

“ *The protection and control of water resources is vital for the future of our environment.* ”

One of the biggest problems the wastewater establishments face is that toxic chemicals are discharged into sewers. This is often due to customers' ignorance or indifference, which could be changed with better guidance⁴. The water used by households is mostly warm water², which, due to the amount of energy used for the heating, is an even heavier environmental burden than the quantity of water itself.

The current outlays for water supply and wastewater do not cover the amounts of investments needed to renew the water network, even though the legislation requires this³. Municipalities' ownership steering in the pricing of water is often inconsistent, and the revenues are not necessarily used for investments or renovations. In the future, renovation needs will also grow due to climate change preparations. For example, the quantity of storm waters will likely increase and burden the sewage plants in municipalities. Due to increasing costs, municipalities that currently subsidise water management may find it even harder to cover the expenses in the future⁴.

Even though water is a circulating natural resource and Finland has it in great abundance, it is important to protect natural, untreated waters from pollution. Sewage leaks cause not only financial losses but also endanger the quality of natural waters. It is important to restrict the total strain on the water systems because the protection and control of water resources is vital for the future of our environment.

FINLAND TOMORROW: Through the cooperation of municipalities and actors in the water sector, new operation models that support resource-efficient and environment-saving solutions will be found. Water management will be planned together with waste management and the food and energy production sector in order to create a functioning system for residents and the environment. The greenhouse gas emissions of the water supply and sewerage will be reduced by, for example, increasing the efficiency and recovery of energy in the networks. The need for renovation and repair will be reduced with a reallocation of resources, suitable pricing and legislative direction and monitoring, if required.

The utilisation of nutrients will have been made more efficient and easier. Technical know-how, as well as innovation will be generated by research and development work with recycled fertilizers and the nutrient cycle. Unbiased experiments will be made to reduce the use of water and to promote the nutrient cycle. These will be, for example, dry toilet experiments in some residential areas. Concrete experiments will increase knowledge about sustainable actions and integrate them into people's everyday lives, which in turn raises consumers' environmental awareness and responsible activities. The third sector will have a central role in consumer communication and bringing the local knowledge into the decision-making. The future solutions will be not only environmentally friendly but also open and accessible to everyone.

Municipalities and regional governments must:

- ✓ Develop regional cooperation and join common resources with municipalities and other actors.
- ✓ Invest and allocate resources collected from water and sewage payments to reduce the risk of leakage in the water distribution and to diminish the need for renovation and repair.
- ✓ Commit to using water-efficient choices in their activities and purchases, as well as enable their development in cooperation with companies and researchers.
- ✓ Inform the residents about the water stewardship and direct the consumers towards sensible use of water and sustainable solutions.

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- 1 Data collected from workshops, Nov 19, 2017 and Jan 1, 2018.
 - 2 Katko, Tapio S. (2013). Hanaa! Suomen vesihuolto – kehitys ja yhteiskunnallinen merkitys. Finnish Water Utilities Association, Helsinki.
 - 3 Salminen, Jani & Sarianne Tikkanen & Jari Koskiaho (eds.) (2017). Kohti vesiviisasta kiertotaloutta. Suomen ympäristökeskuksen raportteja 16/2017. Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki.
 - 4 Silfverberg, Paul (2017). Vesihuollon suuntaviivat 2020-luvulle. Publication series of Finnish Water Utilities Association n: o 44. Finnish Water Utilities Association (FIWA), Helsinki.





Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

Threat of climate change and exhaustion of natural resources raise the importance of energy efficiency, saving of energy and use of sustainable renewable energy to be vital.

Siemenpuu Foundation

Global level

CURRENT SITUATION: Energy is the foundation of all life, and the sun offers it profusely to earth's diverse species. Our species has flourished in numbers and in our standard of living thanks to fossil fuels and other modern energy technology. At the same time, we have driven other species to extinction, changed the climate to be unfavourable for us, and caused other serious environmental problems. Humankind's inability to moderate its use of energy threatens ecologically sustainable well-being.

However, humankind's use of energy is highly disparate. The richest tenth uses about half of the industrially produced electricity, heat and transport fuels, and is thus largely responsible for the on-going ecological catastrophe¹. The poorest tenth meet their cooking, lighting and heating needs with a very small amount of biomass, oil and electricity.

Although Finland has sought to enhance its sustainable energy policy, it is not unfortunately able to match up to its reputation as a model country. Energy and environmental questions have not been emphasised enough in the international recognition accorded Finland on sustainable development and environmental responsibility. Finland acts shamefully in the global exploitation of energy flows as our fossil fuel consumption per person is clearly over European and global average and exceeds the sustainable level many times over.² Our energy abundance has partly led, for example, to the situation where one in ten species in Finland is endangered.

FINLAND TOMORROW: After having moderated its own level of energy use and having shifted to clean energy sources, Finland will actively strive internationally so that also other countries could organise the conditions of a good quality of life for their inhabitants with ecologically sustainable energy input, and without fossil fuels. Finland will share its experiences of social innovations such as progressive consumption tax and the criminalisation of over-consumption. Finland will repeatedly be at the top of international welfare comparisons and will thereby share information globally on sustainable energy systems.

Finland as a rich country will respect the Sustainable Development Goal 7 and will support the development of energy systems on poor countries to become sustainable and useful for all. Finland will, among other things, share

“ *Humankind's inability to moderate its use of energy threatens ecologically sustainable well-being.* ”

its know-how and support investments on infrastructure. To realise this Finland will raise its climate financing to the level required by the Paris Agreement. Finland's share of the global total of hundred billion US dollars is, according to its GNP, at least EUR 200 million a year. A considerable share of this funding will be directed to support sustainable energy solutions that benefit the poor.

Finland must:

- ✓ Change its energy system to be ecologically sustainable and fair to be able to show to the world how a welfare society can function without fossil fuels, with a moderate and clean energy input.
- ✓ Join the Eradicating Ecocide initiative⁵ and drive other actions internationally to stop the energy splurge, and even when necessary by criminalising conspicuous consumption.
- ✓ From 2020 contribute annually to international climate funding 2020 by at least EUR 200 million. A significant part should be directed to the least developed countries' and world's poor people's clean energy solutions.

1 See, for example, Oxfam (2015). Extreme Carbon Inequality. Why the Paris climate deal must put the poorest, lowest emitting and most vulnerable people first. Oxfam Media Briefing, 2.12.2015.

2 For example, Finland's Energy and climate atlas considers current level of emissions over fourfold to the objective. Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, TEM (2014). Energia- ja ilmastotiekartta 2050. Parlamentaarisen energia- ja ilmastokomitean mietintö 16. päivänä lokakuuta 2014. TEM publications, 31/2014. TEM, Helsinki.

3 Putkuri, Eija & Matti Lindholm & Aino Peltonen (2013). Ympäristön tila Suomessa 2013. Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki.

4 See, for example, Kepa (2017). Ilmastorahoitus ja Suomi. Kepan ajan-kohtaiskatsaus no. 21, October 2017. Kepa, Helsinki.

5 More information: <http://eradicatingecocide.com/> (8.3.2018).



Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

Threat of climate change and exhaustion of natural resources raise the importance of energy efficiency, saving of energy and use of sustainable renewable energy to be vital.

Friends of the Earth Finland

National level

CURRENT SITUATION: Finland's energy production is centralised and still largely based on use of fossil fuels, such as coal, peat and natural gas, and the use of nuclear power. For example, more than half of electricity was produced in 2017 by using fossil fuels and nuclear power¹. Our energy structure is climate-wise and ecologically unsustainable. The government is expected to propose a bill in the second half of 2018 to deny the use of coal as an energy source by 2029. It also promises support for power plants that stop using coal in a faster timeframe. This is a welcome move, although the target date should be 2025. The government's proposal as it now stands, doesn't take into account the use of peat as an energy source.

Finnish energy policy has supported the operations of the fossil fuel and nuclear power companies and belittled the importance of renewable energy and especially of citi-

“ Our energy structure is climate-wise and ecologically unsustainable. ”

zens' own energy production. However, a change towards energy democracy has started, as more and more economical renewable energy is becoming more common in Finland. Community energy is still rare in Finland. In community energy people own or participate in energy production, administration, saving and/or distribution. For example, in the pioneer countries, 70–80 per cent of wind power (Denmark) and half of the renewable energy (Germany) is owned by communities.²

Finland could have the knowledge and skills to be a leading country in energy transition but Finnish decision-makers do not have the political will enough to become a force of change.

FINLAND TOMORROW: Finland will acknowledge that the climate catastrophe is the biggest future challenge, and that to cope with its threat an urgent energy transition will be

needed. Finland will admit its climate responsibility and will understand that it requires action towards decentralised, hundred per cent renewable, clean, safe and sustainable energy production. Only that way it is even in theory possible to try to fulfil Finland's commitment to the Paris Agreement's less than 1.5-degree target. Finland will forbid the use of fossil fuels in energy production, and will rely on bioenergy only moderately, so that the criteria of sustainability are correct. The use of tree stumps and trunks in energy production will be restricted.

Finland will raise its target of renewable energy and have acknowledged that for the realisation of a rapid energy transition it is crucial that citizens can produce their own energy. Finland will dismantle administrative and prejudiced obstacles from the path of enhancing community energy and will set an independent target for it. Finland will successfully widen community energy in all corners of the country. The wind and solar energy cooperatives and condominiums' production of solar energy and solar thermal energy and geothermal will prove to be socially useful and will increase well-being. Energy transformation will make urban and countryside communities to flourish.

Finland will be aware that saving energy is a crucial part of the energy transition. Standards and support for new construction and reparation will enable generally energy-efficient and healthy housing. Energy communities that use energy effectively will be commonplace. Technology will easily enable the flexible and smart use of energy, which will make it saving energy easy. The fundamental foundation for everything will be our more sustainable way of living, which will consume less natural resources and energy and will support well-being for all.

1 Finnish Energy (2018). Energiavuosi 2017 – Sähkö. Updated 25.1.2018.

2 Roberts, Josh & Frances Bodman & Robert Rybski (2014). Community Power: Model Legal Frameworks for Citizen-owned Renewable Energy. ClientEarth, London.

The Friends of the Earth's Community Energy campaign acts for enhancing decentralised renewable energy and community energy in Finland. It forms part of the Friends of the Earth Europe's Fossil Free Europe campaign, which aims to get Europe free of fossil fuels and nuclear power by 2030. This means a just transition to a hundred per cent renewable energy, which would be used extremely effectively.

Finland must:

- ✓ Set its own binding targets and support for community energy.
 - ✓ Transform legislation to support decentralised and community energy approaches for example in the electricity market sector, and in paying attention to condominiums and energy cooperatives.
 - ✓ Organise enabling funding and harmonise and loosen licensing practices.
 - ✓ Offer support and expert advice for citizens and form pilot areas for community energy.
 - ✓ Ban fossil energy production at the latest by 2030; stop the use of coal and peat by 2025.
 - ✓ Act as a forerunner in climate policy in European Union, among other contexts. For example, enhance in EU higher targets for 2030 in emission reductions, renewable energy and energy efficiency to stick to the 1.5-degree commitment.
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Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

Threat of climate change and exhaustion of natural resources raise the importance of energy efficiency, saving of energy and use of sustainable renewable energy to be vital.

Friends of the Earth Finland

Local level

CURRENT SITUATION: Finland's energy production is largely based on fossil fuels. They are a problem especially in the production of district heating and traffic. The share of fossil fuels, including peat, in district heating production was 49 per cent in 2017.

The situation is worrying as there is no place in the world for the use of fossil fuels. The decision of the Paris Climate Agreement to aim at restricting global warming to 1.5-degrees requires radical decreases in emissions already in next few years. It is expected that the Finnish government will create a much-needed law to forbid the use of coal as a source of energy by 2029. However, the proposal should target to give up coal and peat by 2025.

The production of district heating in Finland is typically in the hands of municipal energy companies. For example, in Helsinki it is produced by Helen and in Vantaa by Vantaa Energy. Thus, municipalities are in a key position in detach-

“ *There is no place in the world for the use of fossil fuels.* ”

ing district heating from fossil energy production. There are plans in many cities to substitute fossil fuels largely with forest-based bioenergy, which is also problematic. It is not carbon neutral to burn wood, and researchers have presented worrisome statements about negative impacts of increased tree harvesting and bioenergy on climate and nature diversity.

There are improvements to be made in Finland also concerning energy efficiency. Improvements are needed in new constructions but energy efficiency is especially low in apartment complexes built in the 1960s and 1970s.

FINLAND TOMORROW: Fossil fuels will be largely removed from district heating production. This will not be achieved by one single technique, such as substituting coal with wood; it will require multiple solutions. They will be, among other things, energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy storing and demand-side management. To improve energy efficiency, ambitious level of new construction will be lifted. The target is to reach such buildings in which emissions are as low as possible. Furthermore, reparation of old housing stock will be considered as a key issue. The need for district heat-

ing will be reduced as the energy efficiency of old houses will be revamped and energy consumption reduced. Energy efficiency will be improved, among other things, by applicable amount of additional insulation, by recovering heat, by own energy production and by smart technology.

The thinking will have changed in that energy production should always follow energy consumption. Now there will be attempts to schedule consumption more equally and especially to those times when there is lot of energy available. Thanks to such demand-side management it will have been possible to cut peak heat demand effectively. Heating production will be more and more based on other means than combustion. Homes will be heated, among other things, using heat stored in the ground, rock, water and air, by utilising heat pumps, or using geothermal energy drawn from the earth's core, using solar energy or using the heat wasted in different processes. In the future the heat production could be increasingly owned and managed by people and communities.

Municipalities and provinces must:

- ✓ Give up the use of coal and peat in their energy production plants by 2025, and of all fossil fuels by 2030.
- ✓ Develop and start to use other solutions in particular than those based on wood burning, and enhance building-by-building energy production.
- ✓ Enhance the improvement of energy efficiency for example by information guidance and economic incentives.
- ✓ Introduce new solutions, such as demand-side management in the buildings owned by municipalities and provinces. Finland's energy production is largely based on fossil fuels. They are a problem especially in the production of district heating and traffic. The share of fossil fuels, including peat, in district heating production was 49 per cent in 2017.

1 Finnish Energy (2018). Kaukolämpötilastot. Energiavuosi 2017, Kaukolämpö. https://energia.fi/ajankohtaista_ia_materiaalipankki/materiaalipankki/energia_vuosi_2017_-_kaukolampo.html#material-view (15.5.2018).



Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

Preserving natural and cultural heritage supports economic, social and ecological well-being in cities and communities.

Finnish Environmental Organization Dodo

Global level

CURRENT SITUATION: Urbanisation is exploding and exacerbating global problems, such as inequality, loss of cultural heritage and biodiversity, as well as health hazards caused by traffic emissions. So far, the target regions of Finnish development cooperation funds have mostly been in rural areas instead of cities¹. The funds are often directed to recipient countries without equal partnership or reciprocity. Furthermore, this allocation of funds does not support the development and wellbeing of the megacities in developing countries. Finland could learn about communality from developing countries.

Finland's development cooperation is increasingly determined by commercial objectives, which is not a guarantee for increased wellbeing. Nevertheless, there is successful commercial development cooperation for instance by Mifuko, a Finnish-Kenyan design company. Mifuko produces indoor decor in rural Kenya, ensuring that the manufacturers have sufficient income to secure their wellbeing². There is also a great need for similar examples in urban areas. In addition to the fact that there is little support for urban development, Finnish people's consumption narrows the possibilities for wellbeing in urban areas in developing countries. Companies' aims to manufacture products as cheaply as possible for as large numbers of people as possible weakens their will to consider the social and ecological sustainability of production. Therefore, the developing countries pay the price of the externalized social and environmental harm caused by production.

FINLAND TOMORROW: Finland will work actively to promote the development of sustainable cities on a global scale, and will adopt new practices from all over the world. For this, Team Finland will have a reciprocal programme for sustainable urban development, funded by combining development cooperation funds and Finnish companies' internationalization support funds. With the help of the programme, companies and organisations working on the same field or region will form consortia – joint groups that have expertise about the social and environmental impacts of the activities. The consortia will help their members to evaluate and develop the lifespan effects of their activities. With the programme, the assessment tools for evaluating and planning commercial development cooperation will have become so advanced that impact assessment has become Finland's new export product.

Finland will not participate in projects that serve primarily rootless capital or the nature-exploiting business economy. Instead, we will support Finnish social enterprise, non-governmental organisations, and consortia across sector boundaries. Finnish cooperation projects will curb urbanization by keeping rural areas vital, and promote metropolitan sustainability, as well as the inhabitants' social and ecological wellbeing.

Finland will actively adopt new good practices. For example, practices to promote communality in urban areas will have been adopted from developing countries; Finland will have begun to practice urban farming according to the Cuban model to ensure food security in cities³. In addition, the concept of Regen Village⁴ will have been introduced in Finland and, as a result, various neighbourhoods across the country have adopted the model. Furthermore, the big cities in Finland will have welcomed the Blue Zone concept⁵ and have begun to apply it. In their own lifestyle choices, the Finnish people have begun to consume considerably less, and the society promotes circular economy actively.

Finland must:

- ✓ Initiate a Team Finland programme for reciprocal sustainable urban development.
- ✓ Evaluate carefully which kinds of business activities are encouraged in the cities in developing countries, and furthermore ensure that the activities support the well-being of the local people and the environment.
- ✓ Actively seek new opportunities for cooperation and adopt new practices.
- ✓ Encourage Finns to consume less by, for example, organizing public campaigns, providing education and establishing a voluntary carbon tax.

1 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (no date): Rahoituskohteet: Toimialat. <http://form-in.finland.fi/Public/default.aspx?nodeid=48023&contentlan=1&culture=fi-FI> (19.1.2018).

2 mifuko.fi (22.3.2018).

3 Catherine Murphy (ei pvm). Urban Gardens Increase Food Security in Times of Crisis: Habana, Cuba.

4 regenvillages.com (22.3.2018).

5 bluezonesproject.com (22.3.2018).



Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

Preserving natural and cultural heritage supports economic, social and ecological well-being in cities and communities.

Finnish Environmental Organization Dodo

National level

CURRENT SITUATION: Finnish people are eager to have a sustainable urban lifestyle but very few have fundamentally changed their living, eating, and transportation habits. In addition to consumer choices, active response is required from the officials and the civil society to renew the urban life structures that enable sustainable lifestyle. It is alarming how many people see themselves primarily as consumers over citizens. Only a few are involved in politics. The number of those involved in organisations and civil activities is larger, but the voice of the civil society is often unheard in politics. Democracy is in danger of being overshadowed by economic interests.

Public funding for the circular economy organised by Sitra, Tekes and the Prime Minister's Office, is a good example of innovation encouragement in the field that needs to take a huge leap forward in the next a few years. Also, the allocation of resources among urban citizens has been made easier: for example, libraries loan items, such as bicycles. However, economic structures, such as the unreasonably high taxation of small capital gains, slows down the unofficial sharing economy.

Alongside the promotion of circular economy and other measures that mitigate climate change, adaptation to climate change¹ is crucial for safeguarding wellbeing in the changing situation. The greater Helsinki area has begun to adapt to the changing climate in various sectors². However, the discussion about adaptation has not yet been incorporated into all activities in the city, despite the ever-wider range of issues that climate change affects, such as immigration and increased precipitation.

“ It is alarming how many people see themselves primarily as consumers over citizens. ”

FINLAND TOMORROW: Finland will support sustainable development in cities and municipalities by funding energy efficiency and closed loop ecosystems, as well as educating experts in circular economy. The state, cities and municipalities will protect democracy from economic interests by encouraging inhabitants in active citizenship, and to give up consumerism, while preserving the welfare state values.

There will be various exemplary neighbourhoods in Finland that are environmentally innovative and cherish communality. The solutions of these neighbourhoods are also being developed as export products. Economic life will be supporting communal activities by providing more opportunities for workers to engage in voluntary work.

The city administration will direct individuals towards a radical reduction of consumption through education, communication and renewal of structures. The public economy will no longer support livestock farming or the use of fossil fuels, which are the factors that aggravate climate change the most. Finland will support social enterprise and sectors that are valuable in society. The public economy is being developed actively towards a circular and sharing economy. Finland uses new tools to ensure cities' supply security also in the face of new challenges imposed by the climate change. Urban farming and community-supported agriculture (promoted by the extension of the ruokaasuomesta.fi-website and new mobile applications) will offer new means to ensure the variety of cities' food security.

Finland must:

- ✓ Support and fund local circular and sharing economy by taxation reform, and aim for a nutrient and material cycle, which would be as closed as possible.
- ✓ Establish a foundation independent from specific technologies, which would assist housing cooperative and private home investments in energy efficiency.³
- ✓ Create a participatory, phenomenon-based budget – thematic and cross-sectoral – and remove support from unsustainable practices, such as livestock and fossil-based economy.
- ✓ Consider the expenses the future generations will have to bear when making public purchases.

1 Peltonen-Sainio, Pirjo et al. (2017). Sopeutumisen tila 2017 - Ilmastokestävyyden tarkastelut maa- ja metsätalousministeriön hallinnonalalla. Luonnonvara- ja biotalouden tutkimus 18/2017. Natural Resources Institute Finland Luke, Helsinki.
2 Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority, HSY (2017). Pääkaupunkiseudun ilmastomuutokseen sopeutumisen uudet haasteet. HSY, Helsinki.
3 Kuusiola, Timo (2017). "Energiatehokkuus ei parane itsestään – ja iso korjausvelka rakennuksessa voi johtaa sen purkamiseen." Tekniikka&talous 29.12.2017.



Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

Preserving natural and cultural heritage supports economic, social and ecological well-being in cities and communities.

Finnish Environmental Organization Dodo

Local level

CURRENT SITUATION: In Finland, there are some neighbourhoods that employ the principles of circular economy. These are, for instance, Hiedanranta in Tampere¹ and Kalasatama in Helsinki². Åland is on its way to begin operating according to the principles of circular economy in its food system³. In Finland, closeness to nature in urban environments has traditionally been highly valued. The importance of areas of natural wealth is becoming increasingly important as the climate change increases precipitation. The significance of the urban biodiversity to the public health is understood clearer⁴. However, privatisation and dense city construction threaten the green areas.

The influence that construction sectors have in the cities is overemphasized. Projects are initiated to serve mostly construction companies, not the users of the buildings. This is a notable threat to local democracy, as well as to the social and ecological sustainability of the new buildings. The standard solutions, designed by construction companies for the imagined ideal users mostly benefit the profit-seeking actors, and alternative construction projects are not supported actively. However, resident-oriented construction projects do exist, for example Malta-house in Jätkäsaari, Helsinki has been founded by the residents and constructed by the housing cooperative⁵.

Empty residential properties bought as good investments amount to a global problem that also exists in Finland – real property ownership is entailed by the “growth” of money. Apartments bought as investments or for secondary occupation not only cause a significant loss of energy, but also undermine the functionality and social peace in cities while symbolizing inequality. Due to this problem and the large apartment sizes, Finland is still miles away from the sustainable living square meter area, which is approximately 20 square meters per person⁶.

FINLAND TOMORROW: Power will have been transferred from the construction sector back to regional decision makers. New construction projects will serve first and foremost the needs of users, not the construction companies. Apartments and cities will be designed to be small and compact so that access to nature is preserved for everyone equally. Green areas will form a unified network that secures biodiversity. Structural policies that restrict this development, such as a minimum number of parking lots or the minimum

size of apartments, have been given up. Group building in apartment blocks and other alternative construction models will be common ways to realize socially and economically diverse and ecologically sustainable building.

“ Projects are initiated to serve mostly construction companies, not the users of the buildings. ”

All new residential and business areas operate by circular economy and old areas will be renewed accordingly. For example, the Climate Street project in Helsinki⁷ will have been replicated in new areas. Cities will be well-prepared for the effects of the climate change and have developed a system to employ climate refugees quickly.

Municipalities and regional governments must:

- ✓ Restrict the construction sector's latitude to affect the municipal decision-making, and make user-friendly building projects possible.
- ✓ Found new areas of closed nutrient and material cycle and convert the existing areas accordingly.
- ✓ Bring the different actors together (the city, companies, the third sector, the educational sector) to form a system, which aims for a common vision of sustainable future city. The resources need to be secured to carry out this vision. Such a system is already initiated in Tampere⁸.

1 valiaikainenhiedanranta.fi (Accessed April 23, 2018).

2 uuttahelsinki.fi/kalasatama (Accessed April 23, 2018).

3 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (2017). Kestävän ruokajärjestelmän pilottimallin kehittäjä on valittu. Notification, 15.6.2017.

4 Haahtela, Tari et al. (2017). Luontooskel tarttumattomien tulehdustautien torjumiseksi. Duodecim 2017, 133(1):19–26.

5 ryhmarakennuttajat.fi/hankkeita (April 23, 2018).

6 Demos Helsinki (2012). Scenarios for Sustainable Lifestyles 2050: From Global Champions to Local Loops. SPREAD Sustainable Lifestyles 2050.

7 ilmastokatu.fi (Accessed April 23, 2018).

8 smarttampere.fi (Accessed April 23, 2018).



Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

Awareness and opportunity to practice sustainable consumption and production are for everyone.

Fairtrade Finland¹

Global level

CURRENT SITUATION: One in ten people in the world lives on less than two dollars a day, even though they are in employment. 25 million people perform forced labour. 152 million children perform work that is detrimental to their health or school attendance.

Globally, we use natural resources nearly twice as fast as they regenerate. If everyone consumed as much as the Finnish people do, we would need four planets. Dangerous climate change mitigation calls for urgent action.

Some improvements have been achieved in responsible consumption and production. Corporate responsibility and transparency increasingly influence consumers' choices². Pioneering companies cooperate with trade unions and NGOs, publish and audit their suppliers and use certified materials.

Companies' progress in respecting human rights shows particular promise. A decade ago a mutual global under-

“ Companies are expected to map, publish and minimize the biggest human rights problems in their operations and supply chains. ”

standing was developed on companies' responsibility to respect human rights. This was recorded in the UNGP, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

In practice, companies are expected to map the human rights impacts of their operations and supply chains, and utilize their leverage to minimize and remedy the problems. Globally, thousands of companies have started this work.

Also, several states have used legislation to clarify and strengthen companies' responsibilities for human rights. For instance, in 2017 France passed a law that specifies what kind of human rights due diligence is expected of companies. The law enables those whose rights have been violated to sue the French companies, regardless of where the violation has taken place.

Laws on companies' responsibility for human rights have been passed or are currently prepared in the EU, the Great Britain, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Australia.

FINLAND TOMORROW: Consumers will feel confident that production chains involve no child labour, forced labour or other violations of human rights. Companies can trust that the activities of their trading partners and competitors tolerate daylight and cause no reputational risks or unfair cost pressure.

The state will fulfil its role as the protector of human rights and the determiner of common rules: it promotes responsible production and consumption through both voluntary norms and smarter regulation.

Finland must:

- ✓ Pass a law that obliges companies to map and reduce their negative human rights impacts.
- ✓ Promote the international binding treaty on corporate human rights responsibilities by making constructive proposals in the EU and by continuing open dialogue with CSOs.
- ✓ Strengthen tax justice in Finland and the EU by requiring public, country-specific tax reporting from multinational corporations.
- ✓ Strengthen the evaluation of development impacts in private sector instruments.
- ✓ Ensure that all activities financed by development cooperation funds are in line with the Paris Climate Agreement and the 1,5-degree target.

¹ This text has been produced on the basis of cooperation between the following organisations: Fairtrade Finland; FELM; Finnish Food Workers' Union SEL; Finnwatch; Industrial Union; NGO Platform Kepa; Pro Ethical Trade Finland; Save the Children Finland; The Consumers' Union of Finland; The Finnish League for Human Rights; The Finnish NGDO Platform to the European Union, Kehys; The International Solidarity Foundation, Plan International Finland; Trade Union for the Public and Welfare Sectors JHL; Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland SASK, UNICEF Finland, World Vision Finland.

² T-Media (2017). Trust and Reputation -survey.



Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

Awareness and opportunity to practice sustainable consumption and production are for everyone.

Fairtrade Finland¹

National level

CURRENT SITUATION: Growing numbers of Finns pursue more responsible consumption. For instance last year the sales of Fairtrade and organic products grew 23 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. By comparison, the total sales of daily consumer goods grew less than 5 percent.

The consumption and investments of the Finnish state, however, could be much stronger steered by development indicators that depict the wellbeing of people and nature. For example, the economic reviews that govern the state budget negotiations focus on the growth outlook for GDP only.

GDP measures the value of domestic production, disregarding such things as education, natural resources, and inequality. On the other hand, organised crime increases GDP growth.

“ *The welfare of a nation can scarcely be inferred from a measurement of national income.*

Simon Kuznets,
developer of the GDP indicator.² ”

FINLAND TOMORROW: Human rights, the pursuit of welfare, and ecological boundaries will direct Finland's politics and budgeting. The most used development indicator will be the Genuine Progress Indicator, GPI, developed in the United States. Higher education, household work and consumption contribute to the grown GPI, while it is decreased by unequal income distribution, underemployment, the use of natural resources, and accidents³.

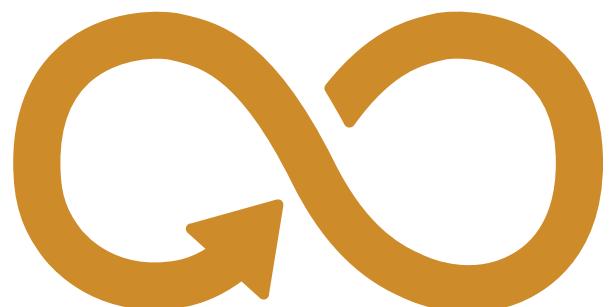
Similar to GDP, the GPI value will be used in public discussions and for international comparisons. More detailed indicators on the various dimensions of sustainable development will also be followed (see www.kestavakehitys.fi). Economic growth will no longer be the goal of society.

Finland must:

- ✓ Raise wider development indicators on par with the GDP. Development indicators that describe human well-being and state of the environment should be paramount in defining and monitoring state policies and budgets.
- ✓ Support civil activities and civil society organisations that enhance responsible business and consumption.
- ✓ Advance responsible production by making responsible procurement decisions in the public institutions. In particular, Finland needs a national strategy, indicators and monitoring to advance socially responsible public procurement.

- 1 This theme has been discussed 1.2.2018 at the round table meeting convened by the sustainable economy working group of Kehys. There were 25 participants from civil society organisations, public institutions and academy.
- 2 Kuznets, S. (1934) National Income, 1929–1932. Senate Document No. 124, 73rd Congress, 2nd Session, page 7.
- 3 Information on different indicators, see Hoffren, Jukka & Inka Lemmetyinen & Leeni Pitkä (2010). Esiselvitys hyvinvointi-indikaattoreista. Mittareiden vertailu ja kehittämiskohteet. Sitra reports 32. Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, Helsinki.

“ *Municipalities and other public institutions unknowingly purchase even goods produced by forced labour.* ”





Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

Awareness and opportunity to practice sustainable consumption and production are for everyone.

Fairtrade Finland¹

Local level

CURRENT SITUATION: Municipalities and regional governments can influence the sustainability of production and consumption through their own procurement policies. As big buyers their procurement criteria have a wide impact on corporate practices, much beyond a single service or product. Public procurement covers about 16 per cent of Finland's national economy.

Responsibility and quality issues are often steam-rolled in public procurement by price competition. When purchases are based on prices, sustainability is questionable, as labour, human rights and environmental problems are common for example in the production of groceries, electronics, textiles, furniture and paving stones². Extreme human rights violations such as forced labour exist in Finland too.

Procurement law reform in 2017 clarified that public organisations can include labour rights, human rights and environmental conditions in their procurement criteria. Tips for using labour and human rights criteria can be sought, for example, from the computer and furniture procurements by Hansel and KL-Kuntahankinnat, the central purchasing bodies of the Finnish government and Finnish municipalities, in spring 2018³.

Examples of civil society organisations' (CSOs) work

Finnish CSOs cooperate with both public procurement units and decision-makers to support responsible public procuring.

In autumn 2017, fifteen Finnish CSOs published a guide entitled "Tips for responsible procuring from developing countries". This guide is meant for procurement specialists and politicians. It provides ideas on how corporate responsibility can be encouraged in different stages of the procurement process from planning to the contract period.

This CSO coalition will continue its campaign until 2020. It aims at encouraging procurers to pilot labour and human rights criteria and then publishing the results of these pilots, in order to generate a positive snowball effect. More information: reilukauppa.fi/vas-tuullisethankinnat³.

Municipalities can also advance responsible consumption through education by fostering children's and young people's understanding of the global impacts of their consumption decisions.

FINLAND TOMORROW: Public institutions will utilise their economic power, education, and partnerships to enhance responsible production and consumption. Municipalities and regional governments will between them share the work related to advancing responsible procurement, as regional government in Sweden have done: one municipality familiarises itself with responsible electronic procurement and supports others, another does the same with textiles, and so on.

Municipalities and regional governments must:

- ✓ Eradicate the exploitation of child labour and forced labour from their procurement chains. Social and environmental sustainability must be taken into account in all purchases. Work can start with the inclusion of sustainability targets in procurement strategies and the securing of sufficient funding for procurement units.
- ✓ Implement global education according to the national education plan at all school grades, and ensure teachers' access to related continuing training.
- ✓ Collaborate with civil society organisations for example in the initiatives of Child-friendly municipality and Fairtrade municipality.

1 Finnish CSO's procurement campaign (2017). Vinkkejä vastuullisten kehitysmaahankintojen tekemiseen; Finnwatch (2013). Alkuperä tuntematon. Sosiaalinen kestävyys kuntien julkisissa hankinnoissa. 4/2013. Finnwatch, Helsinki.
2 Finnwatch (2018) Sanoista tekoihin: Sosiaalisen vastuun pilottiprojekti Hansel Oy:n ja KL-Kuntahankinnat Oy:n kanssa.
3 Material of the procurement campaign has been utilised in the text. Campaign is coordinated by Fairtrade Finland, other participants are: Finnish Association of World Shops, Finnish League for Human Rights, Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS, Finnwatch, Forest Stewardship Council Finland, Kepa, Martha Organization, Plan International Finland, Pro Ethical Trade Finland, Save the Children Finland, The Consumers' Union of Finland, Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland SASK, UNICEF Finland, and World Vision Finland.



Goal 15: Life on land

Intrinsic value of nature must be respected. For example, disintegration and destruction of ecosystems and poaching have already caused a serious wave of extinction.

The Finnish Nature League

Global level

CURRENT SITUATION: Beside the huge challenge of climate change mitigation, today's children and youth are forced to face a global a dwindling of nature's diversity and ecosystems. We are living in the era of the sixth wave of mass extinction. Becoming threatened is a deepening trend for species and habitats globally.¹ The majority of nature's diversity is concentrated in forests. It has been estimated that 5 000 species will become extinct annually, the majority of them

“ Extensive use of biofuels causes stress on natural diversity both globally and in Europe. ”

due to tropical forest loss. The key reasons for the decrease of biodiversity are loss and disintegration of habitat. Hence, climate warming is further accelerating species extinction. For example, the habitat of some species living in mountains and in the Arctic region will change so that there is a threat of extinction when it becomes no longer possible for these species to shift to a cooler climate. Climate change also threatens the stability of ecosystems and may dramatically change the relationships between the species. The decrease of biodiversity may also adversely affect human health. For instance, the decrease in nature's diversity is linked to autoimmune diseases.²

Human activity, such as cutting down forests for settlements and cultivations causes multiple pressures on species and habitats, and further increases the pressure to use forest wood resources in energy production. Sustainably produced biofuels have their role in substituting fossil fuels but not all biofuels offer real emission cuts. The best climate benefits will be derived from biofuels that utilise waste and residual forest biomass as raw material. Substituting fossil fuels with biofuels without decreasing the consumption of energy and natural resources transfers rather than reduces negative environmental impacts. Besides climate emis-

sions, the extensive use of biofuels causes stress on natural diversity both globally and in Europe.³

FINLAND TOMORROW: Finland will create globally responsible environmental policies by offering sufficient incentives to developing countries to enhance their activities in relation to conservation and deforestation. Finland will be known for its activities against poaching and black market trade of protected species. It will build local communities' capacity to earn their living in sustainable ways and will act actively at the international arenas. Finland will take a strong role during its EU presidency at the second part of 2019 in enhancing the conservation of life on land.

Finland must:

- ✓ Demand corporate accountability to stop the loss of biodiversity.
- ✓ Advocate decisively in the EU to achieve a higher level of carbon emission targeting and to strengthen carbon sinks, especially during Finland's EU Presidency term, which means that the EU would tighten its planned contribution to implement the Paris Agreement.
- ✓ Advance in the climate negotiations and in other international contexts such aims and activities which enhance ecosystems' carbon sinks and storages, including restoring of forests, forest conservation and conservation of peatland forests.

- 1 International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN (2017). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 2017-3. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/about/summary-statistics> (22.3.2018).
- 2 Hanski, Ilkka (2016). A Brief Biodiversity Tour. University of Helsinki, Helsinki. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IU9ZtEdgWU> (22.3.2018).
- 3 Matthews, Robert et al. (2015). Carbon impacts of biomass consumed in the EU: quantitative assessment. Final report of the project commissioned by European union (DG ENER/C1/427). Part A: main report, December 2015. The Research Agency of the Forestry Commission, Bristol.



Goal 15: Life on land

Intrinsic value of nature must be respected. For example, disintegration and destruction of ecosystems and poaching have already caused a serious wave of extinction.

The Finnish Nature League

National level

CURRENT SITUATION: The growing bio-economy has meant an increase in the use of wood. Increased logging threatens diversity of forest nature and accelerates climate change¹. The Finnish government aims to increase logging from the current record level by 20 percent.²

Around 36 per cent of threatened species live primarily in forest. Finland's forests are the most important habitat for 816 species. The key reasons for forest species' being threatened is reduction of old growth forests and decaying wood. This decrease is a direct consequence of intensive forestry, which has persisted for decades.³ 70 per cent of forest habitat types are categorised as threatened.⁴

There are special challenges in Finland in relation to conservation of large carnivores. Wolves, bears, wolverines and lynxes are protected by the EU Nature Directive. This aims to secure the preservation of exceptional and threatened animal species in the EU. According to the population estimate of 2017, in Finland there are from 150 to 180 wolves⁵, and there are signs of low genetic diversity.⁶ It is estimated that there are between 220 and 250 highly threatened wolverines in Finland. The lynx has been categorised as a species near threatened and thus its population should be allowed to grow.⁷ Besides poaching, reaching favourable conservation status of wolves and wolverines is threatened by the special licences issued for hunting. Harm and threats caused to domesticated animals and people by large carnivores should be reduced by non-lethal measures.⁸

Forestry is the most significant cause of the plight of peatland nature. Due to peatland draining, almost all peatland types are threatened in Southern Finland⁹. Drainage accelerates climate change as it enhances the decomposition of carbon storage, which has accumulated in peat over millennia. The draining also contaminates water systems by increasing the washing away of solids and nutrients. According to new research, aquatic emissions of forestry are due to peatland draining even two or threefold than previous estimates¹⁰.

Increasing logging in the way the government intends would halve the carbon sink of Finland's forests and would thus invalidate a large part of the national climate actions carried out in other sectors.¹¹

Only about 5,7 per cent of actual forests, so called productive forestland, is legally protected from logging. This conservation is concentrated in the northern part of the country, of the southern forests only 2,6 per cent is protected. METSO, the biodiversity programme of forests in the Southern Finland, tries to patch up the weak situation of forest conservation by voluntary conservation. However, during the term of the current government, METSO's funding has been cut even by 70 per cent. Although these cuts would have been cancelled and even the programme's objectives of conservation, which were already postponed by a decade, would be reached, we are still far from a sufficient network of conservation areas. The METSO programme has proposed that the conservation aim for 20 years should be 96 000 hectares, around 0,5 per cent of Finland's forestland. Far more clear-cuttings are done even within a single year – about one and a half times more.

“ Forest conservation is the most reliable way to store carbon. ”

Climate change is advancing at alarming rate, and even rapid emission cuts are not enough to tackle it alone. The ability of forests and soil to carbon sequester and storage from the atmosphere is the best remaining possibility to balance the climate. The conservation of forests and peatlands is the most reliable way to absorb carbon.

The majority of Finland's forests are privately owned. Although each forest owner has a responsibility in the conservation of natural diversity, should society ensure the sustainability of forestry using regulations and by guiding support systems.

FINLAND TOMORROW: Finland will reduce the amount of logging and of clear-cuttings, that are harmful for nature and climate. Such forestry will be enhanced in state-owned lands, which will be more sustainable than before, as it conserves forest cover. State support to forestry will be directed

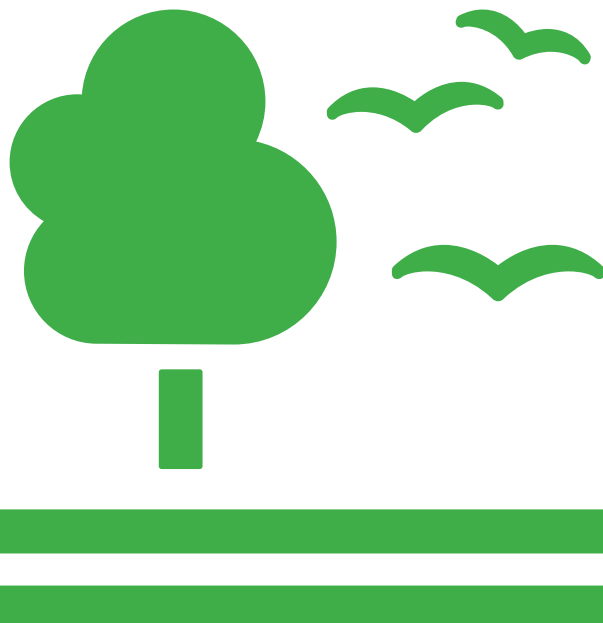
to activities that improve the condition of the natural environment. forestry subsidy that is harmful to the environment will be abolished. The funding for restoring depleted habitats, such as peatlands, will be increased and an ambitious national restoration programme will be made. The use of raw material for bioenergy which are most harmful for climate and nature (stumps, sturdy trunk and decayed wood) will be stopped. The use of peat as a source of energy will be stopped by 2025. Finland will attain the favourable level of species conservation as stipulated in the EU Nature Directive. Before considering issuing special permits for species hunting, an assessment will be made on conserving a favourable level of conservation and satisfying alternative options. Methods will be used in different ways that do not require lethal measures in ensuring the coexistence of wolves and human beings, including the conservation of domesticated animals. Taking care of the lynx population will enable it to flourish.⁷

Finland must:

- ✓ Increase the conservation areas of forests and peatlands. Return sufficient funding for the METSO programme and secure the continuation of forest conservation after the METSO programme, i.e. after 2025.
- ✓ As agreed at the Nagoya agreement, protect at least 17 per cent of Finland's forest area so that it is done geographically encompassing and representatively in relation to nature types. Protect all forests that are categorised as pristine.
- ✓ Stop support for peatland draining, subject draining to licensing, and protect those areas that were recognised valuable in preparation the supplemental programme of the peatland conservation. Implement the supplemental programme in its original scope.¹⁰

- 1 Sandell, Markku (2017). Tutkijoiden julkinen kirje: Suomen metsänkätösuunnitelmat eivät hillitse ilmastonmuutosta ja ovat uhka monimuotoisuudelle. Yle-news / climate change, 24.3.2017.
- 2 Finnish Government (2015). Ratkaisujen Suomi. Pääministeri Juha Sipilän hallituksen strateginen ohjelma 29.5.2015. Government publications series 10/2015 [s.24].
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Goal 15: Life on land

Intrinsic value of nature must be respected. For example, disintegration and destruction of ecosystems and poaching have already caused a serious wave of extinction.

The Finnish Nature League

Local level

CURRENT SITUATION: According to the Finnish Constitution, responsibility for nature and its diversity, environment and cultural heritage belongs to everyone. Public intervention should aim to secure right for everyone to a healthy environment and the possibility to influence decision-making on her or his living environment.

Municipalities own only a small percentage of Finland's forests. However, these forests have a bigger impact on people's living environments than their numeral size would suggest. Municipal forests are located mainly there where people live, in urban living areas and nearby. Hence, a significant amount of municipal forests has been planned for recreational areas. Attractive nature of municipal forests inspires people to take outdoor exercise. Walking in nature has a positive impact on the health of local inhabitants and decreases health costs of municipalities.

“ Walking in nature has a positive impact on the health of local inhabitants. ”

By using natural municipal forests in a controlled way, it is possible to significantly enhance the conservation of threatened species and habitats. A controlled state of nature is also an economic method of tending recreational forests.

Regional government reform threatens to lead environment-wise to a clear worsening of the situation compared to the current one. In this reform regional state administrative agencies and centres for economic development, transport and the environment will be merged into new regional agencies (Lupa- ja valvontavirasto, Luova). The government's plans propose weakening the supervision of environmental permits, as it has been suggested that the supervision unit that focuses on the common good would be abolished from the proposal, as would the civil servants' right to appeal. For example, in relation to the environmental permits of private firms this would mean that civil servants could not appeal decisions, even though they would be incomplete from an ecological or legal perspective.¹

FINLAND TOMORROW: Everyone's right to nearby nature will be taken into account in planning, and it will be acknowledged that urban forests are especially important for people who have limited mobility. Care will be taken that forests are sufficiently close to people also in the cities so

that experiences in nature that revitalise and de-stress are easily accessible. Municipalities will take an active role as protectors of local forests, valuable for environmental education. The so-called controlled state of nature of forests will be selected as the principle by which to take care of recreational areas, and whereby only such caring will take place that is necessary for safety and recreational purposes. Forested areas close to schools will be safeguarded in particular.

It will be acknowledged that urban forests and protected areas are important for children and youth in their learning to relate to nature. It will be understood that these areas are also important learning environments for early childhood education and for environmental education at schools and learning institutions. Society will ensure that there will be diverse forests formed by trees of different species and ages available to the public. The combination of species in them is richer than in commercial forests, and they are ideal places to learn about the diversity of nature.

Municipalities and regional governments must:

- ✓ Make concern for natural diversity the key principle for caring for municipalities' forested property and people's recreational use and of environmental education.
- ✓ Guide municipalities to shift in the management of their commercial forests to forestry without using clear-cutting and to protect their valuable natural areas, and to direct their regional planning to better secure recreational areas and nearby nature.
- ✓ Provide schools, day care centres and educational institutions the scope to utilise the services of nature and environment schools and civil society organisations' school visits and thus get support to diversify their learning environments, to learning outdoors and to environmental education.
- ✓ regional government reform must assure independent authorities' supervision on environment and public good, and resources for environmental administration.

¹ Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (2018). Kirjallinen kommentti laista valtion lupa- ja valvontavirastosta (19.1.2018). <https://www.sll.fi/ajan-kohtaista/liitto/2018/sll-vm-luova-190118> (4.4.2018).



Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

Achievement of sustainable development requires participation of all and sufficient resources

Kepa

Global level

CURRENT SITUATION: In 2018 actual development cooperation is EUR 544 million. In total, Finland's development aid amounts to 886,3 million, i.e. 0,38 per cent of Gross Domestic Income (GDI). It is five million more than the previous year. Even though the increase is as such a positive thing, by this rate Finland will not reach the target of 0,7 per cent of GDI at least for the next 30 years. Finland has pledged internationally that it will reach this target, which is also written to the government programme. The share of Finland's development cooperation funding to the poorest countries continues to drop steeply from the 2015 level, when it was 0,22 per cent of GDI. It has been estimated that in 2018 the figure will be only 0,16 per cent. The most recent OECD DAC peer review recommends Finland to make a road map to reach the targets of 0,7 and 0,2.¹

According to external evaluations completed in 2017, civil society organisations (CSOs) act cost-effectively and successfully, including in those regions and themes to which other development cooperation does not necessarily reach². The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Finland presented in its budget statement that the positive outcome of these evaluations should be taken into consideration and recommended an increase to the CSO development cooperation funding in 2018 budget³. Unfortunately, in spite of the statement, EUR 65 million have been proposed for CSO development cooperation, the same amount as for the last two years. This has been the level of CSO development cooperation funding following huge, about 40 per cent, overall cuts in 2015. Currently the share of CSOs of the total development cooperation funding is at its lowest for 16 years.

It is crucial for developing countries' social development to strengthen their capacity to collect taxes. Finland has recognised this in its development cooperation policy and supports the development of tax systems. Each year, Finland loses more than a billion euros due to aggressive tax planning⁴, developing countries more than \$US 100 billion. It is in everybody's interest to tackle tax avoidance as effectively as possible. Rooting out the tax haven economy would bring urgently needed funds to public budgets, which is also needed for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, Finnish tax policy doesn't currently consider impacts on developing countries' capacity to collect taxes. In the autumn 2017, parliament considered the proposal for

a directive that would obligate tax consultants to inform authorities about aggressive tax arrangements. Finland's position didn't take into account the fact that the proposal kept the tax authorities of developing countries in the dark, and limited information exchange only to EU countries⁵. Tax avoidance that impoverishes developing countries will not end unless the money flows to tax havens are blocked.

Climate change threatens to upset development results that have been achieved. According to the World Bank, up to a hundred million people are in danger of sinking back to poverty by 2030 unless we take climate change seriously.

This means that there is a need for new funding also for developing countries' action on climate. Yet many countries

“ Currently the share of CSOs of the total development cooperation funding is at its lowest for 16 years. ”

– including Finland – cover the costs of action on climate out of the development aid meant to decrease poverty. Climate funding takes up a growing slice of Finland's development cooperation budget. In 2014 it covered one fifth of all development aid. The value of Finnish development cooperation that enhances climate sustainability has decreased from EUR 245 million on 2015 to 189 million in 2016, and estimates for 2017 is 165 million. The decline between 2015 and 2017 is about one third, 80 million. The emphasis on finance-related support will most probably influence the division of Finnish climate funding between adaptation and mitigation, so that the share of adaptation to the changes caused by climate change will reduce although there is a greater need for it, especially in the poorest countries.

FINLAND TOMORROW: Similar development objectives and requirements of openness and transparency will be binding on all development cooperation supported from the public development cooperation budget. Finland will reach its 0,7 and 0,2 per cent goals and will be internationally trusted actor committed to persistent development cooperation based on the needs of partner countries.

The EU will be a trailblazer in a true worldwide cooperation, which will guarantee just taxation in the era of globalisation and automatisisation. Finland will support developing countries' capacity to collect taxes and their possibilities to advocate at the international arena. Model will be taken from the climate negotiations coordinated by the UN.

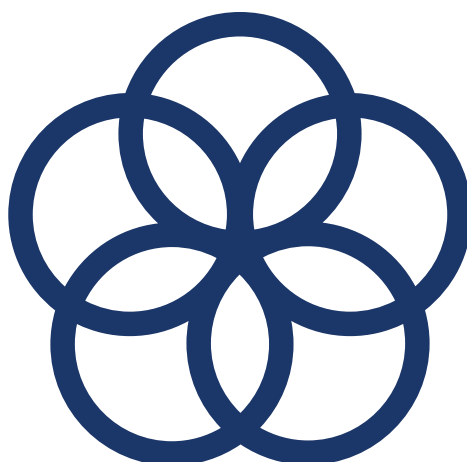
The development policy report of the government will set out the priorities for climate funding and will make a plan for a stable increase in that funding. In the report Finland will be committed to directing half of its climate funding to climate change adaptation and will define the share to be reserved for the least developed countries. Finland will also enhance the definition of unitary climate funding, which in turn will further the attainment of internationally agreed climate and development objectives.

Finland must:

- ✓ Make a plan and timetable for how Finland will reach its 0,7 and 0,2 targets before 2030.
 - ✓ Increase the funding of civil society actors to 15 per cent of Finland's actual development cooperation.
 - ✓ Support strengthening the UN's role on international tax-related cooperation, and role of intergovernmental negotiations under UN so that all countries could have possibility to participate at the tax system renovation.
 - ✓ Raise Finland's international climate funding to EUR 200 million a year by 2020 and return carbon trade income to international development and climate funding.
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Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

Achievement of sustainable development requires participation of all and sufficient resources

Kepa

National level

CURRENT SITUATION: An active and diverse civil society is a central element of a functioning democracy. Civil society organisations (CSOs) introduce reforms to national debate and are forerunners in carrying them out. Finland has justly been called a promised land of CSOs. Finnish CSOs have participated for decades in building society both nationally and elsewhere in the world. There are good grounds for protecting this asset of Finnish society while we also defend an enabling environment of other countries' civil societies.

The authorities had plans to shift support for CSOs' communications and global education projects (VGK support) from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) to Finnish National Agency of Education. This would have meant that municipalities and private learning institutions would have become applicants and CSOs would have had the role of partners. However, in February 2018 the MFA decided to continue to administer this support so that it is still channelled to CSOs. This decision was a victory for civil society. Dozens of CSOs carrying out global education campaigned actively in order to maintain the current system – and 45 CSOs signed an opinion paper drawn up by Kepa. The planned reform would have ended global education activities of many CSOs.

In 2018, Finland will implement the EU Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive, which aims to tackle aggressive tax planning. In the beginning of 2018, the Ministry of Finance published a draft of the first part of the package, limiting deduction right of interest costs¹. However, the proposal still enables tax planning on the basis of interests.

“ *Active citizenship is recognised as a crucial part of an open and participative society.* ”

The directive enables member countries to allow companies to deduct their taxes by interest costs with a sum equivalent to up to 30 per cent of their adjusted business returns. The BEBS-programme of the OECD prevents the decay of tax bases and profit shift. It recommends that the limit for deduction should be set from 10 to 30 per cents². The 25 per cent limit proposed by the Ministry of Finance is unjustly high from the perspective of interest rates in Finland.

FINLAND TOMORROW: Finland will coherently take into account the Sustainable Development Goals by considering

them as guiding principles for the government programme and as a part of national budgeting and legislation processes. Civil society's scope for participation will be secured and their expertise will be utilised in carrying out sustainable development.

Active citizenship is recognised as a crucial part of an open and participative society. The necessary information and skills to enhance sustainable development will be offered to the citizens by education. People working in the fields of education and training will be committed to enhance sustainable development according to the plan that has been composed in their mutual cooperation. Resources will be directed long-term and systematically for civil society's communication and global education activities to increase the knowledge about the global world among people in Finland.

Finland must:

- ✓ Safeguard the possibilities of civil society to participate and advocate, and enhance openness of decision-making and communication nationally and as part of international cooperation.
- ✓ Formulate a cross-sectoral plan on education that enhances sustainable development, together with the actors of these fields.
- ✓ Take the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a basis for the government programme, and to develop budgeting which acknowledges the SDGs.
- ✓ Resolve the identified problems of data collection and monitoring to get updated and relevant information on the progress of sustainable development.
- ✓ Make aggressive tax planning illegal by effectively executing the EU Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive.

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Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

Achievement of sustainable development requires participation of all and sufficient resources

Kepa

Local level

CURRENT SITUATION: Only few products which are on sale in Finland are nowadays produced domestically, in particular from domestic raw materials and components. Production chains often extend to countries in which working conditions and other human rights are not attended to as properly as they are in Finland. The law of procurement, which came into force in 2017, enables municipalities and regions to make more responsible procurements in which social and environmental criteria are taken into account.

Environmental education and civil society organisations (CSOs) have an important role in communicating the Sustainable Development Goals to municipal residents. According to the stipulations made in preparing regional government reform, each regional government would decide independently what kind of support it provides for environmental education and related projects¹. This may entail insecurity and regional disparities, especially for larger environmental education projects².

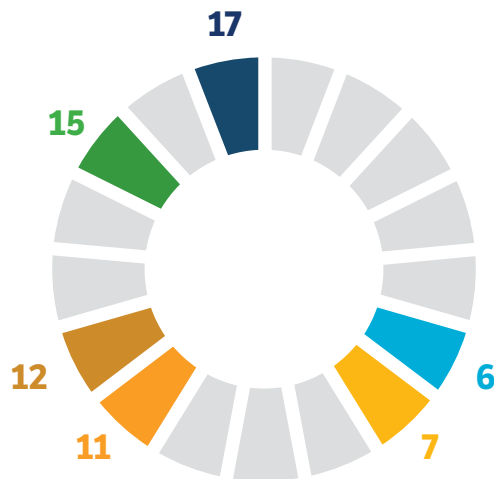
The corporate accountability organisation Finnwatch and KL-Kuntahankinnat⁴ initiated in June 2017 a common project which aims to enhance socially responsible public procurement in case of furniture. The project is funded by the Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland SASK and Kepa. Based on the project results it has ended up setting responsibility requirements for textile mills that produce upholstery and for assembly factories which work on mechanised furniture parts, as producing countries that are potential risk sources in these sectors have been identified³. Under the general framework agreement on tenders made by KL-Kuntahankinnat, municipalities purchase furniture worth EUR 15 million a year. As a big public buyer KL-Kuntahankinnat has a significant role to encourage market responsibility. The procurement process for socially responsible furniture production will be documented and a public report will be made. The aim of the project is to disseminate best practices to other public buyers, especially in the local government sector. Using quality responsibility criteria in the procurement is beneficial for all: it enhances human rights as well as the competitiveness of Finnish work.⁵

FINLAND TOMORROW: The Sustainable Development Goals will be taken into account in decision-making at the level of municipalities and regional governments, especially by increasing coherence in decision-making. Assessing gender impacts and those on children will be part of the routine work of officials, and the social and environmental impacts of public procurement will be taken into account globally as well as locally. Cooperation with global partners will be intensive and fruitful in different themes, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Municipalities and regional governments must:

- ✓ Organise a clear application procedure for annual grants for environmental education and information. Ensure that the regional environmental education actors, such as regional joint groups on environmental understanding, and civil society organisations will receive the information about the forthcoming funding and its emphases. In this way the realisation and development of quality environmental education and knowledge will be secured in the regions.
- ✓ Support the activities of associations and citizens' groups by increasing their financial allowances.
- ✓ Offer the public, as well as for decision-making, up-to-date information on biodiversity and the state of environment.
- ✓ Include guidance on sustainability and social responsibility in procurement instructions and educate personnel in charge of public procurement about conducting responsible procurement.

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- 2 ELY – Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (2017). Ympäristökasvatuksen valtakunnalliset hankeavustukset jaettu. Tiedote, 26.6.2017; ELY-Centre of Central Finland (ei pvm). Ympäristökasvatuksen ja -valistuksen harkinnanvaraista valtionavustusta saaneet hankkeet 2017.
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The 2018 follow-up report of Civil Society Organisations covers the following goals:

Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation

Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

Goal 11: Sustainable cities
and communities

Goal 12: Responsible consumption
and production

Goal 15: Life on land

Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

