Finland’s strategies and plans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

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National Commission on Sustainable Development, Finland
Finnish citizens seem to know SDGs pretty well (Eurobarometer 2016)
Since 1993 without interruption

**MISSION:** to root sustainable development into Finnish policies, measures, budgets and action

- **Membership:** 50 member + 30 substitutes
- **Chair:** Prime Minister
- **Inter-Ministerial Secretariat:** all Ministries
- **Coordination desk:** Prime Minister’s Office

**Expert Panel:** 10 professors from different disciplines

**Agenda2030 Youth Group:** 20 young people from all around Finland
Finland’s dual approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Society’s Commitment to sustainable development

• Adopted in 2014, updated in 2016 in the spirit of the Agenda2030
• Negotiated by a multi-stakeholder National Commission on Sustainable Development
• Provides long-term sustainable development policy framework (a vision, principles and 8 objectives) for the public administration, civil society and other stakeholders up until 2050
• Provides an implementation tool for anyone in Finland to participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with concrete action

Government’s Implementation Plan for 2030 Agenda

• Adopted by the Government in February 2017 and submitted to the National Parliament
• Two focus areas with concrete measures that the Government is committed to
• Policy principles and follow-up and review mechanism beyond Government terms
• Guidelines to line Ministries to integrate SDGs into budgets, planning and reporting on a yearly basis
• The Government has adopted the Society’s Commitment as the basis for its work
### Objectives of the Society’s Commitment:

1. Equal prospects for well-being
2. A participatory society for all
3. Work in a sustainable way
4. Sustainable society and local communities
5. A carbon-neutral society
6. A resource-wise economy
7. Lifestyles respectful of the carrying capacity of nature
8. Decision-making respectful of nature

### SDGs - the 2030 Agenda:

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<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>SDG Code</th>
<th>SDG Title</th>
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<td>1. Equal prospects for well-being</td>
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<td>Quality Education</td>
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<td>2. A participatory society for all</td>
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<td>Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions</td>
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<td>3. Work in a sustainable way</td>
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<td>Decent Work and Economic Growth</td>
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<td>4. Sustainable society and local communities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Good Health and Well-being</td>
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<td>5. A carbon-neutral society</td>
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<td>Affordable and Clean Energy</td>
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<td>6. A resource-wise economy</td>
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<td>Responsible Consumption and Production</td>
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<td>7. Lifestyles respectful of the carrying capacity of nature</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Life on Land</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Decision-making respectful of nature</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Life on Land</td>
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Society’s Commitment to Sustainable Development: Operational tool to think strategically and engage everybody

EVERY ACTION COUNTS!

At the moment around 1500 operational commitments

Vision: A prosperous Finland with global responsibility for sustainability and the carrying capacity of nature

Systemic changes toward sustainable society

NOW → 2020 → 2030 → 2040 → 2050
Government Implementation Plan for 2030 Agenda
Adopted in February 2017

FOCUS AREAS

Sustainable economy
Carbon-neutral and resource-wise Finland
Non-discriminating, equal and competent Finland

POLICY PRINCIPLES

Long-term action and transformation
Policy coherence and global partnership
Ownership and Participation

FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW
Recent highlights in the Government implementation

• **Active role of the National Parliament since spring 2017**
  – Ministries report to the Parliament on their policies and measures to implement the 2030 Agenda every spring

• **Integration of SDGs in state budget planning since fall 2017**
  – State Budget 2019 includes a comprehensive consideration of sustainable development appropriations, as well as taxes and environmentally harmful subsidies.

• **Establishment of participatory monitoring mechanism since fall 2017**
  – Follow-up on the basis of 50 SD indicators, providing also an opportunity for online participation of the public to comment, amend and challenge the indicators and trends

• **External evaluation on the state of sustainable development, February 2019**
  – Assessment of the achievements of national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, both in domestic and international policies.
National Follow-up and review mechanism and online platform
www.kestavakehitys.fi/en/monitoring

STATE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
what do the facts tell?

Read about the monitoring and indicators for sustainable development, comment on them and tell us what you think! You may also present other indicators or recent studies that supplement or challenge the state as we see it.

The Prime Minister’s Office and the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development will read the discussions and pick out topics to be promoted in various ways. The key messages are compiled and presented at the annual event on the state and future of sustainable development each May.

The monitoring is being developed further and the service content will be supplemented in spring 2018. You are welcome to send any feedback and development proposals to Sami Pirkkala (firstname.lastname@vnk.fi).
Core messages from Finland

• Invest in long-term work across sectors
  > whole-of-government approach
• Process is as important as the product
  > societal learning & ownership
• Partner in an open dialogue with the civil society and other stakeholders;
  they play watchdogs and lobbyists but also top experts in their fields
  > whole-of-society approach, building trust
• Ensure high-level leadership but don’t politicize sustainable development
  > policy coherence beyond government terms
• Invest in concretization, communication and operationalization
  > common understanding, tools for action

Annika Lindblom, FNCSD
Challenge: how to deliver transformative change to sustainable development

Not a single country has achieved a high level of well-being in an ecologically sustainable way

Graph 2. The social and ecological sustainability level of the countries of the world. Not a single country has achieved a high level of human well-being in an ecologically sustainable manner. It would be the most sustainable and fair for a country to achieve well-being without exceeding the planetary boundaries (lower right on the picture). The position of the country data points is approximative.

Source: O’Neill et al. 2018² © SYKE & SITRA
Thank you for your attention!

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