



# Candidature of Finland to the Executive Board of UNESCO for 2017–2021

Towards 2030 through actions

The Finnish candidature is supported by all other Nordic countries: Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

## As a member of the Executive Board Finland will work for...

- an effective and active UNESCO based on
  - policy coherence
  - efficient governance
  - functional inter-sectoral linkages
  - strong partnerships
- the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- gender equality in all walks of life
- an inclusive and equitable high-quality education
- an integrated approach to sustainability in sciences
- safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage
- freedom of information and pluralistic media
- unique added value of UNESCO's work



*Finland is the first country in the world to publish its own set of country themed graphic emojis. The images can be shared freely for non-commercial purposes. <http://finland.fi/emoji>*



*Handshake. The feeling of trust.*

# Finland's vision for the future

## Education in 2030

- The Education 2030 Agenda is successfully implemented under the leadership of UNESCO.
- High-quality education and lifelong learning opportunities are available and accessible to all.
- A system-wide approach to sustainable development prevails in all educational institutions.
- Education is a pre-eminent tool to promote peace and diversity, to prevent violent extremism and to embrace responsible global citizenship.

- Through inclusive education, Finland rapidly evolved from an agrarian country to a modern knowledge-based information society in the 20th century. The hero in the Finnish national epic *Kalevala* is not the strongest one but the wisest instead.
- One of the most preferred professions in Finland is — being a teacher.
- The Finnish Basic Education Curriculum emphasises education on human rights, equality and cultural diversity. These subjects are ever-more topical in promoting inclusion and preventing violent extremism.
- Finland is one of the long-term donors to UNESCO's Capacity Development for Education for All Programme (CapEFA/CapED).



Photo © Riitta Supperi/Keeksi/Team Finland

*Student Cap.*  
84 percent of Finnish people over the age of 25 hold at least an upper secondary education certificate.



## Culture in 2030

- Tangible and intangible heritage are actively protected through comprehensive implementation of UNESCO's conventions.
  - Solid expertise-oriented approach prevails in issues related to safeguarding natural and cultural heritage.
  - Cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue are the main constituents of stability in societies.
  - Creative industries contribute to the world economy more than ever.
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- One of the aims in Finnish cultural policy is to facilitate access to art and culture and to bring culture closer to every citizen. Culture empowers people.
  - Finland has a vibrant cultural scene. Thousands of events are arranged in Finland every year, ranging from the popular Tango Festival to the Midnight Sun Film Festival.
  - Finns love their comprehensive and free library network. The vast majority of Finns are regular library users.
  - Finland strives for exemplary protection and maintenance of its World Heritage Sites, supported by the National World Heritage Strategy. Finland also is serving on the World Heritage Committee from 2013 to 2017.



Photo © Sakari Vilka

*Conductor.  
The feeling of being in charge.  
Finland has always had not only  
strong women but also world-  
famous conductors.*



## Sciences in 2030

- Promises in COP21 are kept and climate change has been curbed with the active support of UNESCO.
  - Integrated science and ethical reflections are relevant tools in building a more sustainable world.
  - Science, technology, engineering and mathematics education (STEM) has been integrated into curricula worldwide.
  - Number of women in sciences equals the number of men.
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- Finland invests 3.3% of GDP in research and development.
  - One of the objectives of the Finnish science policy is to ensure the transparency of science and research. Transparency is also a good guarantee of responsibility.
  - According to the Finnish Science Barometer, Finnish people have high confidence in science. Two out of three Finns follow science, research and technology issues with great interest.
  - Finland is serving on the UNESCO Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee from 2015 to 2019 and is represented in the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee from 2010 to 2017.



Photo © Ritta Supper/Keisri/Farm Finland

*Classic unbreakable. Finland has produced quite a bunch of unbreakable and long-lasting items such as the old Nokia 3310 phone which is famous for being, well, unbreakable.*

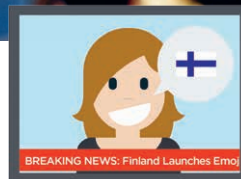


## Communication in 2030

- Everyone has the right and opportunity to seek, receive and impart information.
  - Freedom of expression, freedom of the press and safety of journalists are inviolable realities.
  - Pluralistic media ensures a versatile vision of the world.
  - Media and information literacy skills prevail in all age groups.
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- The world's first freedom of information law covering both modern-day Finland and Sweden was passed as early as 1766.
  - The main event of the World Press Freedom Day 2016 – for the first time in the Nordic countries, proudly hosted by Finland.
  - Finland is one of the long-term donors to UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and is serving on the Intergovernmental Council of the programme from 2015 to 2019.
  - Finland supports UNESCO's work for freedom of expression in North Africa and the Middle East.



Photo © Riitta Supper/Keksit/Team Finland



*Breaking news.  
In 2016 Finland ranked  
number one in the World  
Press Freedom Index for  
the seventh year running.*

## Finland is an active member of the United Nations since 1955 and UNESCO since 1956

Finland's commitment to the UN entails cooperation aimed at enhancing peace and security, human rights — especially economic, social and cultural rights — development and developing international law.

Finland is a pioneer in gender equality issues. One of the cross-cutting themes and long-term objectives of Finnish development cooperation has been the promotion of the status of women and girls.

Mediation is also a long-term foreign policy priority. Finland is active in multilateral forums under the UN and within many regional organisations, such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). In addition, Finland contributes individually to mediation efforts worldwide.

*Finland is experienced, able and willing to listen to the various needs of different countries and is keen to find sustainable solutions to intricate challenges.*

Finland's former president Martti Ahtisaari was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2008 for his achievements in mediation.

Finland is the least fragile state in the world according to the Fund for Peace 2015.



Peacemaker

## Finland

- is situated in northern Europe, crossing the Arctic Circle
- has a population of 5.5 million
- is an open and international country, rich in languages and cultures
- celebrates 100 years of independence in 2017



## Finns

- have a strong sense of responsibility
- are reliable cooperation partners
- take a problem-solving approach to challenges, seeking the most functional and sustainable solutions

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Kiitos!  
Thank you!  
Merci!  
¡Gracias!  
Спасибо!  
شكرا!  
谢谢!  
Tack!