GOOD GOVERNANCE - Finnish society is based on trust
Good governance

- Finland has been ranked as the most stable country (Fragile States Index 2020) and one of the best-governed (Legatum Prosperity Index 2019) countries in the world.

- For Finns, good governance means that the government and the public sector work for all citizens, not the other way around, nor just for a chosen few.
Trust in public authorities and officials

Finland consistently ranks at or near the top in international surveys comparing levels of trust in different societies:

trust in such public institutions as the police and the legal system, trust in media, trust in politicians, trust in taxation and trust in one’s fellow citizens.
Trust, openness and responsibility

• The **stability and openness** of Finnish society are based on a **culture** that emphasises both **personal responsibility and trust**.

• Finns' trust in other people is higher than in any other European country (European Commission 2018). According to studies, **trust enhances the quality of life** and the creation of human capital.

• People living in communities and societies with high levels of trust are happier, healthier and more active.
Citizens’ initiative

Since 2012, Finns have also had a chance to directly participate in proposing legislation by submitting a citizens’ initiative in an online service, and have that initiative considered by Parliament if it collects enough support.
Free media

• Just as important is free, responsible media that holds policymakers accountable.

• According to a 2020 study, Finland has the second-freest press in the world. With a 100% literacy rate, Finns are also among the world’s most active readers of news media.
Fairness

- Government and taxpayer-funded programs are not meant to limit one’s personal liberty.

- Such programs as public education, child health clinics and public daycare are seen as a way to give everyone a **fair and equal chance to pursue one’s freedom**.

- Finland has an **Open Government Action Plan** that covers the entire public sector to strengthen the trust between civil society and administration.
Vibrant third sector of volunteer organisations

• There are some 100,000 registered non-governmental organisations in Finland. It has been estimated that three out of four Finns join a volunteer organisation at some point of their life.

• Such third-sector actors as the women’s movement, trade unions and social and health organisations, to name but a few, have played an important role in shaping Finnish history.
Finland has been ranked the happiest country in the world for three years in a row. (World Happiness Report 2020)
Thank you