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GOOD GOVERNANCE - Finnish society is based on trust





Good governance

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- 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.



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Trust, openness and responsibility

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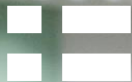
- The **stability and openness** of Finnish society are based on a **culture that emphasises both personal responsibility and trust**.
- Finns' trust in other people is higher than in any other European country (European Commission 2018). According to studies, **trust enhances the quality of life** and 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





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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

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- 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.



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Vibrant third sector of volunteer organisations

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- 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.



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Finland has been ranked **the happiest country in the world** for three years in a row.

(World Happiness Report 2020)



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Thank you

