Factsheet: Finland

Last update: 24 October 2014

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

Finland's Youth Act (2006) and youth decree (2006) define youth as those under 29 years of age.

**CANDIDACY AGE**

| Lower House | 18 | Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union |
| Upper House | -- | Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, Unicameral |

**MARRIAGEABLE AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opposite Sex</th>
<th>Same Sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male 18 -- ++</td>
<td>Female 18 -- ++</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VOTING AGE**

| Lower House | 18 | Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union |
| Upper House | -- | Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, Unicameral |

**MAJORITY AGE**

| Lower House | 18 | Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union |
| Upper House | -- | Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, Unicameral |

**CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY**

| Minimum Age | 15 | Source: Criminal Code of Finland (2012) |

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX**

0.75

22 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

**LITERACY RATES**

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Both sexes (15-24) %

92.38%

Secondary School

Source: UNESCO

**NET ENROLMENT RATE**

92.09% 92.68%

Year: 2012

Source: UNESCO

**PREVALENCE OF HIV**

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Male (15-24) %

Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: World Bank

**TOBACCO USE**

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

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Both sexes (13-15) %

Male (13-15) %

Female (13-15) %

Year: No data.

Source: WHO

**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

Finland's Youth Act (2006) seeks to support young people's growth and independence, to promote young people's active citizenship and empowerment and to improve young people's growth and living conditions.

It assigns responsibility for youth work and youth policy to the Ministry of Education (currently named the Ministry of Education and Culture). The Act also mandates that the government adopt a youth policy development programme every four years, while the Decree on Youth Work and Youth Policy (2006) sets the scope for the programme, as well as other responsibilities of the Ministry responsible for youth policy. The current Child and Youth Policy Programme 2012-2015 includes nine strategic goals relating to active citizenship, employment, non-discrimination, gender equality, education and health.

Is there a national youth policy?

**YES**

The youth policy of Finland is based on a youth act and decree and a 2012-2015 youth programme.

Source: World Bank

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Youth Division within the Department for Cultural, Sport and Youth Policy of the Ministry of Education and Culture is currently responsible for youth policy in Finland. In line with the Youth Act (2006) and the Decree on Youth Work and Youth Policy (2006), the Ministry prepared the Child and Youth Policy Programme 2012-2015 in collaboration with other ministries. It is also responsible for appointing the Advisory Council for Youth Affairs, an expert body for youth work and policy, which is responsible for the annual evaluation of the youth policy programme.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The Finish Youth Cooperation (Allianssi) is the umbrella organisation for national youth organisations in Finland. Its purpose is to encourage young people to become responsible members of society and help them participate in decision-making processes and international activities. It lobbies decision-makers, youth workers and youth organisations, and provides services directly to young people, such as the European Youth Card. It has an annual budget of EUR 3 million (USD 4.1 million), with 70% provided from the Ministry of Education and Culture.

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the Administration website of the Ministry of Education and Culture, in 2013 the Ministry spent EUR 74 million (USD 101 million) on youth work and EUR 12.5 million (USD 17.1 million) on supporting national youth organisations, for a total of approximately EUR 86.5 million (USD 118 million). According to the World Bank, Finland spent 12.26% of its government expenditure and 6.84% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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Source: World Bank