

# Health and Structural funds in 2007-2013: country and regional assessment

## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT FOR HEALTH & STRUCTURAL FUNDS

### FINLAND (FI)

**Table 1: Country assessment summary - Finland**

NSRF strategic objectives	Funding source	Direct health sector investment	Indirect health sector investment	Potential health gain Personal Economic Social Environmental	Lisbon Agenda (renewed 2005)
Promoting business	ERDF	-	-	E, S,	To create a more attractive investment and working environment; To enhance growth through knowledge and innovation; To create more and better jobs.
Promoting innovation, networking and strengthened knowledge structures	ERDF	-	-	E, S	
Skills, labour, employment and entrepreneurship	ESF	-	-	S, E, P	
Improving regional accessibility and the environment	ERDF	-	-	S, Env, E	
Entrepreneurship and innovation (Åland Islands)	ERDF	-	-	E, S	
Skills and employment (Åland Islands)	ESF	-	-	S, E	

**Table 2: Eligible regions under Cohesion Policy Objectives**

Cohesion Policy Objective	Regions
Convergence	N/A
Phasing out	N/A
Phasing in	Itä-Suomi
Regional competitiveness and employment	Pohjois-Suomi, Länsi-Suomi, Etelä-Suomi, Åland Islands.

**Table 2: Eligible regions under Cohesion Policy Objectives**

Background: The Finland has a population of 5.23 million. The age structure of the population is: 0-14 years 16.9%; 15-64 years 66.7%; 65 years and over 16.4%. Life expectancy at birth has risen substantially since 1990. Latest estimates put it at 78.66 years. It is higher for females (82.31 years) than for men (75.15 years) (*Source: [http://www.indexmundi.com/finland/demographics\\_profile.html](http://www.indexmundi.com/finland/demographics_profile.html)*). Finland's age structure is changing rapidly. The population is decreasing and ageing earlier and faster than in the other EU countries.

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## Table 2: Eligible regions under Cohesion Policy Objectives

At the same time, the proportion of young generations is decreasing. Overall, this is slowing down the natural demographic trend and decreasing the supply of labour. There are considerable variations in the population trends within and between the regions. The regional differences in population trends have an impact on the regions' opportunities and ability to maintain their viability and develop. A decreasing and ageing population decreases the supply of labour, increases the need for services for ageing people, renders the overall benefit-dependency ratio unfavourable (because of the increasing old-age dependency ratio) and weakens the municipal economy (*Source: National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 Finland. July 2007*). The relative mortality difference between men and women is greatest in the age range 20–29 years, where male mortality is more than three times higher than among women, especially on account of accidents and violent deaths. Almost 40 per cent of the excess mortality of working age men is attributable to circulatory diseases, 6 per cent to cancer of the larynx, trachea, bronchus and lung, almost 20 per cent to alcohol-related deaths, 13 percent to suicide and nearly 20 per cent to other deaths from accidents and violence. In older age groups smoking is a major factor in mortality differences. It is estimated that alcohol use and smoking together explain about half of the difference between male and female life expectancies. Finland has bigger mortality differences between social groups than most other western European countries. In the early 2000s, long-term morbidity in the population aged 30 and over was roughly as common as 20 years previously. The major categories of chronic disease were musculoskeletal disorders, circulatory diseases and mental disorders, but above all asthma, allergic diseases of the respiratory tract and eczema's had increased sharply since the 1980s in both children and adults (*Source: Seppo Koskinen, Arpo Aromaa Jussi Huttunen Juha Teperi [Eds.] Health in Finland. KTL, STAKES, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, 2006*).

## Table 3: Programme period 2007-2013 - health investment in the NSRF and OPs

### Allocation of money in the SF 2007-2013

Source and budget	ERDF €977 401 980; ESF €618 564 064
Total	€1 595 966 044
Health sector % of total allocated SF	None allocated (0%)

### NSRF strategic objectives (with OP relevance and funding source)

1. Promoting business (**ROP EF, NF, WF, SF** - ERDF)
2. Promoting innovation, networking and strengthened knowledge structures (**ROP EF, NF, WF, SF** - ERDF)
3. Skills, labour, employment and entrepreneurship (**OP HRD** - CF ESF)
4. Improving regional accessibility and the environment (**ROP EF, NF, WF, SF** - ERDF)
5. Entrepreneurship and innovation (Åland Islands) (**ROP AI** - ERDF)
6. Skills and employment (Åland Islands) (**OP HRD AI** - ESF)

### Operational Programmes

OP for Human Resources Development, Continental Finland (ESF)  
 OP for Human Resources Development, Åland Islands (ESF)  
 ROP Eastern Finland  
 ROP Northern Finland  
 ROP Western Finland  
 ROP Southern Finland  
 ROP Åland Islands

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**Table 3: Programme period 2007-2013 -  
health investment in the NSRF and OPs**

<b>Direct health sector investment (with NSRF/OP relevance)</b>
None identified. Health sector priorities will be largely funded from national resources. SF resources will be used to co-finance targeted interventions that contribute more broadly to social and economic development (see Table 4).
<b>Indirect health sector investment (with NSRF/OP relevance)</b>
None identified.
<b>Evidence of capacity to deliver intersectoral policy and planning</b>
The NSRF and OPs suggest where capacity exists and will be developed. Specifically, in terms of maximising health gain from Structural Funds capacity building is an approach to the development of sustainable skills, organisational structures, resources and commitment to health improvement in health and other sectors. An initial focus could include: organisation development (Regional Councils, Intermediary bodies); workforce development (Regional Councils, Intermediary bodies), resources allocation (Monitoring Committee NSRF, OP/ROP Monitoring Committees), leadership (Managing Authorities [Continental Finland ERDF and Åland Islands OPs], Managing Authorities [Continental Finland and Åland Islands ESF OPs]) and partnerships/networks (Regional Councils, Intermediary bodies).
<b>Regional planning and implementation (From OPs)</b>
For ERDF OPs the managing authority delegates tasks relating to preparation of Monitoring Committee or implementation of decisions made by Monitoring committee to the Regional Council in each ERDF OP region, which the all Regional Councils of the programme areas have agreed in writing. The Regional Councils have agreed that, in the programming period 2007-2013 the following regional councils will act as the managing authorities of the following programmes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ERDF programme for South Finland: The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme</li> <li>• The ERDF programme for West Finland: The Regional Council of Keski-Suomi</li> <li>• The ERDF programme for East Finland: The Regional Council of Kainuu</li> <li>• The ERDF programme for North Finland: The Regional Council of Keski-Pohjanmaa.</li> </ul> In addition, the Regional Government of Åland will be the Managing Authority for the ERDF and ESF OPs for the Åland Islands.

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**Table 4: Non-health sector investment with potential health gain  
2007-2013**

Priority theme (and OP)	Relevant investments	Potential health gain
Promoting business	<p>Priority 2 - "Development of business activity of SMEs by exploiting innovations, research results and knowledge": The importance of entrepreneurship and its promotion will be highlighted. During the oncoming programming period, actions co-financed from the ERDF will be targeted to increase the commercialisation of innovations and research results and the exploitation of design as a competitive edge. The production and commercialisation of the creative sectors and services (e.g., cultural and welfare services) will be promoted as a new priority area, for example by investing in business skills, marketing and internationalisation skills and the management of intellectual property.</p> <p>Priority 3 - "Promoting the internationalisation and networking of SMEs": Internationalisation and networking are vital prerequisites for enterprises operating in a small market area. The objective is to promote the internationalisation of enterprises or groups of enterprises, for example by strengthening related knowledge and developing the ability of particularly new SMEs to carry out network cooperation. The aim is to encourage enterprises to network with each other and with universities, polytechnics and research institutes nationally and internationally. This will promote the exchange of information, experiences and ideas as well as the identification of new innovations. As a majority of the enterprises are micro-enterprises, attempts will be made to promote their cooperation in nationally important clusters, which have internationalisation potential (for example environmental services, social- and health services, energy technology, technology industry and logistics), which will help develop knowledge and business opportunities for these companies.</p>	Economic, social

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<p>Promotion of innovation and networking and strengthening of knowledge structures</p>	<p>Priority 1 - "Activating the joint innovation activities between enterprises, universities and research institutes": Universities, polytechnics, research institutes, centres of expertise and technology centres, as well as regional development communities, are parts of the national innovation and knowledge network. Their potential and role in utilising national research and product development funding and technology programmes and in transferring and applying information will be strengthened. The objective is to create a comprehensive regional activation, expert and advisory network with strong links to the national development projects of enterprises, universities and research institutes as well as regional business and labour market operators (<i>See also ROP Åland Islands, Priority "Enterprise and innovations"</i>).</p> <p>Priority 2 - "Strengthening innovation and knowledge structures": Strengthening the knowledge structures and generating new knowledge-based clusters at regional level creates long-term opportunities for making better use of national R&amp;D funding at regional level. The convergence of operations and operators that have previously been separate creates interfaces that may generate new ideas, results and innovations. The development of regional innovation structures based on the needs of the economy and the implementation of the national and regional innovation and technology policies will, therefore, continue to be supported by preparing regional innovation strategies, for instance.</p>	<p>Economic, social</p>
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<p>Knowledge, labour, employment and entrepreneurship</p>	<p>Priority 1 - "Developing work organisations, the employed workforce and enterprises and increasing entrepreneurship": The objective is to improve the ability of work organisations to anticipate and manage the restructuring caused by globalisation, technological development and the ageing of the workforce and to react to situations of change particularly in SMEs in an anticipatory manner. Measures will be targeted particularly at groups of people, enterprises and sectors with the greatest need for development and a change caused by restructuring... Structures supporting well-being at work will be developed. The management of knowledge and the continuous development and management of a diversifying working community will also be promoted. The aim is to create work organisations with scope for generating new technological and social innovations.</p> <p>Priority 2 - "Promoting employment and staying in the labour market and preventing exclusion": The objective is to commit as many people of working age to society as possible through participation in the labour market and to minimise the costs caused by exclusion and unemployment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keeping elderly people available to the labour market will be promoted by ensuring that their professional skills and ability to work meet the needs of employers.</li> <li>- The participation of young people who are at the risk of exclusion in education or the labour market is promoted through early intervention, multidisciplinary cooperation and workshop-type activities.</li> <li>- The labour force participation of unemployed adults who are at the risk of exclusion will be enhanced by developing, introducing and disseminating practices that prevent exclusion and promote the employment of unemployed persons who are in a difficult position, such as disabled persons, immigrants, and inactive persons, as well as their staying in the labour market.</li> </ul>	<p>Economic, social, personal</p>
<p>Improving regional accessibility and the environment</p>	<p>This priority will support free and qualitatively equal access to information society and communications services based on regional needs. The development of the information society is also related to the implementation of the European Union's i2010 strategy, in which the priorities are the development of services, applications, and contents. This priority may implement innovative pilot actions in order to provide and produce services.</p>	<p>Social, economic</p>