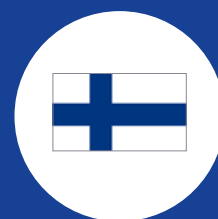


THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

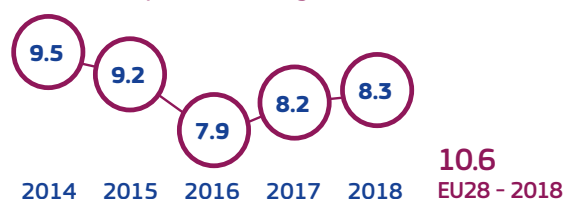
FINLAND

SUMMARY

ESF Thematic Objective 10 funding is used to support education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning. Over 332 million euro has been allocated to such operations in Finland, with 86 525 participations having taken place by the end of 2018. This factsheet summarises the main actions, outputs, results and lessons learned so far in the use of this funding in Finland.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

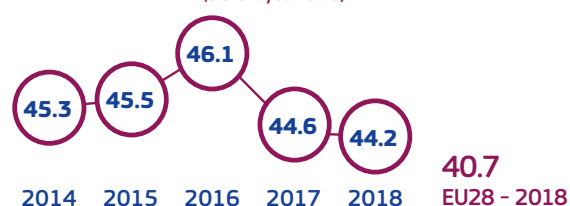
Early school leaving (ESL) rate (%)



► The rate of **early school leaving** in 2018 was 8.3% in Finland. This was better than the EU28 average but was just above the national 2020 target of 8%. The ESL rate in 2018 was higher among men (9.5%) than women (6.9%), and there are also regional disparities.

► OECD PISA results in 2015 show that Finland is one of the best performers in the EU and OECD with a **very low proportion of low achievers** in reading, mathematics and science (6.3% to the EU28 average of 12.3%).

Tertiary educational attainment rate (%)
(30-34 year olds)

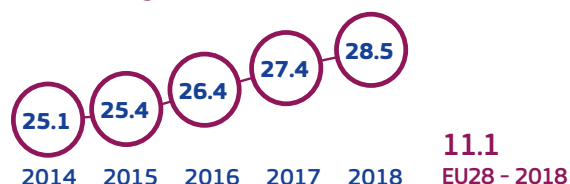


► The EU2020 target of 40% for **tertiary educational attainment** has already been achieved in Finland. There is a significant difference between women and men with respective rates of 52.5% and 36.2%. However, the employment rates of females after graduation is lower than that of males and below the EU average..

► The **adult participation rate in education and training** was one of the highest in the EU28 in 2018, with more women taking part than men.

► The level of **government expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP** is one of the highest in the EU. In 2017, the EU28 average was 4.6% and Finland was 5.7%. Finland's spending on tertiary education was the highest in the EU.

Participation rate in education and training by adults
aged 25-64 (%) (last 4 weeks)



EXPLANATORY NOTES

ESF European Social Fund

TO10 Thematic Objective 10

OP Operational Programme

IP Investment Priority

* Figures present the situation for ESF operations under Thematic Objective 10 and its four Investment Priorities (IPs) for the programming period 2014-2020 implemented up to the end of 2018, as reported on 1 October 2019. In many instances, operations are not yet complete at this stage, or have only recently started.

* As one person could participate more than once in ESF operations over time the number of participations is reported. These figures exclude Technical Assistance.

* Where the breakdown of participants according to employment status, age, and level of education does not add up to 100%, it means that it was not possible to include characteristics of a number of participants in some OPs.

Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

ESF PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS IN FINLAND

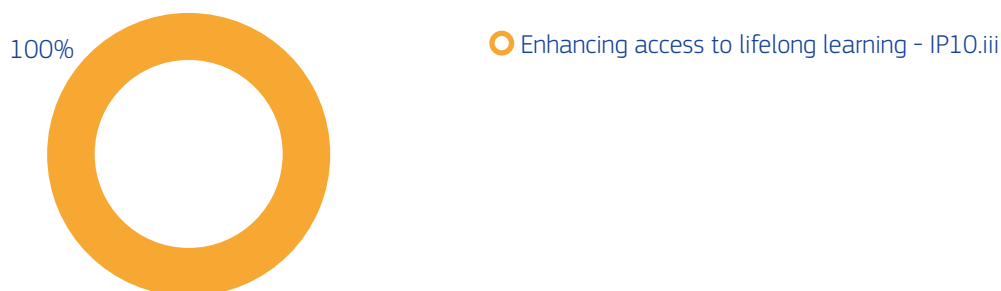
- ▶ There are **two ESF Operational Programmes (OP)** in Finland relevant to Thematic Objective 10:
 - ▶ The national '**Sustainable growth and jobs 2014-2020**' OP has a priority 'Employment and the Labour market'. Under this priority, there are two specific objectives:
 - improving services to **support transitions and equal opportunities** in education;
 - improving the quality and offering of **education and training** in growth industries and industries undergoing structural change.
- ▶ In this context, ESF operations have been aimed at **supporting transitions within education pathways** as well as the transition from education to work, and helping to increase the range of education offered to people working in growth and structural change industries.
- ▶ In addition, over half of the budget of the **OP for Finland's autonomous region of Åland** is allocated to education and training, particularly for the younger population.

32% of total ESF funding¹...

€332 838 532

...is allocated to one of the four T010 investment priorities:
enhancing access to lifelong learning (100%).

Allocation of ESF T010 funds



STATE OF PLAY

76% of planned resources under T010 had been allocated in 2018, with 39% spent.

Number of overall participations in T010 operations by the end of 2018:

86 525

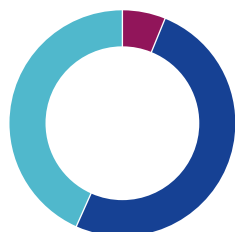
- ▶ All ESF T010 participations were in operations to enhance lifelong learning.

¹ This includes EU-only funding and co-financing from the Member State.

Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

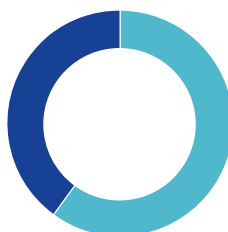
PARTICIPANT PROFILES WHEN RECEIVING SUPPORT

Employment status



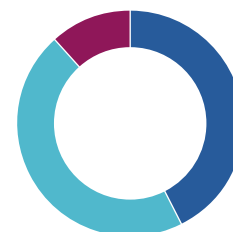
6% (4 910) Unemployed
49% (42 248) Inactive²
42% (36 038) Employed

Sex

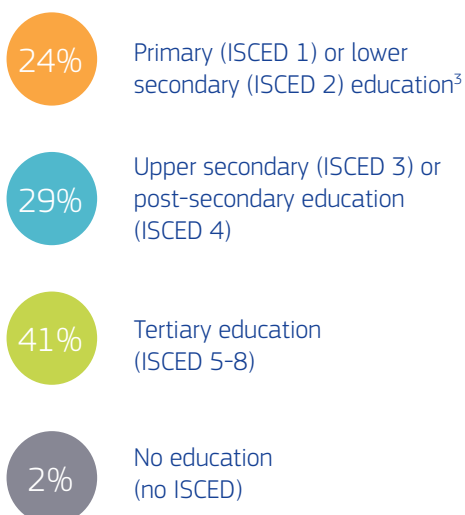
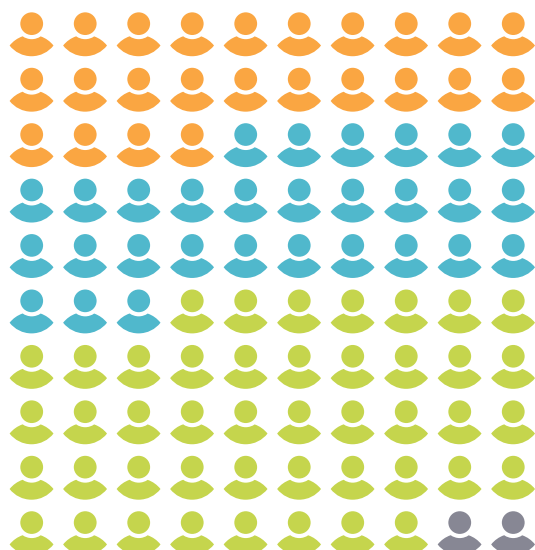


60% Women
40% Men

Age



41% (35 544) <25 years
44% (38 212) 25-54 years
14% (241 329) >54 years



8 946
Migrants

3 143
Other disadvantaged

1,130
Participants with disabilities

354
Homeless

Key achievements to date of ESF T010 activities in Finland include⁴:

- ▶ **4 876** successful results have been achieved to date following participation in an activity funded by ESF T010, of which:
 - ▶ The OP for Finland's autonomous region of Åland had successfully allocated 97% of its T010 funds by the end of 2018.
- ▶ **304** inactive participants went on to engage in job searching
- ▶ **877** participants went into education or training
- ▶ **2 532** participants gained a qualification
- ▶ **1 163** participants moved into employment upon leaving
- ▶ 60% of Finland's common output indicator targets were achieved at a level of 85% or more.
- ▶ Evaluation models have been developed in order to improve participation in ESF operations among groups with special needs and those under-represented in education.

² The inactive population can include pre-school children, school children, students, pensioners and housewives or -men, for example, provided that they are not working and not available or looking for work.

³ ISCED is the UN reference classification for organising education programmes and related qualifications by education levels and fields.

⁴ Participants' data are collected when starting an operation. Data on results are collected at the end of an operation or even later. Because of this time lag the two sets of data (participations and results) should not be directly compared.

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

► Relevance

T010 operations are relevant to the national context in Finland. However, some population groups would merit more attention, for example increasing the participation in lifelong learning and improving digital literacy of men, older immigrants and young inactive people. There has also been a limited focus on addressing regional disparities within the country.

► Coherence with wider EU priorities

While the ESF operations are in line with EU policies on education and training and with European Semester recommendations, there is scope for greater coherence with operations funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support overarching objectives, such as improving the quality and productivity of work, and tackling climate-related issues.

► Flexibility and adaptability

The 2019 evaluation of Finland's Structural Funds Programme recommended that Finland's use of ESF funding could be simplified by organising and focusing operations on two main audiences: organisations/companies and their employees, and unemployed and inactive people. The evaluation report also recommended having greater scope to change thematic priorities and reallocate funding midway through the ESF programming period in order to respond to changes in the operating environment.

► Career guidance success

ESF funding supports Ohjaamo centres, or "one-stop guidance shops", for people under the age of 30. Developed based on experiences from a previous ESF-funded operation, Ohjaamo focuses on employment and career guidance, but also offers advice about everything from finance to health and relationships. Started in Helsinki, there are now Ohjaamo centres in many other parts of the country.

► Structural reforms in VET

Reforms to the vocational education and training (VET) system in Finland led to organisational changes which posed some challenges to the implementation of VET-focused ESF operations. Nonetheless, ESF operations have contributed to the inclusivity of these reforms by focusing on special groups at risk of exclusion from education opportunities who need special support in on-the-job learning.

► Gender equity

Although ESF operations successfully recruited equal numbers of men and women, there was limited evidence of a focus on encouraging people to choose education paths and occupations that are atypical for their gender. Many of the growth and structural change industries are male-dominated, and it would be beneficial to have more women train in these fields.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

► The comprehensive new school programme

This holistic ESF operation focuses on new pedagogy, new learning environments and digital learning with the objective of turning Finland into a beacon of modern education.

► Graduate tracking in Finland

Three ESF-funded operations, AMKista uralle - From Arcada University of Applied Sciences to Career, LATUA project and Töissä.fi are working on graduate career tracking that will provide detailed and pertinent information on graduates' career outcomes.

► Digital tutors

The aim of the operation is to raise the basic ICT skills of adults working in industry. This will respond to the IT skills needs of different industries and to the changes in the professional structure brought about by digitalisation, and will facilitate transitions and access to training.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ESF Interim Evaluation Report 2: <https://www.rakennerahastot.fi/documents/10179/1700053/Tuloksia+toimintaymp%C3%A4rist%C3%B6n+ristiaallokossa+-tuloksellisuustarkastelu+31.5.2018/707ba49b-d4ff-41d9-976f-312a740fe1eb>

European Commission, Study supporting the evaluation of ESF support to education and training (Thematic Objective 10)

The ESF in Finland: <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=379&langId=en>

Website of the ESF in Finland: <http://www.rakennerahastot.fi/etusivu#.VUn7A5MppBk>

