

The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities

www.localfinland.fi

Esityspaikka/tapahtuma [pp.kk.vvvv](#)
Etunimi Sukunimi [titteli](#)



Competence to support change

The way services are provided by municipalities will undergo radical changes over the next few years. The service needs of residents will also change.

The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities and its companies support municipalities in their efforts to bring about the change. The objective is a viable municipality that will ensure the wellbeing of its residents and their opportunities for participation also in the future.



Mission

The Association's goal is to promote the opportunities for local and joint authorities to operate and co-operate and to enhance their vitality and viability for the benefit of the residents.



The Association is focused on

- local government policy
- self-government, democracy, management
- services
- regional development, trade and industry, employment.



The Association's vision for 2012: 1 (2) Good basic services, living democracy and sustainable environment

- The relationship between local and central government is marked by consistency, continuity and predictability. There is a functioning system of consultation between local and central government. The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities has a prominent role in furthering the interests of its member municipalities.
- Today, local authorities have more extensive self-government. Local councils have a strong position, and direct participation by residents complements representative democracy. Local government management is marked by interaction between the political and professional management.



The Association's vision for 2012: 2 (2)

Good basic services, living democracy and sustainable environment

- In society, joint responsibility, public funding and equality between citizens form the basis for welfare services. Municipalities have assumed a clear and important role as the main providers of services. They have recognised the value of sustainable development in their operations.
- Following the development of trade and industry and competence improvement, the regional and economic differences between municipalities have become smaller.



Near-term challenges for the Association's operations

Balance between local government functions and internal financing

- Basic services programme and budget
- Revision of the financing and central government transfer systems
- Secure tax revenues

Functional local government and service structure

- Functional local government structure
- Effective service structure
 - » productivity, effectiveness, availability
 - » methods of provision and financing
 - » service strategies, information technology
 - » competitive tendering
- Functional democracy, opportunities for residents to exert influence, and management

Challenges posed by globalisation



The Association's elected bodies

General Assembly

Council 101 members

Board 15 principal members and 15 deputies

Advisory board for education and culture

Advisory board for social services and healthcare

Conference of the chairmen of the regional councils

Advisory board for small municipalities

Advisory board for Swedish-speaking municipalities

Council of the Commission for Local Authority Employers

**Mr Pekka
Nousiainen**
Chairman of
the Council



**Mrs Rakel
Hiltunen**
President



The Association's Directors

Mr Kari-Pekka Mäki-Lohiluoma, General Director

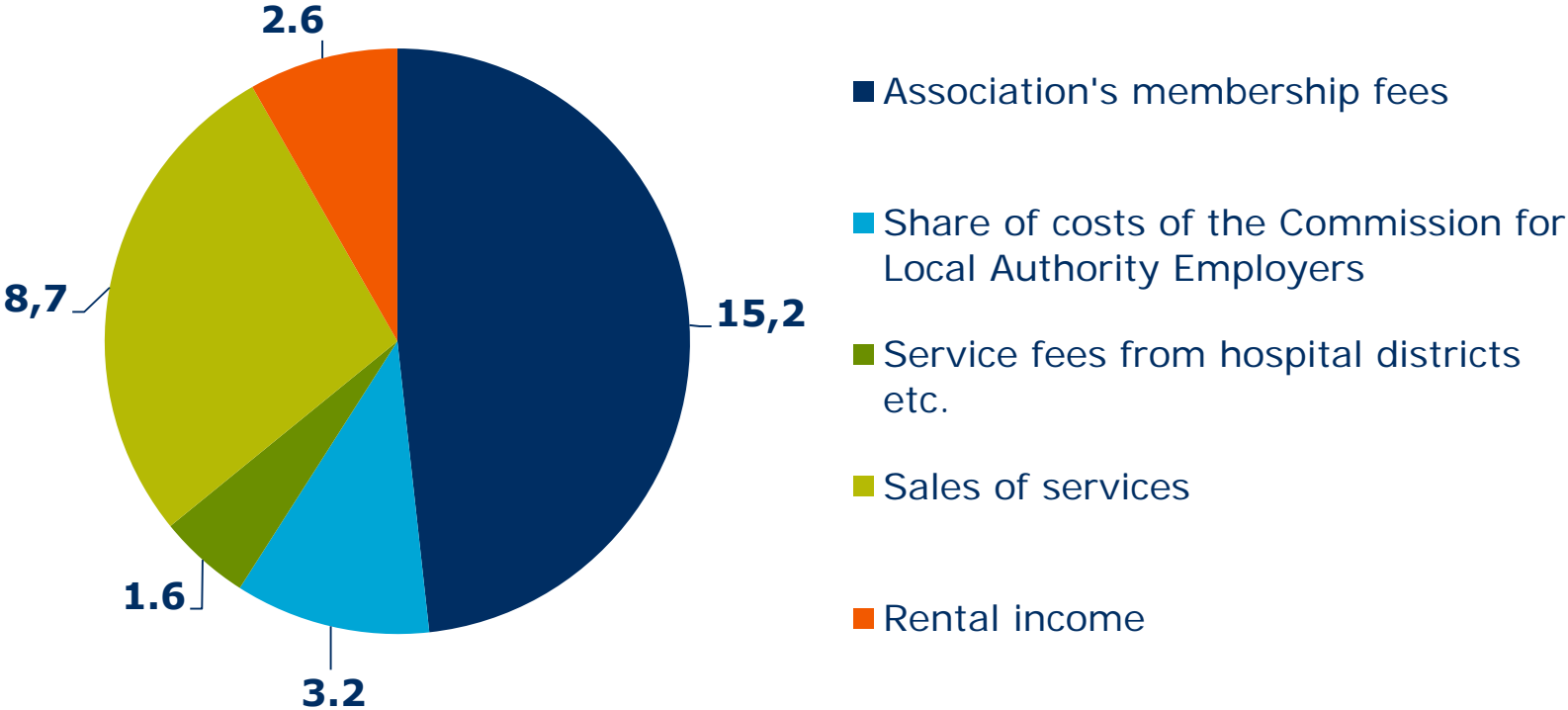
Mr Timo Kietäväinen, Deputy Managing Director

Mr Kari Nenonen, Deputy Managing Director

Mrs Kristina Wikberg, Director of Services in Swedish



Revenue raised by the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities and the Commission for Local Authority Employers from operational activities according to 2010 budget



Plus 1.3 million euros dividend income from affiliated companies and investment portfolio income

The Association's services

- Social welfare and health care
- Education and culture
- Urban planning, infrastructure and environment
- Municipal finances
- Legal matters
- The Commission for Local Authority Employers
- Regional and economic development
- Local government development and research
- Communications
- International affairs
- Information Society
- Swedish Secretariat



Swedish services

- Finlands kommuntidning magazine
- www.kommunerna.net
- Courses and training in Swedish
- Swedish publications and forms
- Research and development projects
- Swedish secretariat and service network:
advice and consultation by experts responsible for the
Swedish services



Brussels office

- Communication channel to the EU for the Association, municipalities and joint municipal authorities
- Information services to the Association, municipalities and Regional Councils
- Interaction with EU organisations
- **Base for the Finnish delegation of the Committee of the Regions**
- Up-to-date information to Finnish municipalities and regions
- **Cooperation with the Finnish regional offices and the ELAN network**
- Base for promoting the interests of Finnish municipalities and regions in the EU
- Information on Finnish municipal affairs to the EU



International cooperation

European Union

- EU policy
- Impact on the operational prerequisites of Finnish local and regional authorities
- Promotion of common interests of Finnish local and regional authorities
- Committee of the Regions
- Brussels office

Council of Europe

- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe

International organisations

- United Cities and Local Governments, UCLG
- Council of European Municipalities and Regions, CEMR
- International organisations of Regional Councils

Other forms of international cooperation

- Cooperation at municipal and regional level, twinning, projects
- Nordic cooperation
- Cooperation with areas adjacent to Finland
- Development cooperation



The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities and its affiliated companies in 2011



The affiliated companies of the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities

Finnish Consulting Group FCG Oy

- Number of personnel 847
- Turnover 66,6 million euros
- Share of international activities about 40 percent of turnover
- Managing Director Mr Ari Kolehmainen



The affiliated companies of the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities

Finnish Consulting Group FCG Oy

Main shareholders of the FCG group of companies and their share of ownership

- Association of Finnish
- Local and Regional Authorities 59 %
- University of Helsinki 18 %
- Other universities 5 %
- Finnish National Board of Education 6 %
- The Tapiola Group 6 %
- Profita Fund 4 %
- Other 2 %



High-quality welfare services for all residents

- There are 336 local authorities in Finland.
- Local authorities are responsible for providing welfare services for their residents, the most important of which relate to social welfare, health care, education, culture, environment and technical infrastructure.
- The budgets of the municipalities and the joint local authorities exceed 30 billion euro.
- Finnish local and joint authorities employ nearly 430,000 people, approximately one-fifth of Finland's workforce.



Local authorities

- run the country's comprehensive and upper secondary schools, vocational institutions and polytechnics,
- provide adult education, art classes, cultural and recreational services, and run libraries,
- provide child day-care, welfare for the aged and the disabled, and a wide range of other social services,
- provide preventive and primary care, specialist medical care and dental care,
- promote a healthy living environment,
- supervise land use and construction in their area,
- are responsible for water and energy supply, waste management, street and road maintenance and environmental protection,
- seek to promote commerce and employment in their area.



Transparency of functions and decision-making

- Finnish local authorities have a high level of autonomy which is guaranteed by the Constitution.
- Transparency and access to information are basic principles of Finnish local government. The Local Government Act emphasizes not only representative democracy but also opportunities for residents to participate and exert influence locally.

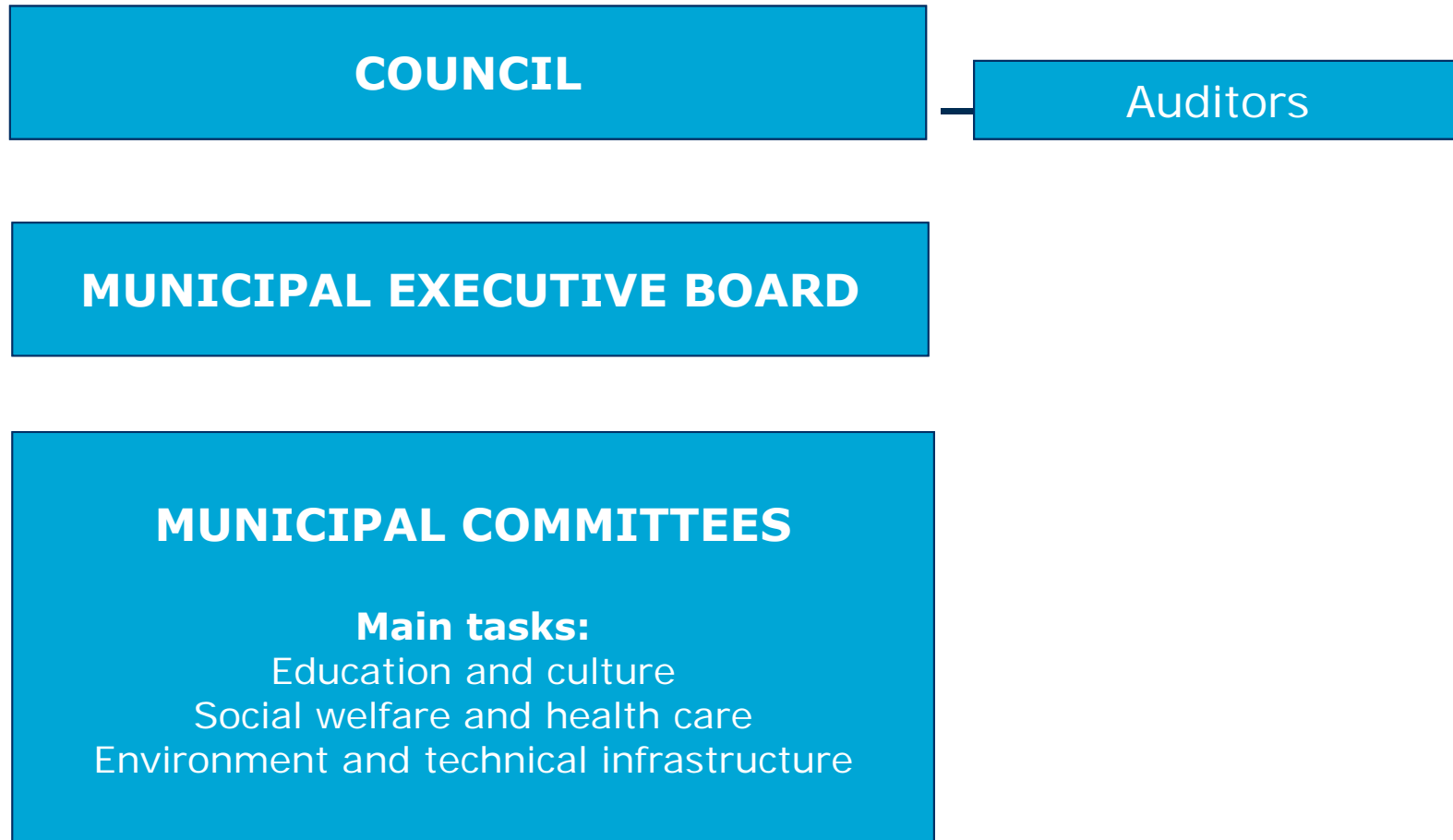


Municipal organisation

- Every four years residents elect a local council in free and democratic elections. The council is the decision-making authority in municipal finances and operations.
- The municipal executive board, which is appointed by the council, does the preparatory work on matters coming before the council. The board is responsible for the municipality's day-to-day administration and financial management.
- In Finland, the municipal manager is an official appointed by the local council, who serves under the municipal executive board.



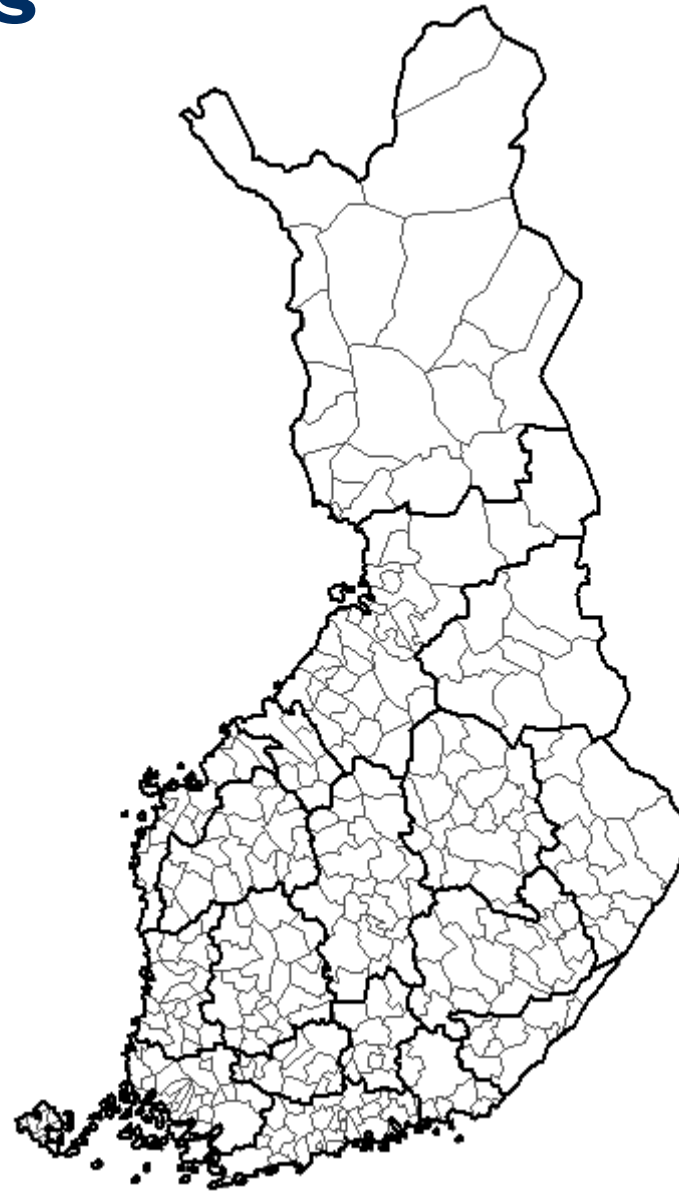
Municipal organisation



Finland's regions and municipalities

18 regions and Åland

336 municipalities





Thank you!

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