



New Municipality 2017 Development Programme

Creating a vision and practices for viability of
municipalities in the coming decades

 Local and Regional
Government Finland





Finnish municipality - a success story that continues well after 2017

The New Municipality 2017 Programme builds together with Finnish municipalities new approaches to ensure the viability of municipalities in a variety of environments and to promote vigorous local self-government and the Finnish system of local government.

We want to safeguard local self-government and ensure efficient practices for the coming council terms as

the working environment of municipalities is becoming increasingly more complex and more difficult to predict.

We tailor development paths and practices to meet the needs of municipalities operating in different environments and help them find the alternatives that best suit their needs.

Principles of our development work

Our goal is a strong and viable municipality that is capable of providing its residents the services they need also in the years to come.

We emphasise the importance and role of local residents. In order to develop the relationship between residents and the municipality in the right direction it is important to take account of residents in their different roles, for example, as users, clients, buyers and citizens fulfilling their duties.

The diversity between municipalities is our starting point in the development of local government structures and operations. They need to be tailored to the needs of different municipalities.

Our goal is to improve the system of local government as a whole; integrated planning of the system must be reinforced in parallel with sector-specific development.



Development themes and aspects

Examples of questions to which answers are sought:

Strong municipality	What are the criteria for a strong municipality? What kind of operating structure a strong municipality needs to cope in a changing environment?
Viability	What makes a municipality viable? How can a municipality promote viability of the region?
Vigorous self-government and democracy	What new means of participation are needed? How to bring local democracy to residents?
Well-being of residents and new service concepts	What should service concepts be like in the future? How can residents influence and participate in the development of service content?
Balance between functions and finances	How should the tasks be divided between local and central governments? How to make local government administration and service delivery more productive?
Practices	What are the future practices in different sectors? What kind of cross-sectoral practices are needed for integrated local government planning, for example between social welfare and health care and municipal land use planning?
Local government restructuring processes	How the local, regional and national aspects of municipal development can be integrated? How to design a development plan and process to continue the work carried out within the Paras local government and services restructuring project.





Development work

We produce development and research information, international benchmarking data and proposals for a comprehensive reform of the Finnish Local Government Act. We promote debate on the future of municipalities by issuing publications, making initiatives, writing columns and organising events.

We use the Association's strong networks with municipalities, research institutes, education providers and the companies of the AFLRA Group. We carry out development work in sub-projects relating to new generation organisation and management and the role of municipalities in sustaining local viability. Over 30 municipalities are currently participating in these pilot projects.

Contact information of the New Municipality 2017 Programme

For up-to-date information on our development work, please go to: <http://www.kunnat.net/fi/palvelualueet/uusikunta2017>
<http://www.localfinland.fi/en/authorities/newmunicipality2017>

**We will be happy to tell you more,
please contact us:**

Ms. Aija Tuimala
Project Manager
Tel. +358 40 869 6494
firstname.lastname@kuntaliitto.fi

Ms. Sini Sallinen
Researcher
Tel. +358 9 771 2681, mobile +358 50 464 5662
firstname.lastname@kuntaliitto.fi

For more information, you can also contact:

Mr. Kari-Pekka Mäki-Lohiluoma
Director General
Tel. +358 9 771 2007, mobile +358 50 364 7883
firstname.lastname@kuntaliitto.fi

Ms. Kaija Majoinen
Director of Development
Tel. +358 9 771 2512, mobile +358 500 811 239
firstname.lastname@kuntaliitto.fi

Mr. Kari Prättälä
Chief Legal Counsel
Tel. +358 9 771 2456, mobile +358 500 606 873
firstname.lastname@kuntaliitto.fi



The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities
Toinen linja 14, FI-00530 Helsinki
P.O.Box 200, FI-00101 Helsinki
Tel. +358 9 7711, telefax +358 9 771 2291
firstname.lastname@kuntaliitto.fi
www.localfinland.fi