

2018 Country Report for Finland

Key points for EASPD members

I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- The number of people in employment grew by 0.5 % in both 2016 and 2017 and is expected to continue to rise in 2018 and 2019.
- Despite a recent increase, the employment rate at 69.7% of 15-64-year-olds remains low when compared to Finland's Nordic peers.
- Despite the recently adopted measures, the recovery in the labour market could be hampered by skills shortages and low labour market participation.

II. Education Policy

- **Finland is recognised for its high quality and inclusive education system.**
- Finland has a generally well performing education system, although there has been some decline in the performance and divergence between different groups has been detected.
- A slowly increasing differentiation is observable between regions and between schools.
- According to the 2015 OECD programme for international student assessment tests, Finland continued to remain among the countries with the smallest number of low achievers in basic competences. However, in science, low performance increased and high performance declined.
- **The education system has been subject to considerable public spending cuts, but the government is taking some measures to promote equality.**
- The government's new funding model since 2017 encourages higher education institutions to become more productive and internationally-oriented.
- Early school leaving rates have declined from about 9 % in 2012 to 7.9 % in 2016, but foreign-born young people have much higher rates than natives (15.1 % against 7.6 %).

III. Social Policy

- **The bill for social and healthcare services reform is expected to be approved by Parliament in spring 2018 so that the reform would enter into force in 2020.**
- **A reform of the social and health care system is being prepared. This reform could have the potential to address the high self-declared unmet need for medical care.**



- Reforms are being planned to address some aspects of the inactivity traps.

IV. Anything else?

- Finland displays low levels of income inequality.
- The gender pay gap in Finland is higher than the EU average: 17.3 % in 2015, while the EU average is 16.3 %.
- The risk of poverty and social exclusion is one of the lowest in the EU.
- Labour market outcomes of the non-EU born people are worse than for natives.

Additional Information

- European Commission: 2018 Country Report for [Finland](#)
- EASPD [Activities on the European Semester](#)

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