



Local and Regional
Government Finland

National support frameworks in Finland

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Enormous structural change

Ministry of Labour & Ministry of Trade and Industry



Ministry of Employment and the Economy (1.1.2008)

Employment Offices



Offices of Employment and the Economy (1.1.2009)

Employment situation in Finland (9/2008)

Unemployment rate

5,9 %

Employment rate

70 %

Jobseekers

188 400 totally

Labour demand

30 793 jobs vacant

Structure of unemployment

20 224 under 25 years old

42 000 long-term unemployed

Local government and services in Finland

- There are 415 local authorities in Finland (2008)
- The Finnish welfare state is mainly based on municipally produced services
- In Finland cities and municipalities are responsible for providing services for their residents
- As local authorities do not need to manage everything to their own, it often makes most sense to provide services jointly with other local actors, communities and enterprises

- The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Government's goal is to promote the opportunities for local authorities to operate and co-operate and to enhance their vitality and viability for the benefit of the residents
- The Association has set as its priorities to develop municipal management and local democracy, to reinforce services and improve performance, to ensure stable municipal finances, to curb climate change and also assists local authorities in labour market issues

- The past few years have seen an increasing convergence of employment policy with economic development policy, even though its main task still is to find measures with which to combat unemployment. These measures include partnership projects
- A new form of co-operation are Labour Force Centers, where services provided by local authorities, labour administration and the Social Insurance Institution are tailored to the client's individual needs
- Third sector organisations have now totally new possibilities of rebuilding their role, co-operation with public bodies and service production

The Employment and Economic Development Centres

- The Employment and Economic Development Centres (T&E Centres) serve the entire economy. They provide their customers with the expertise and regional services of the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of the Interior
- The objectives of these Centres are:
to strengthen expertise at local and regional levels, to support enterprises and growth, to improve the level of employment, to balance regional structure and vital countryside

Relationship between local actors and national level in Finland

- Goal: a good co-operation and networks at local level
- Threats: local partnerships just implement the policy
- Challenge: vertical dialogue
- Possibilities: bottom-up contribution to the national policy – information directly from grass-root level

In conclusion

PUBLIC
PRIVAT
THIRD } sector

➡ They shouldn't compete

➡ They should supplement each other