



# THE HELSINKI METROPOLITAN AREA ADVISORY BOARD

IN A NUTSHELL



2010



Finnish Pavilion Kirnu, the Giant's Kettle, at Shanghai World Expo 2010

# The Helsinki Metropolitan Area Advisory Board

The Helsinki Metropolitan Area Advisory Board is a cooperation body of leading elected politicians of the four cities in the Capital Region of Finland. The cities are Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Kauniainen.

The activities of the Advisory Board are based on a cooperation agreement, a common vision and a joint strategy. The Advisory Board deals with issues concerning strategic cooperation and steering of the most important joint municipal organisations. The main pillars of the strategy are common welfare services, international competitiveness, land use, housing and transport.

The activities of the Advisory Board are based on decisions made by the City Councils of the cities involved.

Finland is an exceptional country when it comes to the degree of local self-government. Approximately every fifth person in the Finnish workforce is employed by a local authority. This is explained by the fact that cities and other municipalities in Finland are practically responsible for all welfare services.



# Helsinki Metropolitan Area – A Fast Growing Region in Europe



Helsinki Metropolitan Area is a dynamic and evolving hub in the junction of international development corridors and other parts of Northern Europe. The shortest route from New York to the large centres in Asia runs via the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. During the past two decades Helsinki Metropolitan Area has been one of the fastest growing urban areas within the European Union. The Helsinki Metropolitan Area has ranked well in a number of international competitiveness comparisons, but staying on top requires continuous, sustainable development and actions. The unique situation of the Metropolitan Area was recognized in November 2009 when the cities were nominated as World Design Capital 2012.

Helsinki Metropolitan Area is Finland's administrative and cultural centre and economic powerhouse. Its population is currently over 1 million.

The cities in the metropolitan area want to be in the frontline of development by strengthening their regional and thematic innovation environments. In relation to its size, the area is an internationally important centre of expertise and education. It is profiled as a hub of universities, polytechnics, other educational establishments and students.

The metropolitan area aims to be profiled as a region providing high standard of life as well as a pleasant and secure living environment.



The neoclassical Senate Square – the Heart of Helsinki  
In the background the Helsinki Cathedral

# The Vision for Helsinki Region

“The Helsinki Region is a dynamic world-class centre for business and innovation. Its high-quality services, arts and science, creativity and adaptability promote the prosperity of its citizens and bring benefits to all of Finland. The Metropolitan Area is being developed as a unified region close to nature where it is good to live, learn, work and do business.

The harmonious urban structure of the region is based on public transport; it is versatile by its operations as well as eco-efficient and low carbon. The compact core area is encircled by a network of distinctive centres.”

## Helsinki Metropolitan Area Strategy

### Joint measures to develop welfare and services

- Organizing the services on a customer-oriented basis (metropolitan services, neighbourhood services, special services and developing e-services and transactions)
- Steering joint service organizations
- Strengthening preventive welfare services
- Promoting employment and integration of immigrants
- Enhancing the supply of labour and improving employment

### Improving international competitiveness

- Improving top-quality education and know-how
- Building good quality of life as well as a pleasant and secure living environment
- Strengthening user-driven innovation environments and developing public procurements
- Internationalisation of the metropolitan area and its connection to global networks

### Harmonization of the urban structure and development of housing

- Densification of the urban structure
- Ensuring the volume and quality of housing production, prevention of segregation
- Enhancement of public transport leaning on rail traffic
- Controlling climate change
- Clean Baltic Sea
- Securing a common greenbelt area network

Democracy and participation

Economic balance

Social cohesion



EMMA, Espoo Museum of Modern Art



## City of Helsinki



Mr. Risto Rautava  
Chairman of the Helsinki Metropolitan  
Area Advisory Board  
Chairman of the City Board



Ms. Rakel Hiltunen  
Member of the Helsinki Metropolitan  
Area Advisory Board  
II Vice Chairman of the City Council



Mrs. Mari Puoskari  
Member of the Helsinki Metropolitan  
Area Advisory Board  
II Vice Chairman of the City Board



Ms. Outi Ojala  
Member of the Helsinki Metropolitan  
Area Advisory Board  
Member of the City Board

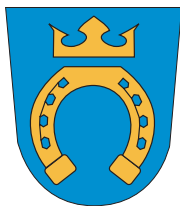


Mr. Jussi Pajunen  
Mayor of Helsinki



Ms. Anja Vallittu  
Senior Advisor to the Mayor  
the City of Helsinki





## City of Espoo



Ms. Saija Äikäs-Idänpään-Heikkilä  
I Vice Chairman of the Helsinki  
Metropolitan Area Advisory Board  
Chairman of the City Board



Ms. Sirpa Hertell  
Member of the Helsinki Metropolitan  
Area Advisory Board  
I Vice Chairman of the City Board



Mr. Markku Sistonen  
Member of the Helsinki Metropolitan  
Area Advisory Board  
II Vice Chairman of the City Board



Ms. Marketta Kokkonen  
Mayor of Espoo



Ms. Helena Elkala  
Director of Corporate Group Management



## City of Vantaa



Mr. Tapani Mäkinen  
Member of the Helsinki Metropolitan  
Area Advisory Board  
Chairman of the City Board



Mr. Antti Lindtman  
II Vice Chairman of the Helsinki  
Metropolitan Area Advisory Board  
Chairman of the City Council



Mr. Petteri Niskanen  
Member of the Helsinki Metropolitan  
Area Advisory Board  
II Vice Chairman of the City Board



Mr. Juhani Paajanen  
Mayor of Vantaa



Ms. Tarja Lumijärvi  
Development Manager



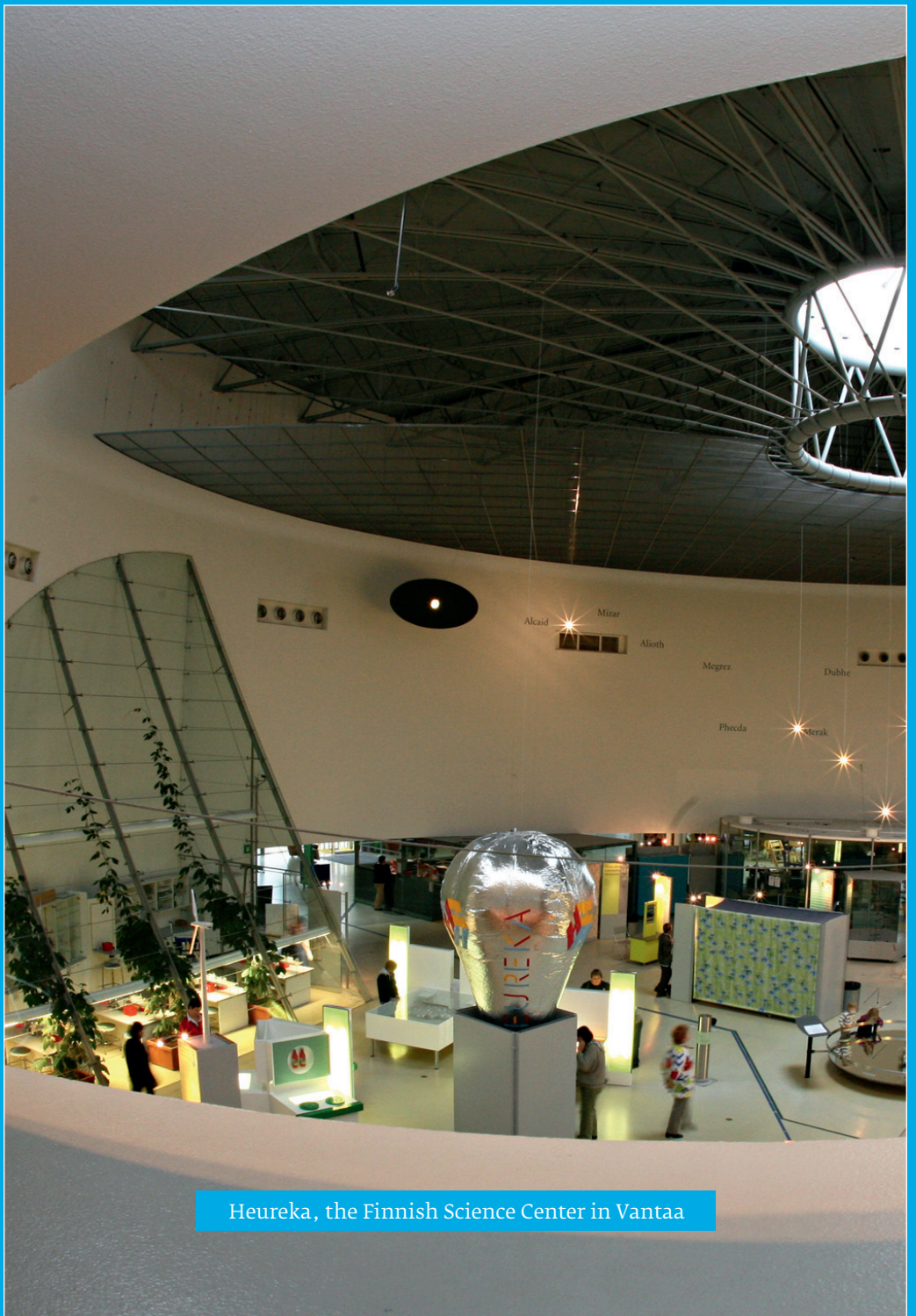
## City of Kauniainen



Mr. Finn Berg  
Member of the Helsinki Metropolitan  
Area Advisory Board  
Chairman of the City Council



Mr. Torsten Widén  
Mayor of Kauniainen



Heureka, the Finnish Science Center in Vantaa



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For more information about the Helsinki Metropolitan Area Advisory Board, please visit [www.helsinki.fi](http://www.helsinki.fi)

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[www.helsinki.fi](http://www.helsinki.fi), Tel. +358 9 310 1691

For more information about the cities, please visit:  
Helsinki [www.hel.fi](http://www.hel.fi) • Espoo [www.espo.fi](http://www.espo.fi) • Vantaa [www.vantaa.fi](http://www.vantaa.fi) •  
Kauniainen [www.kauniainen.fi](http://www.kauniainen.fi)