

Preface

Helsinki has been the capital of Finland since 1812. The city, which then had only 4,000 inhabitants, is today the centre of one of Europe's fastest growing major city regions. Although Helsinki is a fairly young city, it shows many faces and historical strata. Each area in the city has a history and a present expression of its own, and for some, there are great plans for the future. These phenomena are described in this book in the form of tables, maps and pictures. Helsinki by District 2005 has been compiled for all those who take an interest in the various parts of the city: policy-makers, planners and researchers, students, the business community, organisations, mass media and, obviously, the inhabitants themselves.

Helsinki is divided into seven major districts, 33 districts and 130 sub-districts. This book describes phenomena at district level. It begins with an orientation in the city's present development and a thematic comparison of the areas by means of maps. Now Helsinki is also compared with other European cities of a corresponding order.

The major districts and districts are described on four pages each. In Finnish, Swedish and English we get a short presentation of the history and planned future of the district. A detailed map shows land use and public services in the district. A statistical profile for each district is drawn up by means of eight variables, by which the district is compared with the whole city and the other districts. The statistics and diagrams have been updated with the freshest findings about the district's population, level of education and income, housing, employment and jobs as well as education, social, health and other services.

Helsinki by District can also be studied on the Internet, on the web site of City of Helsinki Urban Facts. From that address there is a link to the statistical Area Database for the Helsinki Region – from which the majority of this book's data can be picked at sub-district level, too.

The publication was compiled by senior statistician Pekka Vuori and researcher Tea Tikkanen at Helsinki City Urban Facts' Unit for Statistics and Information Services. Special researcher Martti Helminen of the City Archives and the area architects of Helsinki City Planning Office were of great help with the area descriptions. The translations were made by Magnus Gräsbeck, a translator at Helsinki City Urban Facts. The Surveying Department of Helsinki City Real Estate Office provided the basic maps, and several of the city's offices and departments provided various other data. The technical bit of the publication process was planned by Otto Burman of ATK-Burman Oy Ltd., and developed as a students' work at Helsinki College of Technology, today the Helsinki Polytechnic. Our warm thanks to all who contributed to the birth of this book!

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