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European metropolises – major centres of economic activity

Metropolises head the economic growth of Europe today. They provide agglomeration benefits for business, which explains why firms in the metropolises have higher productivity and innovation rates than firms in other areas. People with a tertiary education tend to live in cities, especially in large cities.

Accounting for one-quarter of the population of the 25 EU Member States, the metropolitan regions generate one-third of Gross Value Added in these countries. The two economically most significant metropolises, Paris and London, together produce approximately seven per cent of aggregate GVA across the EU.

In most European countries, 30–40 per cent of national GVA is typically produced in the capital region and other major cities. In the case of Finland, 34 per cent of the national GVA is produced in the Helsinki Region. Also, almost all metropolitan regions are considerably more productive than their respective countries. GVA per capita in Helsinki is approximately 50 per cent higher than the national average.

Let us make a very brief comparative overview of the economy of European metropolises that focus on the knowledge economy. This overview is primarily based on empirical research carried out and published by the European Economic Research Consortium (ERECO). The research was led and co-ordinated by Cambridge Econometrics Ltd. The Finnish partner in the project was Kaupunkitutkimus TA Oy (Urban Research TA Ltd). The diagrams in our statistics section on pages 45–49 originate from this research, too.

The study covers 27 countries in western and central Europe. All 25 EU Member States are included, as well as Norway and Switzerland. The set of metropolises consists of 45 urban areas from these countries (see map on page 45). In most countries, the capital is included. For each Scandinavian country, the capital is the only metropolis included: Helsinki in Finland, Stockholm in Sweden, Copenhagen in Denmark, and Oslo in Norway. This applies to most other small EU countries, too, but for bigger EU countries, more cities than just the capital may be included. The new EU countries are represented by Prague in the Czech Republic, Budapest in Hungary and Warsaw in Poland.

The highest GVA per capita in western and central Europe in 2003 was found in Zurich, where (with current exchange rates) it was over two and a half times as high as the average of all the EU 25 countries. Next in the ranking came Hamburg, Vienna and Brussels, followed by the Scandinavian capitals Helsinki, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Oslo, then Amsterdam, Paris and Dublin.

The GVA growth rate in 1995-2003 was fastest in Dublin (9% per annum), closely followed by Warsaw. Helsinki (7% p.a.) ranked third, followed by Budapest, Prague, Stockholm and Madrid. In Oslo and Copenhagen growth rates were close to the mean of the metropolises (2.5% p.a.).

The structure of the economy has a crucial influence on the economic performance of a city. During the period 1995-2003, rapid growth in Dublin, Helsinki and Stockholm, for example, was driven by their expanding ICT sectors. In the new EU capitals Warsaw, Budapest and Prague, foreign investments, construction and the restructuring of the economy were engines of growth.

Throughout Western Europe, the emphasis has shifted from physical manufacturing to the development of ideas, new products and creative processes. This phenomenon has come to be known as the knowledge economy.

Cities with knowledge-based economies perform well

Today, cities with knowledge-based economies tend to grow faster in terms of both economy and population than other cities. A key feature of the knowledge-based economy compared with the 'physical' economy is that innovation, rather than the cost of production, is crucial for gaining a comparative advantage. Innovation gives products and services increased value-added and a shield against low-cost competition.

Almost every major European city is undertaking initiatives to foster innovation and to strengthen links between scientific research and commercial enterprises. Many have set up science parks and centres of expertise with links to universities, higher education institutes and research organisations, and with the role of encouraging and supporting innovation-led, high-growth, knowledge-based businesses.

It matters what type of urban network a city operates within

One more factor that has an increasing influence on the economic standing of European cities is the type of urban network within which the city operates.

On the eastern coasts of the Baltic, flows of investment and trade are already integrating the economies of Helsinki, Tallinn, Vilnius and Riga. With the growing flow of goods between Russia and Western Europe today, the major cities of the Baltic region would seem to be entering a stage of higher economic interdependence.

The Scandinavian capitals, including Stockholm and Helsinki especially, have grown fast. They are modern and dynamic cities without major structural problems. Their economies are more oriented towards the growing markets in the new EU countries and in Russia, the Far East and America, and they are less dependent on the markets of the large EU-countries.

Future economic growth of European metropolises

An essential part of the research carried out by ERECO is the middle term forecasts for the economy of metropolises. Forecasts are made for production (GVA), employment, and a few other economic variables using an econometric model developed and applied by Cambridge Econometrics. The forecasts are based on a detailed analysis of the development of economic sectors at European, national and regional level. The analysis was made by Cambridge Econometrics in close co-operation with specialists in each country.

The way things are looking now, the most prominent feature of the economic development in Europe these next few years will be a modest production growth. This is also the main explanation for the expected slow rise in employment. The mean predicted GVA growth of the cities is 2.3 per cent per annum, which is slightly less than during 1995–2003.

Employment growth in big cities is expected to slow down compared with 1995–2003. The mean predicted employment growth of the cities is 0.7 per cent p.a., which compares with 1.2 per cent p.a. dur-

ing 1995–2003. However, the growth rate of the metropolises is expected to remain above the predicted mean of the 25 EU countries (0.5% p.a.).

Helsinki's position

Viewed from the extensive markets of western and central Europe, Helsinki's location may seem remote. At the same time, however, Helsinki is located optimally on its own national market and, especially, with regard to the markets of northwest Russia and the Baltics. Helsinki's role is essentially to act as a hub of trade, transport, communication and service for the rest of Finland and her neighbouring countries. Helsinki also provides a node in international networks for the whole country.

A high level of education among the labour force together with significant investment in R&D and in other human capital have enabled Finland and its capital to specialise in the export of high technology products, for which the transport cost to the main market areas is not a crucial factor.

Compared with many other European metropolises Helsinki is a modern and dynamic city. The service sector is the dominant industry – as indeed in most other metropolises too. The public sector's share of the total economy is average for the metropolises but lower than in the other Scandinavian capitals. In the market services sector, Helsinki predominantly specialises in transport and communication. The proportion of manufacturing is also approximately the same as in metropolises on average, but clearly smaller than in Finland and in European countries as a whole.

Domestic consumption is expected to continue to drive growth of the private service sector, and demand for housing will keep investment in residential property at a high level. Also, major infrastructure investments such as the new Vuosaari Harbour are stimulating the economy. Strong economic growth in Russia is expected to benefit manufacturing, trade, transport and business services in Helsinki, which forms a logistics hub in the trade between Western Europe and Russia. Demand from China and other countries in the Far East has a positive impact on the ICT and machinery sectors. Moreover, rapid growth is likely to continue in the new Baltic and East European EU Member States, enhancing markets for Helsinki-based industries.

Although mid-term prospects for Helsinki are optimistic, the city faces several challenges if it aspires to provide a competitive base for firms and welfare for inhabitants in the longer run. For example, the ageing of the population implies a challenge to the labour supply in the Helsinki Region. Without a migration surplus, the number of people of working age would start to decline within a few years.

Asta Manninen
Acting Director

Helsinki City Urban Facts

Arts and culture and Helsinki's international competitiveness

Leila Lankinen & Sini Askelo & Timo Äikäs

This article uses a few examples to describe Helsinki as a hub of arts and culture. The numerous festivals and events staged in the city and the region feature both experimental and traditional forms of dance, literature, music, theatre and visual arts.

A separate section is dedicated to the Helsinki Festival, a pioneer in its field, which, over the years, has spread from concert halls to the whole city and today offers something for almost everyone in the Helsinki Region.

Public libraries remain the unrivalled favourite cultural amenities in the region. The hybrid library, a contemporary form of the public library, is also described here, as are professions and education in the arts and culture sector. Helsinki's provision of arts and culture is compared internationally and the tables give a general idea of the use of various cultural services.

Arts and culture promote international competitiveness

While, as many feel, no justification is needed for the existence of arts and culture, the sector has also been recognised as creating considerable numbers of jobs. The economic and social effects of art and culture are important to cities and their inhabitants and today are acknowledged as a key area for the success of cities both nationally and internationally.

Helsinki Klubi II, a congregation of policy-makers summoned by the Lord Mayor and representing the business sector, science, media, arts and culture and public administration, has defined Helsinki's international cultural profile as one of the region's key issues today. In this respect music, which in Helsinki is based on a very comprehensive educational system, plays an important role. Plans are being finalised for an impressive Helsinki Music Centre in the heart of the city. The Centre will serve the entire Helsinki Region.

Finland and Helsinki have fared very well in various international benchmarkings of competitiveness and education. The publication European Competitiveness Index mentions one of Helsinki's assets as being its large network of cultural institutions, including local cultural centres that bring arts and culture within the reach of everyone in Outer Helsinki, too.

Helsinki – the festival city

Held annually since 1968, the Helsinki Festival is today joined by a variety of smaller festivals. The Helsinki Runo Festival, a poetry festival, and the Festival

of New and Experimental Juggling are two examples. The Tuska Open Air Metal Festival annually brings a growing and more international crowd of heavy-music lovers to town. Since 1998, Tusovkarock has introduced top Russian bands to Helsinki audiences. Within theatre, the Baltic Circle society has established pioneering co-operation between cities on the Baltic Rim, and the annual Helsinki Flamenco Festival brings a breath of the Mediterranean to a wintry Helsinki.

Many new festivals came about around the turn of the Millennium, when a new generation of festival makers entered the stage. This new generation moved freely over international networks and knew the field inside out – many were artists themselves. And since they lacked sufficient opportunities to present their work, they created venues of their own. Helsinki's role as one of the Cultural Capitals of Europe in 2000 also contributed to the naissance of new festivals by bringing together potential festival creators. In addition, the IT boom had boosted the media business, which encouraged many artists to begin new experimental projects.

Festivals influence people's idea of a city. They provide many points of identification and contribute to the creation of non-mainstream urban identities. They consolidate sub-cultures and create togetherness among amateurs of a common field. A broad and international provision of festivals contributes to a pluralistic climate of values in the city. This is essentially the mission of World Village Festivals.

Festivals bring international artists and audiences to town, which allows local audiences to see recent trends in other countries and local artists to show off their skills to audiences from other countries. One of the main purposes of the Dance Arena Festival is to promote Finnish dance internationally and secure more opportunities for Finnish dancers to perform abroad. Over 50 foreign critics and producers covered the 2003 Dance Arena event.

Helsinki Festival among other Finnish festivals

The biggest, most famous and oldest festival in Helsinki is the Helsinki Festival, the history of which goes back to its predecessor the Sibelius Weeks, which started in 1951. When the event was given its new name in 1968, the repertoire and the scope of the festival were extended. Initially, the repertoire contained almost exclusively classical music, but other styles and events were subsequently incorporated as well, such as the Night of the Arts since 1989. In 1995, the profile of the Helsinki Festival changed considerably again, when ethnic music and children's culture were included, as well as an art gallery tour, a variety of free events and an increasing provision of dance and theatre.

Arranged annually in late August and early September, the Helsinki Festival is a festival for everyone. However, middle-aged people make up a greater proportion than their numbers among the total population would suggest, while over 65 year olds are slightly under-represented. Under 30 year olds are over-represented in the free public events, whilst 40–59 year olds are over-represented among paying guests.

Most of the festival's audience comes from Helsinki or one of the other cities in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. In 2002, 66 per cent of visitors came from Helsinki, 13 per cent from Espoo, six per cent from Vantaa and one per cent from Kauniainen. Visitors from other parts of Finland amounted to 10 per cent and visitors from abroad to four per cent.

The public library – the most frequented cultural public service used by Finns – a hybrid library

Many users still consider a library as primarily a building and the collections it contains. Today, however, the information available on the internet and other

Table 1. Festivals and visitors in Helsinki in 2003 according to seasons

Name	Field	Visitors	
Winter (December,January, February)			
DocPoint - Helsingin Dokumenttielokuvafestivaali	documentary film	12,500	=Film
Flamenco in Helsinki - Helsingin flamencofestivaali	flamenco	1,620	
Helsinki Film Festival - Nainen vai Artisokka	film	1,600	
Musica Nova Helsinki	modern music	8,000	=Music
Side Step - Sivuaskel	modern dance	778	
Tusovkarock	Russian rock	530	
Forces of Light - Valon Voimat	art of light	3,000	
Spring (March, April, May)			
Asia in Helsinki - Aasia Helsingissä	Asian art	1,575	
Flamenco in Helsinki - Helsingin flamencofestivaali	flamenco	1,620	=Dance
Hurraa! Hurraa!	children´s theatre		
Illumenation	film	2,685	
Kirkko soikoon	music	6,237	
KynnysKINO	film	531	
World Village Festival - Maailma kylässä	multiculture	30,000–40,000	
Mariinsky Theatre at the Alexander Theatre	music, dance	3,818	
Musica Nova Helsinki	modern music	8,000	
Read me	software art	900	
Ruutia!	children´s dance	654	
Tusovkarock	Russian rock	530	
Summer (June, July, August)			
Amorph! 03 Performance Festival	performance art	1,457	
Helsinki Festival	urban festival	295,605	
Helsinki Runo Festival	poetry	2,000	
Helsinki Samba Carnival - Tanssiva Helsinki	dance	40,000	
Helsinki Tap Festival	tap dance	2,281	
Helsinki Organ - Helsingin urkukesä	organ music	8,695	
7th International Feet Beat Tap Festival	tap dance	544	
Koneisto	electronic music	34,000	
Tuska Open Air Metal Festival	heavy music	25,300	
URBurban culture	9,183		
Viapori Jazz	jazz	2,000	
Autumn (September, October, November)			
Avanto Helsinki Media Art Festival	media art	3,500	
Baltic Circle	theatre	2,796	
Gruppen Fyras Bästa: Nykytanssifestivaali	modern dance	623	
Helsinki International Film Festival - Love and Anarchy	film	40,000	
Helsinki Festival	urban festival	295,605	
Helsinki Klezmer Festival	music	1,087	
Helsinki Comics - Helsingin sarjakuvafestivaali	comics	5,500	
Jumo Jazzfest	jazz	N/A	
Russian Seasons	theatre	1,770	
Dance Arena - Tanssiarena	modern dance	1,750	
Tsuumi Festivaali 2003	folk dance	764	
Festival of New and Experimental Juggling 5-3-1	circus arts	1,400	
Valon Voimat	light art	3,000	

Note: If the festival covers two seasons, it is mentioned in both seasons.

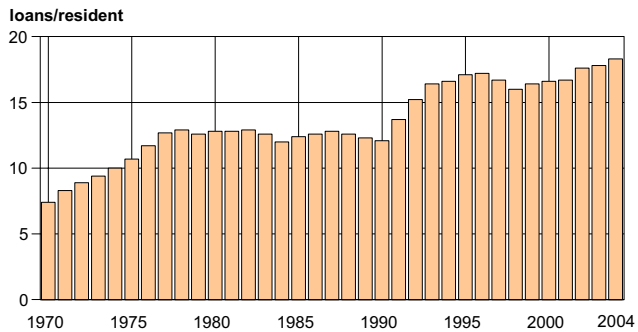
Source: Helsinki City Cultural Office

electronic networks provides an important complement to traditional library services. Hence the evolvement of a "hybrid library" – a both physical and virtual library.

One consequence is that library premises have had to be restructured: increasing space is given over to users working at computer screens. Helsinki City Library has over 300 internet-connected computers in its various premises.

The City Library's own website also offers personal web services such as the iGS – the information Gas Station. In 2003, the number of web visits recorded was 3.5 million, almost twice as many as the year before.

Figure: Helsinki City Library. Yearly loans per resident 1970–2004



Public library services transcend local boundaries

In 2003, the libraries in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area introduced a new library data system, the third shared system of its kind. At the same time, web services were introduced enabling borrowers to make reservations for items and renew their loans. The shared database of the cities' libraries carries the name HelMet, from Helsinki Metropolitan Area Libraries. The word is also a pun: in Finnish, helmet means "pearls".

And in fact, the HelMet has indeed proved to be a pearl. The use and reputation of the address has been beyond all expectations. In just eight months, an independent survey institute showed it had become the sixth most known web brand in Finland and the best known in the municipal sector.

What all this means in practice is that the public in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area frequent one and the same library, which has a total of 64 affiliated libraries. It does not matter whether the item borrowed or the borrower crosses municipal borders. Users themselves choose which library to go to and after making a reservation, they receive the first copy available. The service is flexible and library collections are efficiently used.

The annual aggregate figures for the loans of the HelMet libraries is 17.5 million, i.e. 18 loans per person per annum in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, which has just under a million inhabitants. This is a high figure by international standards, too. In the city of New York, for example, the number of loans is 14 million and the number of inhabitants is eight million.

Business enterprise in the cultural sector

A working group appointed by the Ministry of Education has defined the arts and culture industry as a new umbrella concept for arts and culture and public media, covering everything between traditional arts and cultural pursuits and the distribution of reproductions of artistic creation. By this definition, the arts and culture industry is, obviously, a very large and diverse sector. And it is expanding, too, due to, for example, increasing demand for information content and ever-improving distribution channels.

Thus defined, the arts and cultural sector covers the activities of a whole spectrum of artists plus, for example, magazine and book publishing as well as the wholesaling of entertainment electronics.

University level education

Table 2: Business premises, personnel an turnover in the field of culture 2003

	Premises	Personnel	Turnover (EUR 1,000)	Turnover/person (EUR 1,000)
Finland	15,811	64,321	11,979,735	186.2
Helsinki Metropolitan Area[1]	5,857	30,093	7,195,356	239.1
% of the whole country	37	47	60	.

[1]Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Kauniainen.

Source: Statistics Finland, Business Register

There are four specialist arts and culture universities in Finland all situated in Helsinki, namely the Sibelius Academy (music), the University of Arts and Design Helsinki, the Theatre Academy of Finland, and the Academy of Fine Arts.

Polytechnics

Arts and culture can also be studied at four polytechnics in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area where, just as in Finland as a whole, media and visual arts had the largest number of students in the broader fields of arts and culture. The largest numbers of diplomas in the field were also gained in media and visual arts followed by handicraft and industrial arts.

Table 3: Diplomas at the various arts and culture universities in Helsinki 2003

	Diplomas
University of Arts and Design	234
Sibelius Academy	198
Theatre Academy of Finland	83
Academy of Fine Arts	49
Total	564

Source: Kota database, Ministry of Education.

Table 4: Diplomas in arts and culture education in polytechnics in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area 2003

	Diplomas
Arts and culture total	229
Crafts and design	61
Communication and visual arts	105
Music	48
Theatre and dance	15

Source: Statistics Finland, education statistics

Culture in European cities described by statistics

The regional Urban Audit statistics collected by the European Union depict the culture of large and middle-sized cities in Europe. The database includes variables from theatres, cinemas, concerts, libraries and museums, the supply and use of their services.

How does Helsinki rate among the capitals of the European Union (EU15) in the light of these statistics? For many of the cultural services, Helsinki citizens rank near the average for the capitals in general. Library services are an exception, however: use of these services in Helsinki is clearly top of the European class.

Finns go to the public library more often than any other nation of the EU does. According to an EU survey on culture consumption, almost 70 per cent of Finns visit a public library at least once a year. Swedes and Danes, too, come close to these figures. Finns and Swedes share the title of most avid readers.

And in fact, public libraries are the most common cultural services in Finland. In 2003, Finnish public libraries recorded almost 66 million visits, seven million of which were in Helsinki. The average Finn, like the average Helsinki citizen, went to the library once a month.

Table 5. Culture in Helsinki, a short overview

National Opera	2003	2004
perfomances	376	368
spectators	255,678	246,608
Professional theatres	12	12
perfomances	3,334	3,642
spectators	714,772	682,874
Dance theatres	3	3
perfomances	313	276
spectators	42,592	35,729
Number of concerts		
Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra	63	68
Radio Symphony Orchestra	33	37
Number of cinema auditoria	46	46
visits per inhabitant	4.6	4.0
City Library, lending outlets	52	52
number of books on 31 December (1,000)	1,855	1,828
other material (1,000)	237	250
loans (1,000)	9,971	10,234
loans per inhabitant	17.8	18.3
visits per inhabitant	12.6	12.5
Museums	79	80
Number of visitors at		
The Finnish National Gallery		
Ateneum Art Museum	168,580	311,884
The Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma	189,019	182,015
Sinebrychoff Art Museum	66,609	29,094
National Museum of Finland	128,790	115,014
Finnish Museum of Art and Design	69,474	112,327
Seurasaari Open Air Museum	50,572	44,203
Museum of Finnish Architecture	21,200	21,690
Helsinki City Museum	100,003	59,935
Helsinki City Art Museum	115,117	88,384

Sources:

Arts and Culture in Helsinki. City of Helsinki Urban Facts, Statistics 2004:15.

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Silvanto, Linko, Keskinen, Cantell (Ed.): Kaupunkilaisten kulttuurikeskukset. Helsingin kaupungin tietokeskus ja Helsingin kaupungin kulttuuriasiainkeskus. Helsinki 2005.

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European Competitiveness Index.

Sporting mega-events and the residents: Assessing the IAAF World Championships 2005

Mats Nylund

In city development agendas, sporting mega-events are often linked to conceptions about beneficial economic and marketing effects. This was true also for the IAAF World Championships that took place in Helsinki in August 2005. However, this article focuses on the various ways in which the "home crowd", i.e. the inhabitants of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area (the cities of Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa) engaged themselves in the games. Above all, the article attempts to measure how the residents perceived the advantages and disadvantages of the event[1].

The championships were marked by unusually heavy rain. This would normally have affected people's opinions negatively. Yet our interviews, which were done immediately after the championships, show that people in Helsinki primarily had good feelings about the games, with 75 per cent thinking the event was important for Helsinki and 72 per cent feeling the games had been a success. Two-thirds hoped Helsinki would apply for similar large sports events in future, too. Traffic jams were the greatest perceived drawback. Our article also uses the findings to draw a larger picture of the various dimensions and characteristics of a large modern sports event.

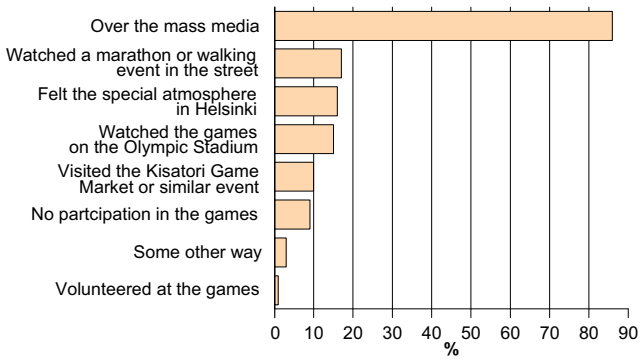
Our survey used structural telephone interviews to collect the data. A total of 1,000 interviews, of people aged 15 years or over, were conducted 16–22 August 2005 in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. The survey and the questionnaire were planned by Mats Nylund and carried out by TNS Gallup Ltd. The questionnaire contained 25 questions or statements with ready-made answers. Two questions could be answered freely in one's own words. The methodological principle was that respondents should have the opportunity not to express an opinion and to answer "can't tell". To ensure statistical significance, the number of respondents in each of the municipalities Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa was calculated pro rata to the city's population figure. In addition, age and gender quotas were applied to the whole material. For this purpose, Helsinki City Urban Facts delivered the population figures needed to TNS Gallup Ltd.

Forms of participation

A large sports event today is not limited to the actual venue but filters out into the host city and even further beyond. This means the event may concern also people who do not go to watch the competitions. Hence, there are many forms of participation and audiences with different levels of interest and commitment. Figure 1 shows that according to our survey,

[1]An evaluation of the economic impact and the place marketing effects is included in a research project led by Helsinki City Urban Fact's Urban Research Unit and the Finnish Ministry of Education. A comprehensive review of the findings of this project is to be published in spring 2006.

Figure 1. Participation in the World Championships among the inhabitants of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area (%)



15 per cent of Helsinki residents, almost one in seven, went to see some of the events (CF. Kuokkanen and Nylund 2005).

Despite reasonably high ticket sales (339,000 over nine days), the World Championships were primarily a media event for most people in the Metropolitan Area. 86 per cent had followed the games over the mass media. This is a high figure considering only one-third of residents in the Metropolitan Area report that watching sports is important or fairly important to them (Nylund 2005). Again, the figure does not tell us how intentionally or actively people followed the championships.

So-called social watching may have been one important reason why some people watched the games on TV: you had to watch because someone else in the family wanted to. Knowing the massive media attention, we may also assume it was hard to avoid news about the championships. And yet 33 per cent of interviewees said they were very interested in them. This figure, too, is remarkably high considering the declining public interest in athletics in Finland (Liikkanen 2004:77).

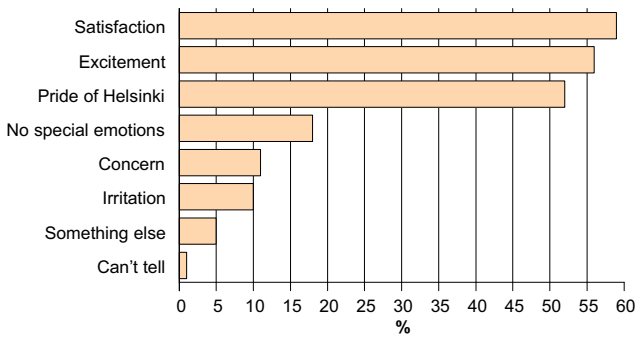
The marathon and the walking events mainly took place outside the sports arena. The marathon route had been planned so as to cover a relatively small area in central Helsinki and to show spectators worldwide views of a "green and maritime" Helsinki (Lehtonen 2005). From an urban studies point of view, these events were interesting also for the reason that anyone could catch a glimpse of the race somewhere along the course without having to pay for the entrance to the stadium, which was considered expensive (Meriluoto 2005). Thus, it was considerably easier to go and watch the marathon or walking events than the other events. And in fact, slightly more (17%) respondents reported they had watched some of these off-stadium events. One in ten had attended some event at the Championships Square outside the stadium.

In addition, the World Championships were seen and felt in the streetscape of Helsinki. 16 per cent of respondents reported they had felt the "special atmosphere" in Helsinki during the championships – whatever this may have meant to each and everyone personally. Nine per cent of respondents had paid no attention whatsoever to the championships.

Sporting mega-events and emotions

In modern society, sports and emotions are linked in quite a special way. Particularly at sports events, it is allowed to express strong feelings and often even expected both among athletes and audience (see Eriksson 2005). In this context, it is important to un-

Figure 2. Emotions caused by the World Championships, % of interviewees*



*more than one option could be chosen

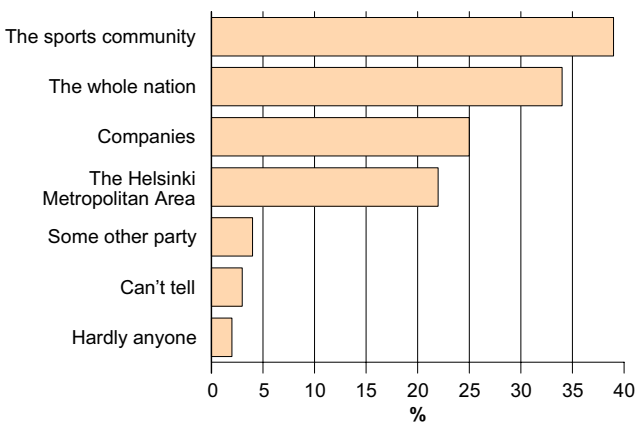
derstand the social nature of emotions. Emotions are not always as "natural" or "personal" as we may sometimes think, but instead, are formed in social interaction – and there are also deliberate attempts to influence them. At the Olympic Stadium music, tempo and rhythm, as well as the large video screen, were used to rouse emotions among the audience and keep up the atmosphere. If a city hosts a large sports event, it may also arouse emotion with the inhabitants, as shown by Waitt (2003) in his study on the social effects of the Sydney Olympics. Figure 2 shows that the Helsinki IAAF Championships even affected some of those people in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area who did not go to the events. Positive emotions, such as satisfaction, excitement and pride of Helsinki were considerably more common than irritation or worry. 18 per cent were emotionally indifferent.

A remarkable thing with emotions, and with our findings overall, was that factors such as gender, age and socio-economic position caused relatively small variation. For example, we know that watching and taking an interest in sports is usually markedly more important to men than to women (while exercise is about as important to both, see e.g. Nylund 2005). There are, of course, differences between genders, but the foremost observation is, however, how similar the attitudes were. According to our findings, women were exactly as excited and proud of Helsinki as men. Satisfaction with the games, on the other hand, was slightly more common among men, the proportion being 65 per cent among men and 54 per cent among women. We found more significant differences when we carried out a separate study of people who exercised regularly and people exercised occasionally and, especially, people who did sports regularly versus occasionally. For these variables, of course, differences were expected. Among residents taking a regular interest in sports, 72 per cent found the games inspiring. Among occasional watchers, the proportion was 42 per cent, which is high if we compare it with how much people in general follow sports (see previous paragraph). Irritation over the games was most common in Inner Helsinki (13%), i.e. closest to the Olympic Stadium. Yet among residents of Inner Helsinki, too, the overall impression of the championships was favourable.

Perceived advantages and disadvantages

The interviewees were also asked to characterise the championships in terms of pre-formulated as well as freely formulated answers. A great majority (81%) felt the games were a great sporting festival. Even more people (84%) considered them an occasion for ordinary sport viewing, rendering the championships no special status. Such characterisations as "big business" (57%) and "a kind of circus entertainment" (51%) probably indicate a somewhat critical attitude. These results also point at a change in sports culture. One in two interviewees thought the championships were an expression of urban culture, which may suggest that sports and other expressions of arts and culture are no longer seen as opposites, as sometimes used to be the case (see Aalto 2000:406).

Figure 3. Main beneficiaries of the World Championships according to percentages of interviewees*



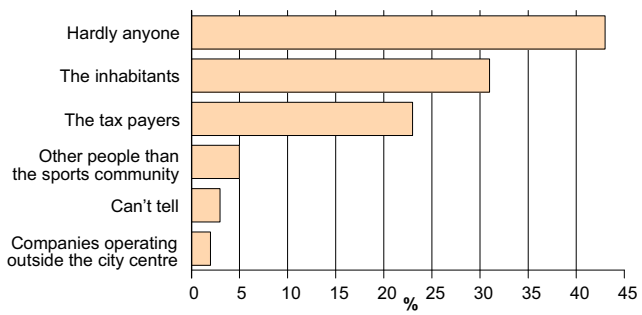
*more than one option could be chosen

Young people especially were inclined to regard the championships as urban culture.

The IAAF Championships were advertised as an event for "the whole society" (Kurki and Nylund 2005). Yet it is clear that the benefits and disadvantages of this partly tax-funded event do not befall everyone equally (see e.g. Cantell 1999:27). In our survey, respondents were asked to give their opinion about who benefited most from the championships (Figure 3). The advantage to the whole population is emphasised above all by those who follow sports regularly. The sports community were mentioned as the main beneficiary particularly by Helsinki residents, people with tertiary education, and women.

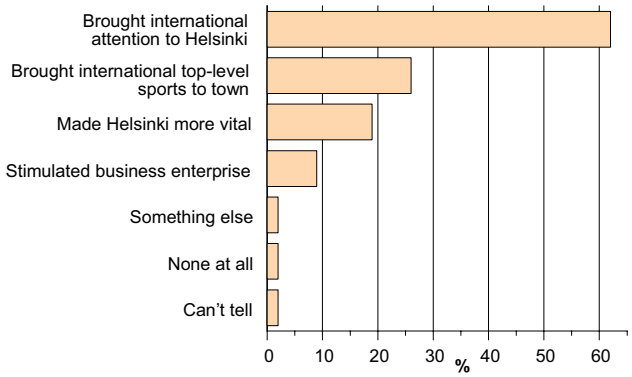
Most interviewees found that the championships hardly caused any harm to anyone (Figure 4). Yet one in three felt that they harmed people in some way and one in five thought that at least taxpayers suffered. However, in this context we should mention that within the sports community, too, there are differing opinions about the blessings of the championships. Former top runner Ari Paunonen, for example, has criticised both the championship project and the Finnish Athletics Association. According to him, the resources spent on the championships should have been invested at the grass root level, in the development of clubs and fieldwork (Jaakkonen 2005).

Figure 4. Main sufferers from the World Championships according to percentages of interviewees*



*more than one option can be chosen

Figure 5. Main beneficial effects of the World Championships according to percentages of interviewees



We should also note that mega events usually imply extensive public investment in the form of, for example, construction (Hall 2005). The Helsinki championships were carried out without larger construction projects. The biggest projects, amounting to a total of €10 million, were the partial covering of the spectator stand and some other renovation work on the Olympic Stadium. Furthermore, we could mention that the chief beneficiary of the games was not a Finnish group or organisation, but instead and undoubtedly the IAAF, which owns all the rights to the World Championships and which cashes the cheques for international TV broadcast agreements and sponsor contracts (Soini 2004:93, see also Tajima 2004).

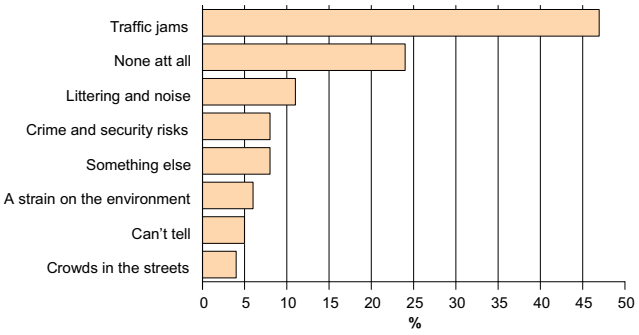
So, why bother to bid for events like the IAAF Championships? Figure 5 shows that citizens believe the greatest benefit of the championships to be the international publicity for Helsinki. Bringing top sports to Helsinki to animate the city was mentioned as an advantage clearly less often than publicity was, and even fewer believed that stimulation of the business community was the chief benefit to the Helsinki Metropolitan Area.

Before the championships, too, international publicity was the most common reason for arranging the championships mentioned in the media (Kurki and Nylund 2005), and it has been an important argu-

ment for other large sports events, too (E.G. Soini 2004:94). The publicity advantage for the city is, however, a matter of conviction in the sense that it has seldom been measured – which would, indeed, be difficult to do with any accuracy. For the Helsinki championships, Helsinki City Urban Facts analysed the coverage in leading British, German, US, Swedish, Russian and Japanese newspapers. We found that the publicity attributable to the championships can be regarded as considerable, but the newspapers reported almost uniquely on the sports events, leaving Helsinki as a city to very limited attention (Nylund et al. 2005).

Clearly the greatest perceived disadvantage was unsmooth traffic and traffic jams (Figure 6). Littering and noise, strain on the environment, and crowds in the streets were mentioned more seldom. Crime and insecurity were seldom mentioned, too, although the media frequently mentioned this aspect, including the threat of terrorism. One in four persons thought the championships did no harm at all.

Figure 6. Main disadvantagees of the World Championships according to percentages of interviewees



Discussion

Judging from our interviews, the overall attitudes towards the championships among people in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area seem quite favourable. If we consider the real advantages of the championships, such as publicity, we may even ask whether people's assessment of the importance of the games was not too optimistic. And how much were attitudes influenced by the favourable media coverage beforehand (see Kurki and Nylund 2005)? On the other hand we may note that the championships were perceived equally favourably, sometimes even more favourably outside the Helsinki Metropolitan Area (Kuokkanen and Nylund 2005).

When assessing the social impact of the championships a crucial aspect is of course how permanent these effects finally turn out to be. What happens, for example, six months after the circus has left town? Foreign newspapers described Finns as a nation of athletics fans. And yet as we saw earlier, the popularity of athletics has slowly been declining in Finland. Would the World Championships have contributed to reverse this trend, or would any attempt of that kind have been in vain?

Also, it is important to realise that the championships were not only about sports. In fact, preliminary results from face-to-face interviews conducted at the Championship Square support the hypothesis that the audience took an interest in the World Championships primarily as an event, and only secondarily as an athletics competition. This would indicate, among other things, that there are several ways of creating attractive urban sporting events. Obviously, one way is to bid for global mega-events, such as the IAAF World Championships. Another way, arguably important too, is to promote local, less institutionalised, and perhaps even seemingly weird, initiatives on how to combine sports and other forms of urban life.

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Innovative Helsinki: Culminatum as a tool to govern Helsinki as a Science Region

Eero Holstila

"There is already ample evidence around the world that high-tech clusters are built on this interaction, but 'ideopolises' – for example Helsinki, Munich and Cambridge – go further. They have an array of other supporting factors – notably a sophisticated communications and transport infrastructure, financial institutions willing to provide the necessary risk capital to entrepreneurs and specialists in technology transfer, supportive public authorities that facilitate the network structures driving creative interaction - and are attractive environments for knowledge workers."

So says Wim Kok, former prime minister of the Netherlands, in a report on the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Employment. And although Helsinki may not yet fit this description in every respect, Culminatum is doing its best to help develop Helsinki as a world-class innovative environment, a true Ideopolis.

Rankings encourage

For the last ten years Helsinki has been one of the most t dynamic city regions in Europe in terms of economic and demographic growth. According to the European Innovation Scoreboard, Helsinki has the profile of an R&D-oriented city. This was confirmed by the European Competitiveness Index published by Robert Huggins Associates in March 2004. The Helsinki Region ranked number one in the European Union in terms of private and public R&D activities per capita.

The European ranking also shows the smooth cooperation between universities and business in Finland. This is the result not least of the Finnish National Government's investments in research and development. Its most important instrument has been the National Technology Agency TEKES, which provides finance to research and development projects where academics and business people meet. This successful model is complemented by active efforts made by cities, among which the City of Oulu is probably the best example.

Recovery from the recession

The Finnish economy experienced deep recession in the early 1990s. During this crisis the City Board of Helsinki adopted a new strategy under which the future success of the city will be based on science, education and innovation. Also leaders of the neighbour-

ing cites and municipalities made similar decisions. In this situation, a new kind of partnership between higher education institutes, business community and cities was needed.

Since then, the City of Helsinki and the University of Helsinki have persistently built up such a partnership, the most important ingredients of which are:

- promoting science-driven business enterprise with the aid of a common business incubator and science park,
- cooperation in urban and traffic planning to develop campuses and transport and logistics between campuses,
- creating a shared Student City concept to increase international appeal,
- promoting urban research by initially creating six, currently nine, professorships in urban research, to cooperate with the city's own think-tank Helsinki City Urban Facts.

Besides their bilateral partnership, the University of Helsinki and the City of Helsinki were initiators in establishing the Helsinki Region Centre of Expertise Culminatum Ltd in 1995.

Culminatum today

Culminatum is a development company owned by universities, institutes of higher education, the business community and cities in the Helsinki Region and provides funds for projects to turn science into business. Culminatum's ownership base gives it a strong background. The **resource base** is formed by the municipalities and their joint area council, the **knowledge base** by the universities, research institutions and polytechnics and the **business base** by the companies, science parks, chambers of commerce and foundations and financiers. This ownership based on the "Triple Helix" model means that the company has the potential to develop itself towards a powerful tool for regional cooperation in the Helsinki region.

Culminatum's strategy is built on two main platforms:

- Developing the regionally important knowledge based growth clusters (*Centre of Expertise Programme*)
- Strengthening the regional knowledge base and developing the regional innovation environment (*Urban innovation policy*)

Centres of expertise

The Finnish Centre of Expertise (CoE) Programme was launched in 1994 by the National Government. The main idea of the programme is to encourage local processes to create research-based companies and to help them grow. For the last few years the target has been focused on the development of *knowledge based clusters of* the local economy. In the background there is a vision of large cities with high quality universities serving as the engines of regional dynamism and growth fostered by good partnership between universities, the business sector and local government. The CoE Programme is a long-term regional development tool continuing until the end of 2006.

In the Helsinki Region, the CoE programme focuses on six knowledge-intensive clusters. Every programme has a project management team and an advisory committee consisting of prominent representatives of business life, universities and cities.

The development measures of the CoE programme involve implementing enterprise-specific R&D projects and programmes to enhance business operations and to improve the skills of enterprise staff. Activities also include networking operations, the development of specific services (e.g. testing laboratories for software companies) and establishing professorships and training programmes in universities. Information services of CoE cover research and reporting work on cluster development and business models.

Centres of Expertise in the Helsinki Region

Field of expertise	Implementing organisation
Adaptive Materials and Microsystems	Technopolis Ventures Ltd
Digital Media, Content Production and Learning Services	Culminatum Ltd
Gene Technology and Molecular Biology	Helsinki Business and Science Park Ltd
Logistics	Technopolis Plc
Medical and Welfare Technologies	Culminatum Ltd
Software Product Business	Technopolis Ventures Ltd

Stakeholder cooperation

The second main platform of Culminatum's strategy is to cooperate with its shareholders to develop value added projects that will make the Helsinki Region an even more attractive place for creativity and innovations.

In 2003, the Helsinki Club, a high level think tank representing universities and global companies and led by the Mayor of Helsinki formulated a vision for the Helsinki Region: "Helsinki is a constantly developing world-class innovation centre based on science, art and creativity. The success of Helsinki benefits the region's inhabitants and all of Finland." The Helsinki Club also launched 14 key project initiatives to achieve the vision. It was suggested that Culminatum assumes responsibility for implementing some of these key projects, the most topical of them being the Innovation strategy of the Helsinki Region.

Early 2005 saw the birth of Yhdessä Huipulle (Together to the Top), a common innovation strategy by Culminatum's owners presenting 26 common development projects of the universities, cities and the business community on four key issues: (1) to increase the international appeal of local research and education, (2) to develop strong clusters and create test beds and living labs for product service development, (3) to apply innovations to renew the welfare services provided by the cities and to consolidate the role of the cities in the R&D, and (4) to support university-driven business growth by, for example, developing a second generation science park concept.

The innovation strategy was adopted by the new Metropolitan Advisory Board consisting of leaders of the city councils and city boards of Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Kauniainen. The Mayors' meeting took charge of implementing the actions listed in the strategy. Culminatum was mandated to coordinate the process of putting the action plan into practice.

The future

Under the Lisbon Agenda, the European Union is taking a stronger role in innovation policy. This will stimulate the urban and regional dimension in EU policy in an interesting way. The proposal for the Seventh Research Framework programme (FP7), focusing on Europe's development as a knowledge-based economy, includes an increased regional dimension, particularly so in its "Capacities" programme.

The planned new Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) intended to complement FP7 research activities will continue to help regions develop and implement regional innovation strategies. Also, it will introduce new transnational networks of regions in order to create a European Innovation Area. At the same time the new Cohesion policy proposed by the European Commission will put regional innovation systems at the centre of operation with substantial funding opportunities.

Many major European cities and urban regions have upgraded their activities in innovation policy. Many networks between regions and cities have been created to exchange experiences and learn about

best practices. Some of these are linked to the European Union, such as the Network of Innovating Regions in Europe (IRE) as well as the PAXIS, which has invited a score of Europe's foremost innovation areas including Helsinki. Some networks are global, such as the Technopolicy Network, which promotes local cooperation between cities and universities. The world conference of this latter network was held in Helsinki in June 2005. This event also marked the tenth anniversary of Culminatum.

As Leo van den Berg et al. note in their study European Cities in the Knowledge Economy (2005), Helsinki has been successful in European comparisons of competitiveness thanks to its R&D volume. Unfortunately, however, the European success story of the Helsinki Region's job growth in knowledge intensive industries over the last ten years is over for the time being. The road to a world-class innovation is still open, but will require even more profound cooperation between the innovation actors in the region. Better coordination between the state's innovation organisations and the activities of the region is also needed. The City of Helsinki must have a leading role in organising this cooperation. Here, the regional development company Culminatum offers an internationally unique tool in the future, too.

How do we compensate for a shrinking labour force?

Seppo Montén

In a near future, the number of beginners' places in vocational training for young people will be too small to meet the needs of the labour market. At the university level, the market demand for new labour is closer to being filled, but the yearly demand for new workers with a professional training will not be covered. The expected demand in the Helsinki Region for labour force with a polytechnic education exceeds today's existing beginners' places by 1,300–1,500 annually.

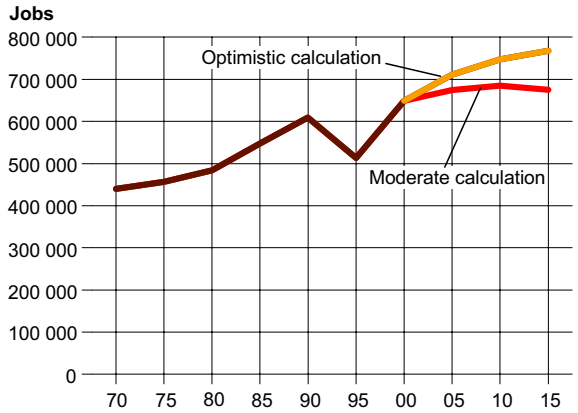
The following article is based on a study on the demand and supply of qualified labour force in the Helsinki Region in 2015 (Montén 2005) published by Helsinki City Urban Facts. The study seeks to provide figures and facts on a subject that has caused much writing and talk, i.e. that we find ourselves in a situation where the supply of qualified manpower no longer meets demand. The article is an abridged version of a similar article published in Kvartti (2005/1), the sister publication of Helsinki Quarterly in Finnish and Swedish. The article has been abridged by Helsinki Quarterly editorial staff.

Forecasting the need for education is a long-term endeavour, where the main issue is not whether the forecast for each branch of education or indeed the general area of education is correct to the last dot, but instead is primarily a matter of spotting changes in industrial and professional structures, and being able to apply these changes to the training provision. This is especially true for the Helsinki Region, where there are clearly fewer young people than there is demand for new labour.

In order to calculate future labour demands and corresponding demands for education in the Helsinki Region, we produced two job forecasts. In the moderate calculation the demand for job vacancies (or demand for jobs), i.e. demand for employment, slows down and after 2010 the supply of job vacancies starts to decline. In a situation with more people leaving working life than new workers entering it, the availability of manpower usually becomes a limiting factor for job growth. Traditionally, the number of jobs has been able to grow thanks to a migration surplus from other regions and commuting from nearby areas.

According to the optimistic calculation, the number of jobs in the Helsinki Region will continue growing, and it is estimated that immigration and commuting will ensure the supply of labour remains roughly as good as before. Between 2000 and 2015, the moderate calculation shows the number of jobs growing by 27,000 and the optimistic calculation shows it as growing by 120,000.

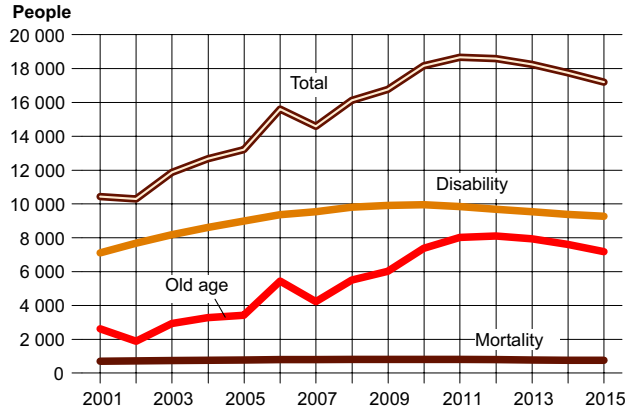
Figure 1. Jobs in Helsinki in 1970–2000 and a projection for 2015



The overall need for new labour, i.e. the number of vacant jobs, is the sum of the decrease in labour supply and the variation in the number of jobs. During the 2001–2015 forecast period, 237,000 workers will leave the labour force, a figure representing 37 per cent of the employed population in 2000. According to our moderate calculation, the decrease in labour force is responsible for a whopping 90 per cent of predicted labour demand and the change in the number of jobs for only a tenth. In other words, the decrease in labour supply will have a crucial impact on labour demand in the future. According to our optimistic calculation, where job growth is significantly greater, the decrease in the labour force represents only 66 per cent of the total labour demand of 357,000 workers.

The younger age structure of the population in the Helsinki Region, compared with the rest of the country as a whole, is attributable to the surplus of people moving to the region from other areas, over many years. If this surplus drops – as we assumed in the moderate calculation – the conditions for job growth will be severely affected. The loss of labour force will grow increasingly and thereby more and more new jobs will become vacant, even in areas that people have traditionally moved away from in favour of Helsinki. The result is that people will no longer as much

Figure 2. Number of people leaving the labour force annually in the Helsinki Region in 2001–2015



as earlier need to move to the Helsinki Region for employment.

This means that better use must be made of the region's own labour resources, i.e. the activity rate and employment must be improved. For that to happen, new job openings must be created. A stumbling block in this matter is that unemployment in the Helsinki Region tends to be of a more structural and lasting kind than in the country as a whole. Increasing the employment ratio among young people is difficult because an increasing proportion of them are studying – and for longer.

Pension reform is encouraging older generations to remain in the labour force. At the same time, however, only a third continue working until the normal retirement age. To take a case in point, the employment ratio among 63 year olds in the Helsinki Region was only 19 per cent in the year 2000.

Job growth is conditional on a supply of labour. We may therefore find ourselves facing a new scenario, where the job growth we are accustomed to begins to slow or even turns into a job decrease.

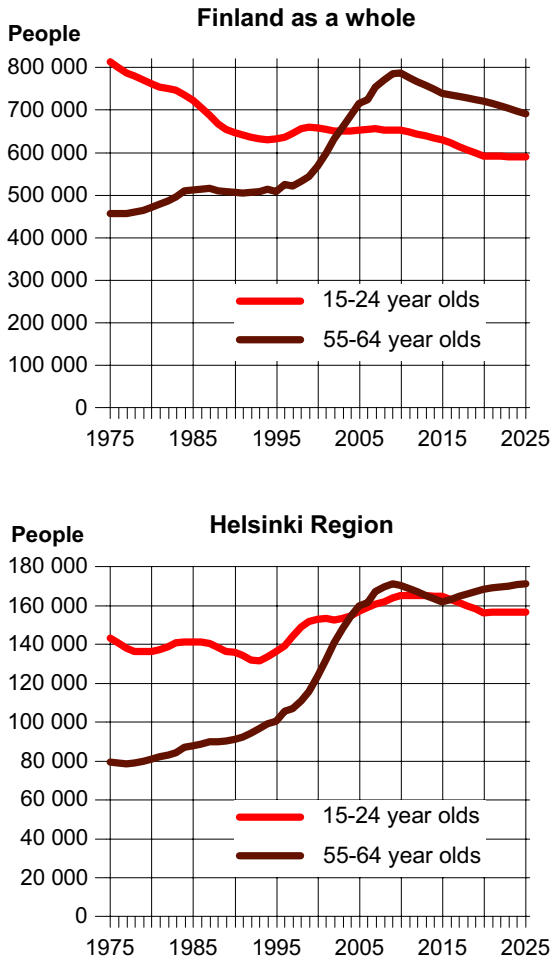
But the most important issue is still not the number of jobs available in the Helsinki Region. The main thing is being able to efficiently mobilise the region's existing labour resources. And a smaller supply of labour can in fact bring relief to unemployment.

When dimensioning the provision of training, we may be forced to guide the ever-decimated younger population's choice of training and profession in order to guarantee a sufficient amount of trained labour in future for the industrial sectors vital to the region's services and development.

Demographic shortage of labour

Nevertheless, the Helsinki Region clearly has a more favourable population structure than the country as a whole. In spite of this, starting in 2005 the region will, for the first time, have a larger number of 55–64 year olds leaving working life than 15–24 year olds entering it. But according to the forecast, the difference in size between the younger and the older population is not as alarming in the Helsinki Region as it is in the whole country. And according to the alternative presented in the moderate calculation, this tendency would not continue as strong over the coming years.

Figure 3. Demographic labour shortage in Finland and the Helsinki Region in 1975–2025



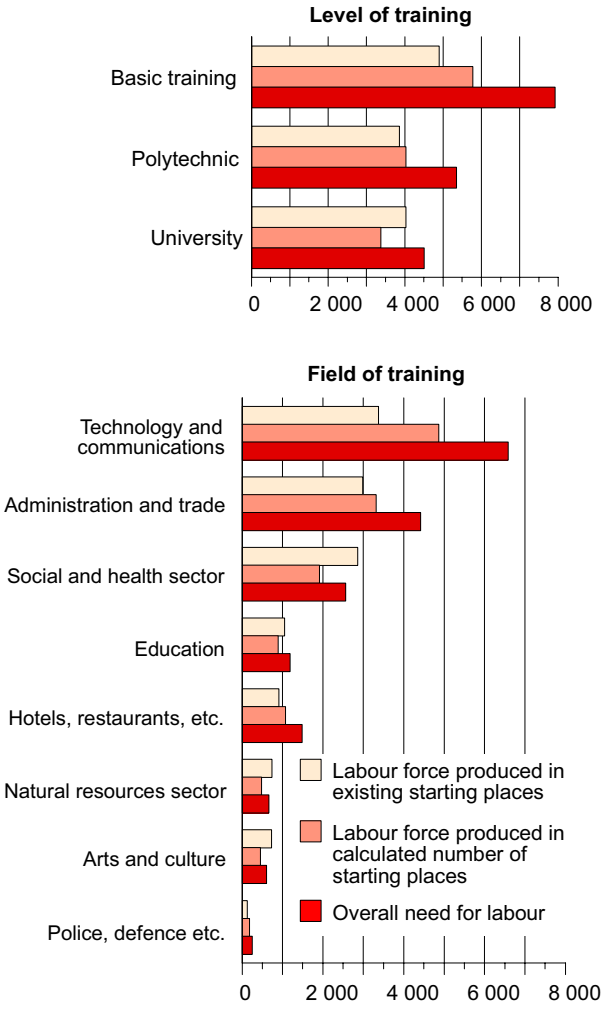
Labour demand not covered by young people

In 2004, there were 21,200 beginners' places available in training for young people in the Helsinki Region. Considering interrupted studies, overlapping training and the inter-regional movement of students there should be 23,600 places in order to cope with the coming generations' demand for vocational training. The latter figure is termed the calculated demand for places. The difference between the calculated demand for beginners' places and the number of existing places is termed the calculated deficit of beginners' places.

We have set up estimates of how both the existing places and the calculated demand would produce trained manpower for the labour market.

The estimated demand for training that we have derived from the needs of working life applies more than earlier to basic vocational training and also to some extent to polytechnic education. Instead, the calculated demand for university education would decrease somewhat compared with today's situation. The adjacent figure also compares the respective positions of the existing number of beginners' places and the estimated number in relation to the market's predicted labour demand. The labour demand exceeds the calculated demand for places by 35 per cent and the existing number of places by 45 per cent.

Figure 4. Output of trained labour, and the total demand for labour by level and field of training in the Helsinki Region on average in 2000–2015



The number of places for young people is consequently not enough to satisfy the needs of the labour market. At the university level, the market demand for new labour is closer to being filled, but, for example, the yearly demand of around 8,000 new workers with basic professional training is not nearly covered by the forecast 6,000 beginners' places, and even less by the existing 5,000 beginners' places. The expected demand for labour force with a polytechnic education exceeds today's existing places by 1,300–1,500 annually.

This map showing Helsinki in its new location on the Vironniemi (Estnäs) isthmus was drawn after a survey made in 1696. It is an important source of information on 17th century Helsinki, which was destroyed in 1713, during the Great Northern War (1700–1721).
Original map 155 x 134 cm, Swedish National Archives.

A Historical Atlas for Helsinki

Marjatta Hietala and Martti Helminen

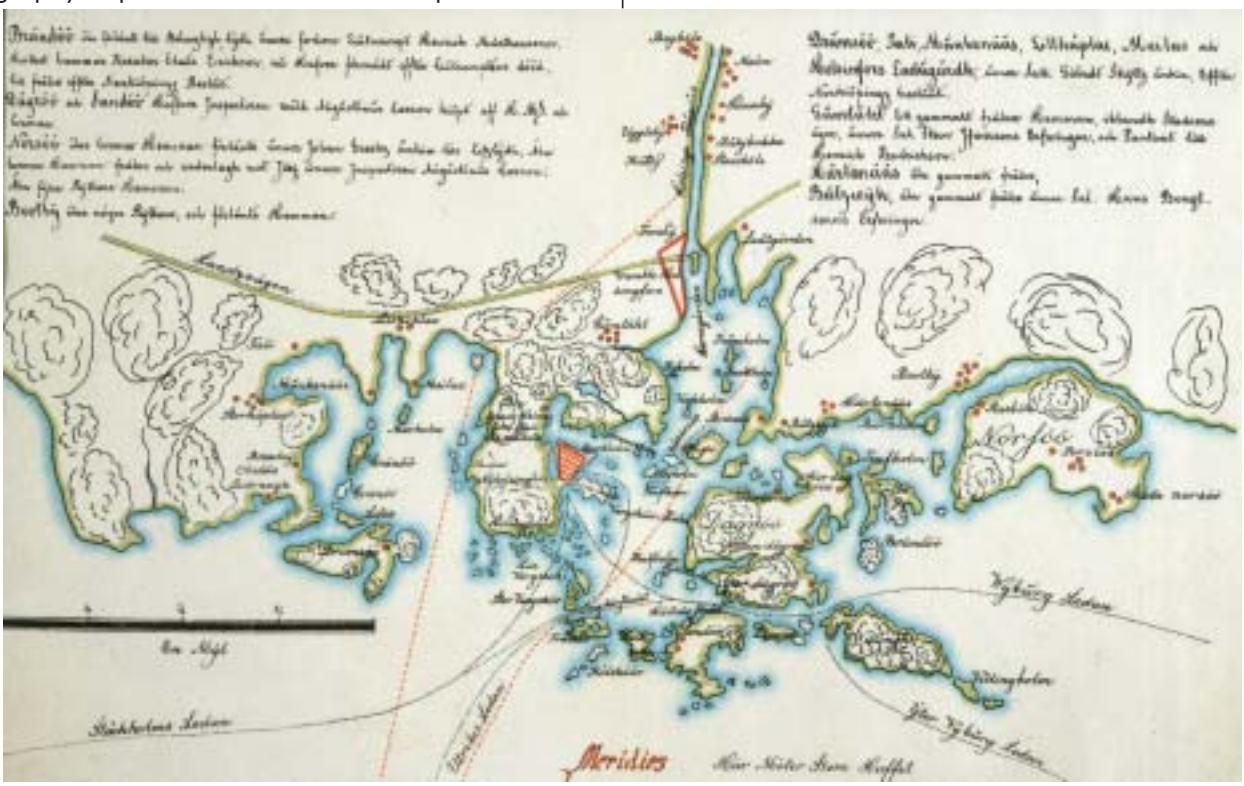
In 1878, Helsinki received a new town plan, drawn by C. Kjerrström. The map holds much information including properties, buildings (wooden or stone) and the rail yard. The track to St. Petersburg was completed in 1870. With industrialisation in the late 19th century, Helsinki developed rapidly: 23,000 inhabitants in 1875 and 80,000 in 1900. In this process, Finnish replaced Swedish as the language of the majority. The city also had Russian and German minorities.
This map published in 1878 won an award in Paris the same year. Helsinki City Museum and other archives.

A Historical Atlas for Helsinki has recently been compiled by the Helsinki City Archives in cooperation with other units of Helsinki City Urban Facts, the City Surveying Office, and The City Museum of Helsinki, to be published in 2006.

The Helsinki Atlas is part of a European project of national historic town atlases, which began in 1955 on the initiative of the International Commission for the History of Towns in the spirit of reconciliation in the aftermath of the devastation of European towns during the Second World War. The initial idea behind this European project was to foster a better understanding of our common European roots, and the means was to promote comparative studies of the topography of pre-modern towns in Europe.

Town atlases

The centrepiece of the historic town atlas is the town plan seen as a historical document. According to professors Anngret Simms from Dublin and Ferdinand Opll from Vienna, who have compiled a list of atlases of historical towns published in Europe and who share the chairmanship of the Editorial Group for Historic Town Atlases in the Commission for the History of Towns. The atlases are not only compiled for the academic sector to serve as source material for urban history: they can provide guidelines for planners, they can strengthen the local identity of city residents by showing them to the roots of their neighbourhood, and, very importantly too, the atlases are a gold mine for local historians.



A map from the mid-17th century shows where Helsinki was founded in 1550 and also the block structure of the town in its new location on the Vironniemi (Estnäs) isthmus. This plan was never applied. The map also shows the highway between Turku (Åbo) and Vyborg (Viipuri/Viborg) as well as sailing fairways and many local names.
Original map 30 x 40 cm, Swedish National Archives.

In 1713, during the Great Northern War (1700–1721), a large Russian fleet sailed to Helsinki. When the Russian marines, overwhelming in number, attacked the town, its defenders set fire to it and withdrew. The town was completely destroyed.

At first, the intention of the International Commission for the History of Towns was to give the atlases a uniform concept. The establishment of strict guidelines ensured that the different national atlases all cover important common ground. However, it was only at the meeting in Oxford in 1968 that a generally acceptable cartographic scheme was adopted.

According to this scheme, a Historical Atlas should include

1. A map from pre-industrial time (cadastral map) on a scale of 1:2500, preferably in colour and showing individual property plots.
2. A map from that same time showing the town's surroundings on a scale somewhere between 1:25 000 and 1:100 000.
3. A modern map of the town on the scale of 1:25 000.

A fourth map could be an interpretative map, preferably different than, yet based on, the above-mentioned pre-industrial map and showing the topographical development of the town, on the scale of 1:5000 or 1:2500.

The first atlas of this conception was issued in Great Britain in 1969. It was followed by the first volumes of the Rheinischer Städteatlas and the Deutscher Städteatlas. By 1998, a total of 312 atlases (Anngret Simms – Ferdinand Oppl, Historic Town Atlases. Urban History through maps) had been published, and today the number is close to 400. In the 1990s, Polish and Czech members of the Commission published many atlases. From Scandinavian towns there are 11 atlases altogether, of which four from Denmark, three from Finland, one from Iceland (the Atlas of Reykjavik) and three Atlases from Sweden, but none yet from Norway.

After the Peace of Uusikaupunki (Nystad) in 1721, Helsinki was rebuilt again. The construction of the fortress Viapori (Sveaborg, today also Suomenlinna), which started in 1748, was a strong impetus for Helsinki's growth and prosperity. This hand-drawn map by Carl P. Hagström dates back to 1776–77. Helsinki City Museum.

After being part of Sweden, Finland became an autonomous Grand Duchy of the Russian Empire in 1809, after a war between Sweden and Russia. Helsinki became capital of the Grand Duchy in 1812. A new town plan was immediately drawn up, and a new city was built up again.
Town plans for Helsinki can be found in several archives including the City Archives of Helsinki.

It should be noted that there are great differences of size between European town atlases. While many French atlases are just a few pages thick, Italian atlases can be very informative, and Belgian atlases may have a distinct character of their own. Certain atlases, among which some in Italy, have been published in digital form, and this trend seems to continue.

The main function of a town atlas is to describe the historical development of the town by means of maps, statistical tables and diagrams, as well as texts. The main content in all European Atlases features historical town plans and topographical maps. The location of important services and institutions such as churches, monasteries, town halls, marketplaces, and hospitals in different periods are presented.

The Helsinki Atlas

In the early stages of our work, we consulted Professor Anngret Simms especially, because we found the town atlases compiled in Ireland under her direction were excellent. However, we also wanted to penetrate deeper and study finer details the way German geographer Dietrich Denecke has done for German cities. Wege der historischen Geographie und Kulturlandschaftsforschung. Ausgewählte Beiträge von Dietrich Denecke, Hrsg. von Klaus Fehn und Anngret Simms, Stuttgart 2005

Helsinki (founded only in 1550) is younger than the majority of European cities. In central and southern Europe the main emphasis of historical atlases has lain on the Middle Ages, but in Helsinki, the situation is different. In the Middle Ages the area today covered by the city consisted of only small villages in the Helsinge parish, for which no town plans had been made, nor many maps drawn. For this reason the Helsinki Atlas starts with later centuries.

For the thematic maps of the Helsinki Atlas, we collected material not only on public services but on private services, too, such as grocery stores, bakeries and printing houses in certain city blocks for three cross section years (1850, 1900, 1939). This type of analysis cannot be found in most other atlases, where the main focus lies on earlier periods, or where the size of the city is too large to allow this kind of analysis.

We chose Aleksanterinkatu, the main business street of Helsinki, to serve as the case target of a micro analysis of the historical development of a street. The analysis concerned changes over time in its industrial structure, demographic structure and property ownership. We studied Aleksanterinkatu in the years 1850, 1900, 1939, 1945, 1970, 2000.

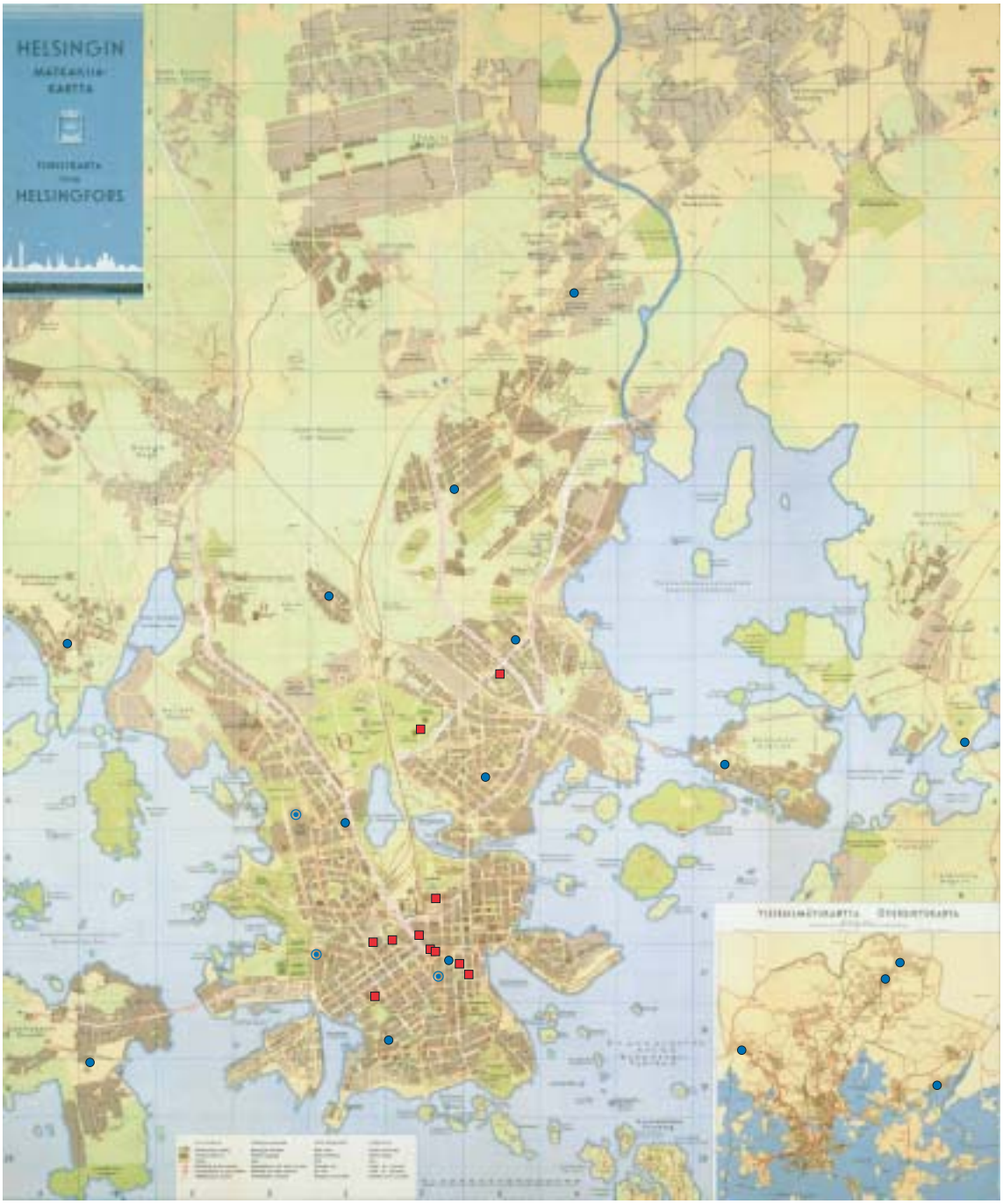
This street has had a central position in the history of Helsinki. In the town plans of this fairly young city, it has been on the same place since the mid 17th cen-

The historical atlas of Helsinki shows the number and location of schools, hospitals, libraries, etc. in certain cross-section years. This map shows kindergartens in Helsinki in 1900: those for Finnish- and Swedish-speaking children as well as three German, two French and one Russian-language kindergarten.
Map: Helsinki City Archives.

tury, the time when Helsinki was moved to its present location.

Through the changes in property ownership, population structure and trade structure, we have attempted to explain the tremendous change that has taken place in the heart of Helsinki over the last 150 years. This change has been influenced not least by physical manipulation of the area, such as the filling of the shallow cove Kluuvinlahti and the construction of the Main Railway Station.

With the construction of the department stores Stockmann and Tallberg in the western end of Aleksanterinkatu, the point of gravity of the commercial centre of Helsinki moved westwards. And whereas in 1850, as many as 1,225 people lived in the street, only 37 did in 1970. In 2000, only ten people had Aleksanterinkatu as their home address.



Thematic cross-section map (1950) from the Helsinki Atlas. Theatres (marked in red) and the city's own public libraries. The map also shows the city's libraries in hospitals and other public service institutions. In 1950, Helsinki had 370,000 inhabitants. With the huge incorporations of adjacent land areas in 1946, the area of the city grew manifold, and at the same time, when evacuees from the areas ceded to the Soviet Union were resettled, tens of thousands of former Vyborg (Viipuri/Viborg) citizens and other evacuees settled in Helsinki.
Map: Helsinki City Archives.

It works both ways

Harry Schulman and Magnus Gräsbeck

"It has always been known that a university degree alone cannot give all the professional skills required in working life. And, with rapid changes in the needs of working life, an ideology of continuous education was born, a need for people in working life to update their academic education."

These words by former Helsinki University Chancellor and Rector Olli Lehto were a comment on the birth of a partnership between the University of Helsinki and the City of Helsinki. The interview was made for one of the products spawned by this partnership, a report published by the city, more precisely by Helsinki City Urban Facts, and based on a master's thesis at the university (Aniluoto 2004, 30).

The founding in 1987 of a commission for "developing and coordinating cooperation between the city and the university and for contributing to the development of tertiary education and research in Helsinki" (Helsinki City Board 11 May 1987, §2263 [transl.]) was a decisive step towards a partnership that today has been materialised in many ways.

This partnership has resulted in increased mutual understanding and respect between the two parties. The greater metropolitan region of Helsinki is today seen as a whole, for the development of which it is wise to mobilise all the resources available regardless of organisational or municipal boundaries. Network cooperation has increased both in terms of actors and areas and evolved into something of a network consortium, where the importance of cooperation is becoming more and more obvious.

Obviously, such cooperation and consensus are needed today in response to the global scramble for success between urban regions. It is becoming common knowledge that education, research and development are the keys to success of old industrial regions in the western world.

Practice

The city has been active in strengthening the knowledge and skills and innovation potential of the region in several concrete ways, including establishing the think-tank Culminatum Ltd. (see Eero Holstila's article on page **??**) in 1995 and taking up research collaboration with the Helsinki University of Technology over such issues as ageing residents, the quality of construction, environment-friendly technologies and Helsinki's international competitiveness in the framework of the Innovative City programme, which was launched in 2001 to increase the dialogue and R&D cooperation between the city and Helsinki University of Technology. During the period 2001–2005, fund-

ing for the programme was split between the city and the University of Technology.

A major materialisation of knowledge-and-skills oriented cooperation with the University of Helsinki was the establishment of six professorships in urban studies, namely those of urban ecology, economics, geography, history, social policy and sociology respectively, with a term of office up until 2004. The professorships were originally funded by the University of Helsinki, the City of Helsinki and the Ministry of Education, but in 2003, the cities of Espoo, Vantaa and Lahti and the Helsinki University of Technology joined in, too.

Helsinki City Urban Facts has been a grateful beneficiary and a proud presenter of many of their findings over the years. Helsinki Quarterly and its Finnish-Swedish language equivalent Kvartti has featured several articles on the scientific and educational cooperation between the city and the university.

At a concrete level, autumn 2005 saw another introductory series of lectures on the theme "aspects on the city and urban space". The lectures introduce some basic concepts of multidisciplinary urban research and approaches. Lectures have been held by the urban research professors and by experts from the various municipalities of the Helsinki Region.

More professorships

In 2004, a decision was made by the university and the city to make some of the chairs permanent and to establish a further three professorships, i.e. those in European metropolitan planning, in urban ecosystems and in urban technological systems. The cities of Espoo, Vantaa and Lahti were also involved in the financing. Thus, the cities, universities and the ministry now together fund nine professorships of urban studies ranging from the humanities over social sciences to natural science and technology.

These steps were taken within the framework of a newly established Network for Urban Studies, which seeks to develop cooperation in urban research in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. Seven organisations are involved in the network project: the University of Helsinki, Helsinki University of Technology, four cities – Espoo, Helsinki, Lahti and Vantaa – and the Ministry of Education.

A Coordination Team appointed by the Rector of the University of Helsinki is responsible for the project management. The team has, among other things, prepared the Urban Studies Programme of the university.

New: a research programme for the whole region

A joint research programme for the entire metropolitan region during the project was issued in June 2005. Its initial version was called Muuttuva kaupunki – The Changing City, and it represents a common view among its participants of which phenomena in Helsinki's metropolitan region should be supported. Special attention has been paid to such topics in academic and applied research that also respond to the information needs of the public administration.

The research programme provides a basis for a political debate on changes in cities and the reasons for these changes. It thus supports not only local issues but the development of Finnish urban policy more comprehensively, too, and an understanding of this policy as a part of globalisation and the general change in European metropolitan regions.

The research programme has been drawn up by the Coordination Team in charge of managing the whole professorship model and representing all the financiers. In the preparatory work on the programme, which began in spring 2004, several parties were heard including the cities involved, which actively participated in the definition of focal points for the programme. The idea is that the programme should provide an orientation in the re-

search themes presented by the cities also in a way which would bring it additional resources from, for example, programmes funded by the European Union, national finance channels or university capacity for academic dissertations.

The programme is divided into two parts, the first of which includes strategic information common to Helsinki's entire metropolitan region grouped into five focal areas, namely 1) globalisation and the national importance of metropolitan regions, 2) the economy and governance of cities and metropolitan regions, 3) the tensions of welfare, 4) urban environment and its planning, 5) the perceived city and urban culture.

Besides recognising and identifying these general themes, the objective was also to target research and education in a more concrete manner. The cities of the network each presented a neighbourhood or two where substantial development projects are underway. The idea is to use these "urban laboratories" to visualise the multi-dimensionality of the metropolitan region and make it the target of advanced research. The laboratory metaphor is to show that the interest of these neighbourhoods lies in their topicality: the housing and working environment is currently changing, and today is the time to produce relevant findings about it. These neighbourhoods are pioneers, and the experimental application of new ideas and practices is taking place in the everyday life of residents, public bodies and the business community.

International Advisory board

An International Advisory Board has been established for the regional research network to ensure a high international profile. Its tasks include evaluating the urban studies conducted in the Helsinki Region as well as the work of the urban studies professors, and creating international contacts. In late autumn 2005, the advisory board, chaired by Professor Harri Andersson of the University of Turku, was preparing to convene for the first time.

The other members of the Advisory Board are Professor Alessandro Balducci of the Department of Architecture and Planning at Milan Polytechnic, Professor Jürgen Breuste of the Institute for Geography and Geoinformatics at the University of Salzburg, Professor Patrick Le Galés of the CEVIPOF – Laboratoire de recherche Sciences-po, Paris, and Professor Doreen Massey of the Open University, London.

EUKN - European Urban Knowledge Network

Helsinki is also involved in the European Urban Knowledge Network, a European Union project to build channels between producers (including research institutes and ministries) and users of urban knowledge among major European cities. As a concrete result of the EUKN's work, an Internet database on information needs and practices in cities is being set up. The target group are, above all, urban policy makers and representatives of the urban research community.

The objective of the EUKN is to help Member States, cities and urban actors find relevant knowledge in urban issues. The network aims to strengthen urban policy and to make cities in Europe more viable through the exchange of knowledge. The knowledge provided addresses a wide range of themes from the perspective of urban policy. The EUKN offers best and proven-practices, policy documents and research documents.

The EUKN project engages 15 European countries. Each has a "focal point" responsible for the work in their respective countries and functioning as a link outwards. In Finland, Helsinki City Urban Facts has been commissioned by the Ministry of the Interior to assume the function of a National Focal Point. The EUKN is a pilot project for 2005–2006, possibly to be extended after 2007.

On the occasion of the kick-off conference of the Finland EUKN sub network on 26 August 2005 in Helsinki, various institutes, associations, local authorities and scientists already declared their willingness to participate in the Network and to provide input. The national Finnish network has been built up together with The Ministry of Interior, the 15 largest cities of Finland, reseach institutes and other urban policy related organisations.

At this stage, the site features the following six main themes: Housing, Infrastructure & Transport, Urban Environment, Social Inclusion and Integration, Economy and Employment, Safety and Security.

Sources:

EUKN Finnish FOCAL POINT (sub network), Helsinki City Urban Facts. Contact person Minna Salorinne.

Aniluoto, Arto: Helsingin kaupungin ja Helsingin yliopiston yhteistyön kehittyminen kumppanuudeksi. Helsinki City Urban Facts, Research Overviews 2004/5. Helsinki 2004.

Helsinki City Research Programme. Www.hel2.fi/tietokeskus/kaupunkitutkimus/tutkimusohjelma.html

Cities in Transition. www.valt.helsinki.fi/blogs/kaupunkitutkimus/english/Cities%20in%20Transition

Landlord Helsinki surveys opinions among tenants

One dwelling in five owned by the city

In December 2004, there were just over 312,000 dwellings in Helsinki, with over half a million inhabitants altogether. Of these dwellings, 57,200 are owned by the City of Helsinki, which is landlord to over 100,000 inhabitants. This automatically makes the city an important actor in local housing policy, especially since it also owns considerable land areas and has a statutory planning monopoly.

Inhabitant survey

In spring 2005, a questionnaire was sent to a random sample of 12,000 households of city tenants, The questionnaire contained questions on management, maintenance and repair, cleaning and general atmosphere in the city-owned local authority houses, also referred to as council houses. A similar survey was last conducted in late 2001.

After one letter of reminder, a total of 7,177 households responded, i.e. 60 per cent. This response rate was slightly lower than last time. The most active respondents were women, elderly people and those who had lived in their flats for many years.

Satisfaction with flats and houses

On the whole, local authority housing tenants are usually quite satisfied with their homes and houses. These houses have been built with state-subsidised financing based the arava model. Over three-quarters of respondents were pleased or very pleased with their flats and felt comfortable or very comfortable about living in their homes. Only one in ten were displeased or very displeased with their flat and felt uncomfortable or very much so about living in their homes. An almost identical result was obtained in the previous survey in 2001.

According to respondents, the services provided by the city to its tenants are good. In terms of housing management and cleaning, four in five were at least tolerably satisfied. Maintenance and repair was considered at least satisfactory by three-quarters – passable or bad by one-fifth. There are, however, considerable differences between local authority housing in terms of some forms of service.

Room for improvement

Many local authority tenants (39 per cent of respondents) were displeased with the rent of their dwllings. In many cases, an uncertain livelihood and recent rent hikes explain this dissatisfaction. Low interest rates on housing loans have recently made rented housing less competitive compared with owner-occupied housing.

Some council houses show room for improvement in terms of more peace and quiet. Around one respondent in five reported on vandalism and graffiti, and one in six on noise from neighbours. One in ten had noticed the use or sales of drugs. Four in five felt their home and yard were safe. The situation was roughly the same in 2001.

A larger analysis of the questionnaire and local authority tenancy is being prepared at Helsinki City Urban facts, under the name of Asumisviihtyvyys ja palvelut Helsingin kaupungin vuokrataloissa (appr. How do you like being a local authority tenant?), to be completed in autumn 2006.

For more details:

Senior Researcher Erkki Korhonen. Helsinki City Urban Facts.

Environmental attitudes among Helsinki residents

Environmental attitudes among Helsinki residents have been surveyed regularly since 1989 by Helsinki City Urban Facts and Helsinki City Environmental Centre, and recently, a fourth survey has been issued. Some questions have remained the same while others, such as those on recycling, have been updated and expanded over the years.

As our analysis proceeded, we started to see that the main attitude gauges had settled around the same values as in 2000. Despite frequent talks about global warming, concerns about the environment do not seem to have increased. Instead, demands for reduced unemployment have gained more support, regardless of educational bracket and most of all in the lowest one.

Our survey allowed a comparison with a material collected 33 years ago, where the importance of certain matters was established using a so-called budgeting method. The same technique was applied now. This time, environmental issues had increased their share of the budget to 15 per cent, versus 13 back then 33 years ago. Whereas in 1972, an average of 27 per cent of the imaginary budget had been earmarked for housing, the figure was only 14 per cent in 2005. Creating new jobs and social and health care services had come along instead. It is obvious that marked changes have taken place in welfare factors in Helsinki.

A typology of various kinds of environmental behaviour was also made. The findings are worth noting. Obviously, the "consistently aware", i.e. those who think and act the same way, or even the "nonchalant", i.e. those who drive to work and do not recycle, are not that interesting, but those groups are that report other things are more important than the environment and yet recycle regularly and try to make environment-friendly choices as consumers.

We might imagine that for these people, responsibility for the environment has become routine in the same way as people observe traffic regulations. This type of people is more common among men than women.

Another inconsistent group are, of course, those who report they have a favourable attitude towards environmental care but who do not practice what they preach. This type is more common among women and it is also one of the reasons why women on the whole report higher personal awareness of the environment. It may be a matter of gender-related differences in expression, differences that our way of formulating the questions cannot account for.

Our most prominent finding, however, was that people cannot be divided into distinct categories. Only a quarter or a fifth can be directly associated with our pre-set categories, the vast majority being somewhere in between. On the whole, of course, people consume and recycle in a fairly environmentally aware way, but they are seldom fully consistent. While thoughts about environmental care are very important, people may also feel that economic growth has to be ensured. These people form the majority of Helsinki residents who go to work and consume in the city.

Source:

(Markku Lankinen: Ympäristöasenteet ja ympäristökäyttäytyminen
Helsingissä vuonna 2005. Helsingin kaupungin tietokeskus, Tutkimuksia 2005:5
Environmental attitudes and behaviour in Helsinki 2005 (Summary in English)

Eurocult21 studies the cultural policy of cities

From March 2003 until March 2005, Helsinki City Cultural Office and the Department of Social Policy of the University of Helsinki participated in the Eurocult21 project to collect information on and study the cultural policies of cities and the structure of their arts and cultural administration. A total of 19 European cities and seven research centres and universities participated in this project financed by the DG Research of the European Commission.

The first important event of the project, the Eurocult21 Training Event was held in Helsinki in June 2003, and the project was completed in Barcelona with the Final Event in March 2005. The cooperation between officials and researchers in the field of arts and culture, a dialogue in practice and theory, brought about the issue of three publications, namely the Eurocult21 Compendium, a comprehensive overview of the priorities, administrative structures and working principles of cultural administrators in the Eurocult21 cities, the Eurocult21 Stories, a compilation of European urban narratives from the arts sector, and the Eurocult21 Integrated Report, an analysis made by researchers drawing on the aforementioned two publications and other material collected by the project.

The cultural policy of cities was studied not only from a European perspective: issues related to national cultural policy were discussed, too. For the Finnish Eurocult21 Seminar, the book Kaupunkien kulttuuripolitiikka lähikuvassa (A close-up of cities' cultural policies) was compiled outlining the cultural profiles of eight larger Finnish cities.

For more information on the project and all the publications and other document, please consult http://www.eurocult21.org/

Satu Silvanto, Project Resercher, Helsinki City Urban Facts

Arts and culture for the citizens

The three local cultural centres of Helsinki, i.e. Stoa in eastern Helsinki, Kanneltalo in Kannelmäki and Malmitalo in Malmi, annually receive hundreds of thousands visitors from Helsinki and the rest of the region. In Stoa alone, over 600,000 visits were recorded in 2004. Among visitors, over 85 per cent think their own centre is an important local meeting place and almost 85 per cent think it provides important services. The centres have very successfully attracted immigrants, too. Visiting the library is the most common reason for coming to the centres, but the services of the cultural authorities, the adult education and other actors are also praised by visitors.

The local cultural centres are important for professional artists as well, providing them with high-class performance venues at a reasonable price. Malmitalo cooperates regularly with the Helsinki Artists Association, Kanneltalo with the Sibelius Academy, for example, and Stoa has an important position in the entire Finnish sector of contemporary dance.

Arts and culture education for children is an important part of the activities of the centres, which try to import high class art and culture to the area and to create opportunities for artistic expression for the inhabitants, adults included. Thus the ideals of cultural democracy and a democratisation of arts and culture that prevailed when the cultural centres were first planned in the 1970s are still present in their activity.

The construction of these cultural centres required large investments and a strong political will. The debate on cultural policy today stresses accessibility and pluralism.

The articles in the book Kaupunkilaisten kulttuurikeskus – tarkastelussa Stoa, Kanneltalo ja Malmitalo (Cultural centres for urban citizens. Focusing on Stoa, Kanneltalo and Malmitalo) shows that these investments were not made in vain. The centres also have a beneficial effect on the public image of their neighbourhoods.

The book was published jointly by the Helsinki City Urban Facts and the Helsinki City Cultural Office. It was edited by Satu Silvanto, Maaria Linko, Vesa Keskinen and Timo Cantell. The writers, over 20 of them, include researchers, artists and workers at the cultural centres. The pictures were taken by Iiris Illukka. A summary in English can be read at . http://www.hel.fi/tietokeskus/julkaisut/pdf/CulturalCentres_summary.pdf

Sources:

Satu Silvanto, Maaria Linko, Vesa Keskinen, Timo Cantell (toim.): Kaupunkilaisten kulttuurikeskus – tarkastelussa Stoa, Kanneltalo ja Malmitalo. Helsingin kaupungin tietokeskus ja Helsingin kaupungin kulttuuriasiainkeskus. http://www.hel.fi/tietokeskus and http://kulttuuri.hel.fi/index_fi.html

Silvanto, Satu; Linko, Maaria; Keskinen, Vesa; Cantell, Timo (eds.) 2005. Cultural Centres for Urban Citizens. Focusing on Stoa, Kanneltalo and Malmitalo. Helsinki: City of Helsinki Urban Facts Centre and City of Helsinki Cultural Office. (English summary)

Urban policy programmes for Helsinki Metropolitan Area in 2002–2004 and 2005–2007

The urban policy programme "Competence and cohesion 2002–2004" for the Helsinki Metropolitan Area has been implemented since 2002. The programme was a local initiative to develop the region; to strengthen its competitiveness, knowledge basis and civic participation. A second urban policy programme period, for 2005–2007, is currently underway. The programme implementation is coordinated by Urban Facts.

This programme process was started in late 2000 by the Mayors of the four cities in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, i.e. Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Kauniainen. During the first stage of the programme in 2002–2004, joint development projects were launched and cooperation procedures implemented among the four cities in the region. The project portfolio then included 20 projects, with a total budget of euros 2.1 million. The projects were mostly research and development projects or pilot projects to study possibilities for further actions. The four cities provided 50 per cent of the basic funding. The Ministry of the Interior supported the programme by providing the remaining 50 per cent of its funding.

The purpose of the urban programme was to complement ongoing urban policy actions and, especially, strengthen regional cooperation. The programme was planned using the strategy map method. The strategy map aims to illustrate major challenges of the region in visual form. It can be used as a combined tool to analyse challenges, to discuss strategic options and later to evaluate actions.

The urban policy programme for the Helsinki Metropolitan Area had three lines of action:

- To strengthen a multi-dimensional knowledge base for high competence
- The Learning Metropolitan Region programme – to strengthen individual competence by social means
- To strengthen social inclusion, participation and social cohesion

The results of the Urban Programme include, for example, intensified cooperation between city departments in project areas, intensified cooperation between the universities of Helsinki and Tallinn, research on the future demand for labour and education in the region, intensified cooperation between enterprises and schools, internet services for immigrants (www.selma-net.fi), internet learning platform for teachers (http://tipo.edu.hel.fi) and a plan for new organisation to market Helsinki Region abroad. Information and methods concerning neighbourhood development projects in participating cities were exchanged. A net publication on arts and culture (www.skenet.fi) was extended beyond Helsinki to cover the whole Metropolitan Area. Support services for families and parents were developed and exchanged regionally in a project implemented by the Centre of Expertise on Social Welfare in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, Socca (www.socca.fi).

The second urban policy programme period for 2005–2007 includes three priorities of a common vision and strategy for the Helsinki Metropolitan Area (see: www.hel.fi/pks-neuvottelukunta). Six new projects have been launched in 2005 and some more will start in 2006. In the strategic area of joint measures to develop welfare and services, for example, there is a project to develop innovations to help elderly people stay longer in their own homes. In the strategic area of improving competitiveness there are measures aimed at helping foreign students, specialists and researchers to work and study in Helsinki region. The aim is to provide regional services for work permits, housing, health and social services so that clients would not have to know a lot of details about municipal borders and departments.

Marko Karvinen, Project Manager,
Helsinki City Urban Facts.

June 2006: COMPETE conference on "Knowledge Economy and Innovation" in Helsinki

Helsinki City Urban Facts is a partner in the new EU-project COMPETE, a dynamic European Network of Cities and city-regions established with the aim of sharing experience and knowledge on how to raise the profile and performance of major regional cities to enable them to fulfil their performance as drivers of urban renaissance and economic competitiveness.

Supported through European INTERREG IIIC funding, the project started in October 2004 and will end in October 2007. The seven network partner cities are Barcelona, Dortmund, Helsinki, Lyon, Munich, Rotterdam and Sheffield. Among these, Sheffield plays the role of lead partner for the project and provides linkages with the other seven English core cities and the UK's Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), which provides national government level sponsorship of the project.

Drawing on the results of the Competitive European Cities Report (Michael Parkinson et al. London 2004), the partners will work together sharing experience and best practice on five key drivers relevant to the Lisbon Competitiveness Agenda. These include: the knowledge economy and innovation; human capital and supporting a skilled workforce; city-region connectivity through good transport and ICT infrastructure; quality of life and cultural development to support city renaissance; and governance and the importance of strategic capacity to implement long-term development of cities.

Project activities will include (1) a programme of events across Europe, (2) an on-line Knowledge Resource Centre and (3) communication and dissemination of project activities and findings.

Two conferences have already been held. In Sheffield on 11–13 May 2005, the theme was "The Role of Public Private Partnerships in Competitive European City Regions", and in Dortmund, on 28-30 September 2005, it was "Human Resources – Motor of City Region Competitiveness".

The next forthcoming event is in Barcelona from 15th to 17th March 2006 under the title "Creative Industries", and on 8-9 June, Helsinki City Urban Facts will arrange the conference "Knowledge Economy and Innovation" in Helsinki.

The project's evidence base is being compiled through the development of an online Knowledge Resource Centre led by the European Institute for Urban Affairs and including a wide range of useful and detailed information such as: (1) the sharing of benchmarking data from partner cities and their respective city regions, (2) city and city-regional profiles, (3) best practice case studies, (4) event details, (5) project publications and (6) news and updates.

The Knowledge Resource Centre at www.compete-eu.org will be opened in early 2006.

Marko Karvinen, Project Manager,
Helsinki City Urban Facts.

WRITERS

LEILA LANKINEN is head of the Statistics and Information Service Section of Helsinki City Urban Facts.

SINI ASKELO is a senior actuary at the Statistics and Information Service Section of Helsinki City Urban Facts.

TIMO ÄIKÄS is an actuary at the Statistics and Information Service Section of Helsinki City Urban Facts.

MATS NYLUND is a researcher at the Urban Research Section of Helsinki City Urban Facts.

EERO HOLSTILA is back again as the CEO of Helsinki City Urban Facts after four years at the helm of Culminatum Ltd., a centre of expertise for the Helsinki Region.

SEPPO MONTÉN, a senior researcher at Helsinki City Urban Facts, is on job rotation at the Finnish National Board of Education with the task of developing a methodology for forecasting education and labour needs.

MARJATTA HIETALA Marjatta Hietala is an Academy Professor of the Academy of Finland and a Professor of General History at the Department of History at the University of Tampere.

MARTTI HELMINEN is a researcher at the Helsinki City Archives, a section of Helsinki City Urban Facts.

HARRY SCHULMAN is a research professor and head of the Urban Research Unit of Helsinki City Urban Facts.

MAGNUS GGRÄSBECK is the translator of Helsinki City Urban Facts and the editor of Helsinki Quarterly.

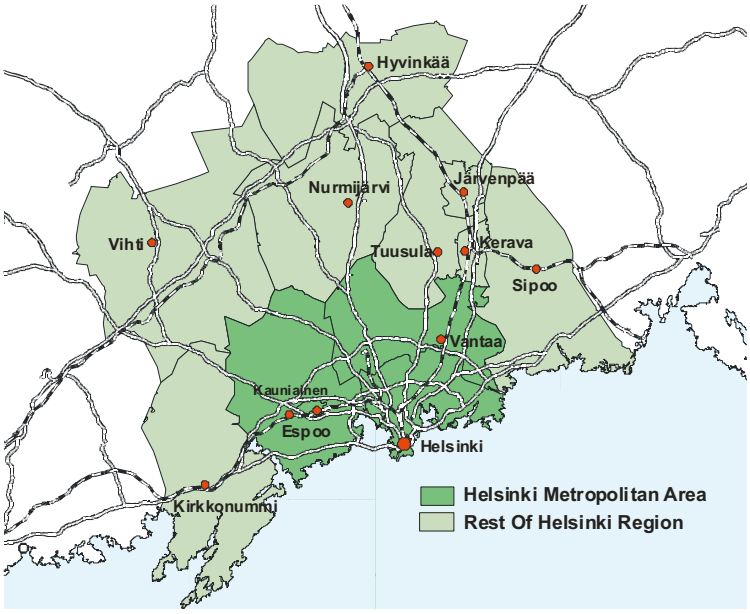
Metropolises lead economic growth in Europe

A comparative overview of the economy of European metropolises with an emphasis on the knowledge economy is presented on the next few pages. The study covers 27 countries in western and central Europe. All 25 EU countries are included and, in addition, Norway and Switzerland. The set of metropolises consists of 45 urban areas from these countries.

Sources: ERECO. 2005. European Regional Prospects. Analysis and Forecasts to 2009. The European Economic Research Consortium (ERECO) and Cambridge Econometrics.

Statistics 2005:23. Helsinki Regional Economy. A Dynamic City in the European Urban Network

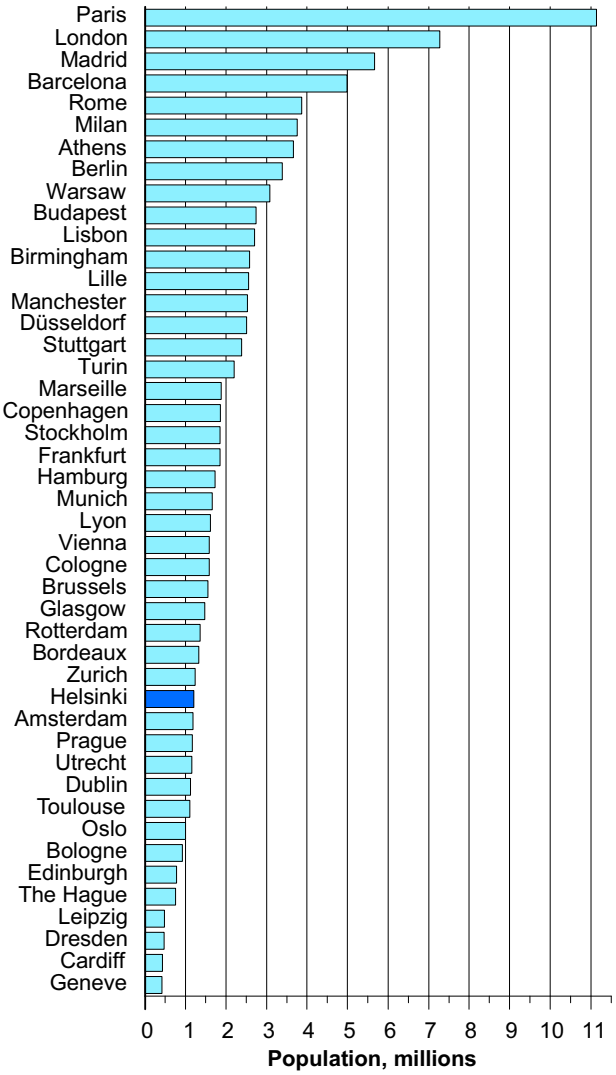
More information: Juha Suokas, Senior Statistician, e-mail: juha.suokas@hel.fi



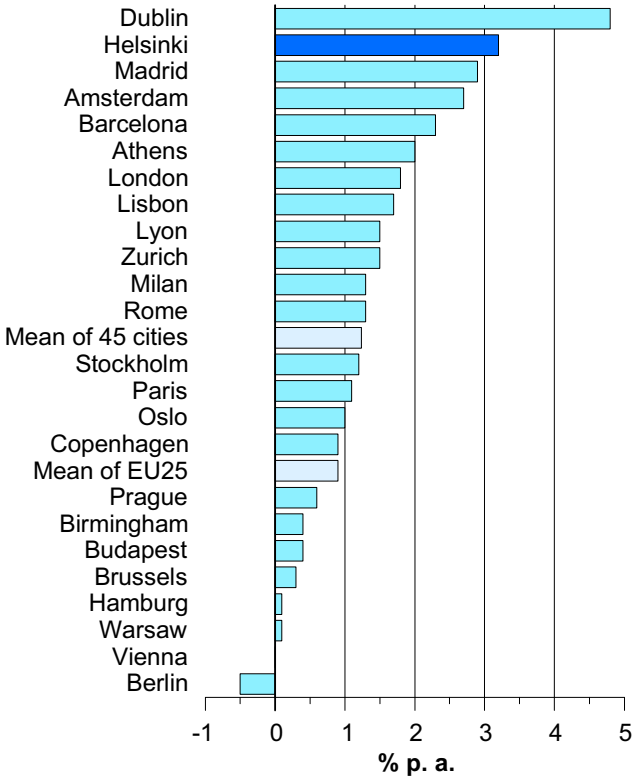
Helsinki is the only metropolis in Finland. The population of the Helsinki Region is 1.2 million, there are 700 000 jobs in the region and the value of the gross value added (GVA) is approximately 40 billion euros. In other words, Helsinki's share of the national population is 23% and it accounts for 30% of the jobs and 34% of Finnish GVA. Compared with the rest of the country, the economy of Helsinki is firmly based on business and financial services, trade and logistics, culture and leisure services, research and development (R&D), high technology manufacturing and services, higher education and national administration.

Compared with other European metropolises, Helsinki is a modern and dynamic city. As in most other metropolises, the service sector is the dominant industry. The share of the public sector is at average European metropolis level but lower than in the other Nordic capitals. In the market services sector, Helsinki specialises predominantly in transport and communication. The share of manufacturing is also approximately the same as in metropolises on average but clearly lower than in Finland and in European countries as a whole. In manufacturing, Helsinki particularly specialises in electronics and the graphics industry. With the exception of machinery industry and food processing, the share of traditional heavy manufacturing is marginal.

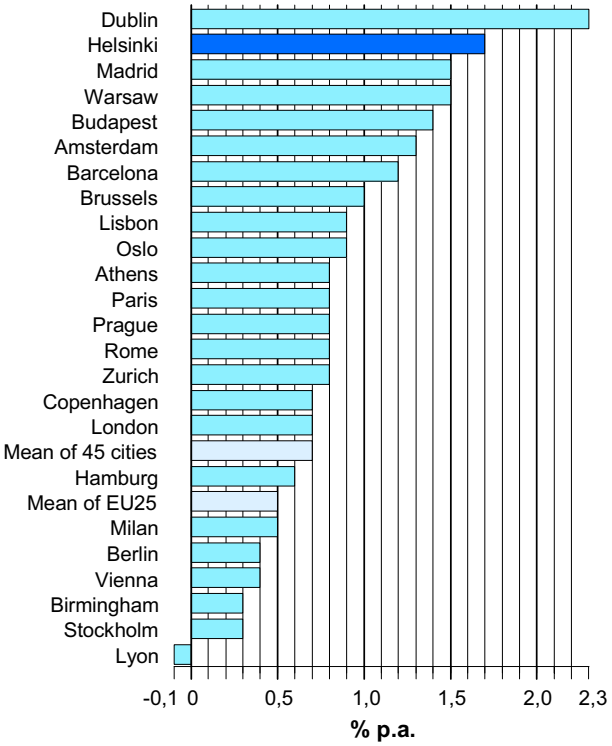
The population of European metropolises in 2003



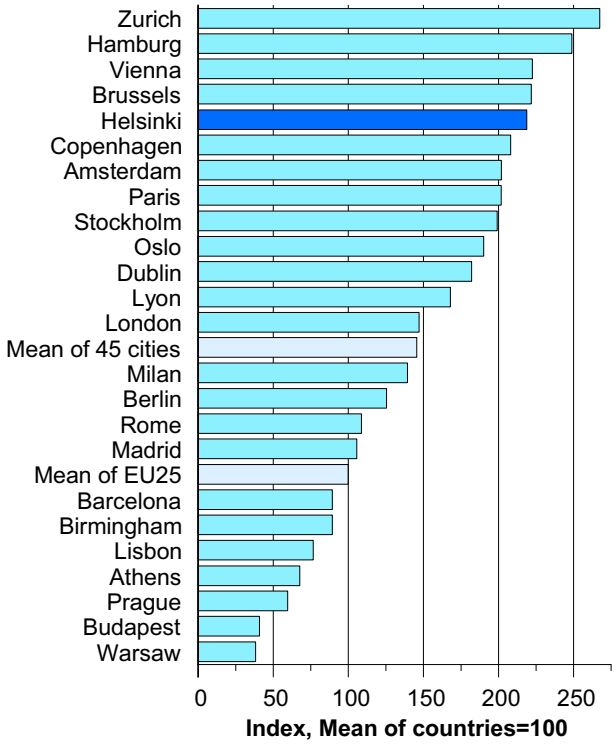
Employment growth in selected European metropolises in 1995-2003



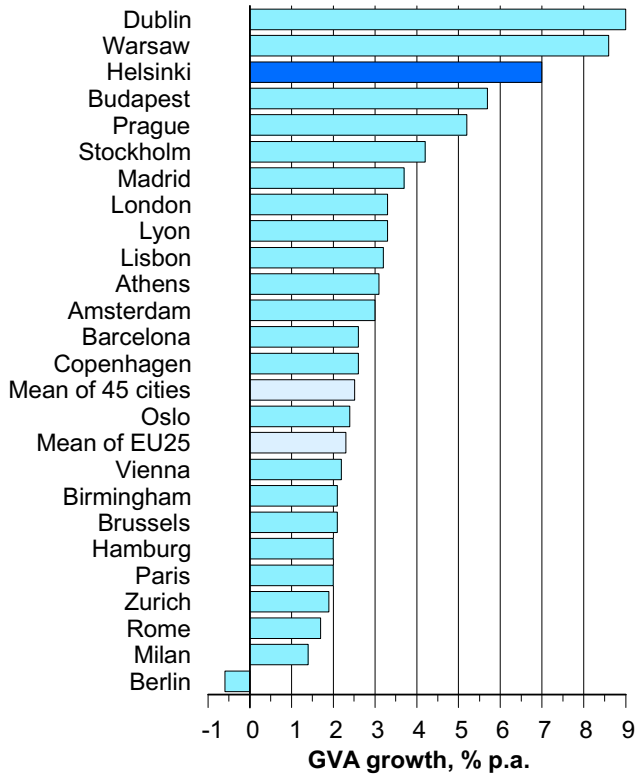
The forecast for employment growth in selected European metropolises in 2004–2009



Gross Value Added (euros) per capita in selected European metropolises in 2003 (Index, Mean of countries=100)



GVA growth in selected European metropolises in 1995–2003



The forecast for GVA growth in selected European metropolises in 2004–2009