

Promoting Participation in the City of Helsinki 2026–2029

Levels of Citizens Participation and Influence

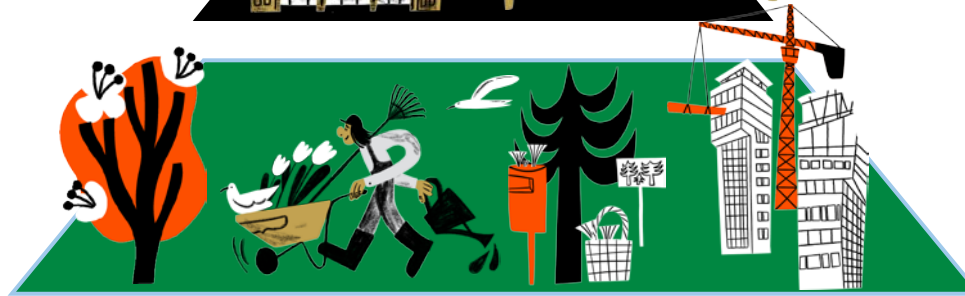
Participation is the experience of belonging and having opportunities to influence matters that are meaningful to you.



I can influence and participate in society



I can influence and participate in the city



I can influence and participate in the local area



I can influence and participate in my everyday life



I am seen, heard, and acknowledged every day

Principles of participation in City of Helsinki

**Utilizing the
knowledge and
expertise of
individuals and
communities**

**Enabling independent
activities**

**Creating equal
opportunities for
participation**



A Helsinki we can be proud of

Key Participation and Inclusion Priorities in the City Strategy 2025–2029

Pleasant neighbourhoods with a strong sense of community

- The districts and neighbourhoods of the city are distinctive local communities that play an important role. We support local organisations and associations and include their voice in the development of their area. Helsinki is shaped by its residents.
- We make a variety of methods available for people to share their experiences, wishes and opinions with us.
- We strive to develop these means of participation so we can reach Helsinki residents of all ages and backgrounds.
- Together with local associations, we plan concrete ways to enhance people's sense of agency, their willingness to forge connections and their desire to do something for their local community.
- Our activities promote the connection diverse communities and people from different backgrounds feel with Helsinki, as well as their identity as a Helsinki resident.

Widespread wellbeing

- In Helsinki, everyone – regardless of their background or starting point – should be able to live a good life and pursue their dreams. All of Helsinki's residents should feel like they belong. We are resolutely working to ensure that every resident of Helsinki can live a good life in our city.
- The city is committed to combating regional segregation and inequality between residents. We devote special attention to keeping differentiations between the realities of children and young people to a minimum. We are resolutely working to improve wellbeing in every neighbourhood of the city and support every resident on their journey through life.

A smooth everyday life and functional services

- The good life of Helsinki residents is founded on a smooth everyday existence and functional services.
- People's situations in life vary. The significance of different services and phenomena changes at different stages of our lives. Each of the city's divisions has an important role to play in ensuring that Helsinki runs smoothly and provides residents with the conditions for a good life.

How we work

- We exist for the people of Helsinki. We care about the wellbeing of the city and its residents. Our work is open and straightforward.
- We are utilising multilingual services and communications to reach out to and include different residents of the city
- We work in cooperation with the third sector, businesses and residents of the city. We have an open mind and positive attitude when it comes to new ideas.

Implementation of the Participation Plan during the Strategy Period

- The city's divisions prepare division-specific participation plans as part of the City's Participation and Interaction Model.
- The plan brings together the objectives and measures for strengthening the participation of residents and various stakeholders during each strategy period.
- The plan includes participation priorities that have been defined for the entire strategy period 2026–2029:
 - The priorities are based on the City Strategy and the participation principles set out in the Administrative Rules.
 - The priorities are common to all city divisions.
 - The content has been developed using a broad evidence base, including research, surveys, and workshops
- At the beginning of the strategy period, measures to implement the priorities have been defined for the entire strategy period as part of the preparation of the plan.
 - The measures related to the priorities may be updated when necessary as part of the annual operational and financial planning of each division.
 - The participation plan and a final report will be submitted to the relevant committee at the end of the strategy period. In addition, an interim review may also be submitted for consideration



The Plan Has Been Co-created and Informed by Evidence

The content of the participation plan was developed through dialogue and collaboration with residents, businesses, organizations, advisory bodies, and councils.

Residents:

- Voxit participation discussion
- Discussion events with local networks in urban renewal areas
- Targeted engagement events for specific groups, such as young people and residents with foreign language backgrounds

Businesses and Civil society organization:

- Surveys

Staff:

- Voxit participation discussion
- Participation Network survey
- Thematic workshops

Advisory Bodies and Councils:

- Workshop with the Youth Council
- Workshop with Council for the Elderly, the Council for the Disabled, the Advisory Board for Equality and Non-Discrimination, Youth the Advisory Board for Organizations and the National Languages Board.

In addition, the plan has been informed by research, reports, and studies from Helsinki, Finland, and international contexts.

Helsinki

2128
survey
respondents

301
workshop
participants

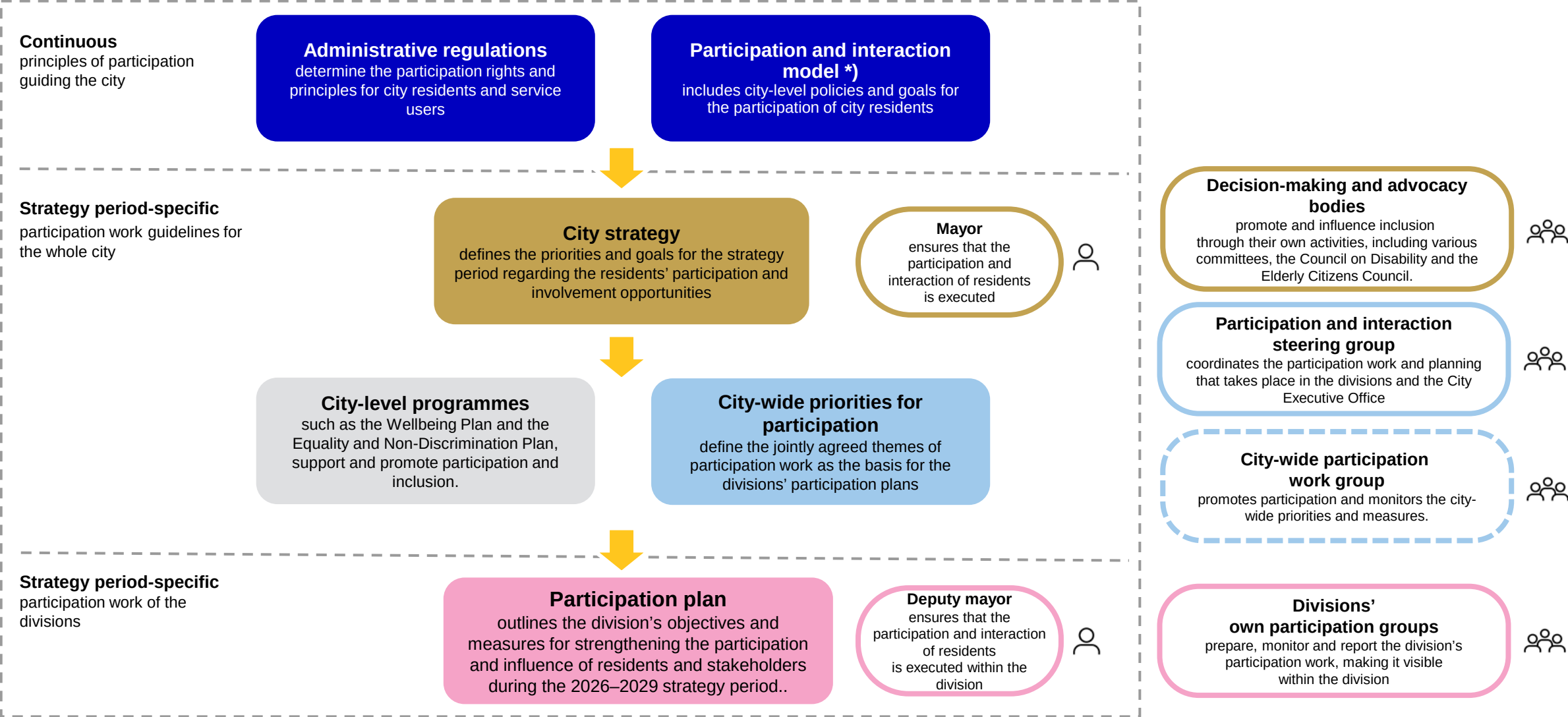
11
workshops

20.8.2026

Links Between the Participation Plan and Other City Plans

- In preparing and drafting the Participation Plan, consideration has been given, according to their stage of development, to the City's plans and programmes that are connected to participation and civic influence.
- These include:
 - ✓ The City of Helsinki Wellbeing Plan 2026–2029, including work on preventing domestic violence and the Child-Friendly Municipality initiative
 - ✓ The Equality and Non-Discrimination Plan for City Services 2026–2029
 - ✓ The Development Programme for Immigration and Integration 2026–2029
 - ✓ Suburban regeneration
 - ✓ Objectives for Preventing Segregation

Implementation of participation plans and division of tasks



Participation priorities and goals for 2026–2029

Participation Priorities 2026–2029



**Promoting Equality
and Diversity Through
Participation**



**Strengthening Local
Influence and
Community
Participation**



**Functional Services
and a Positive
Customer Experience
Through Participation**

City-wide Actions for the Strategy Period

Priority	City-wide Actions for the Strategy Period
Promoting Equality and Diversity Through Participation	PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES AND INTERACTION: 1. We develop, embed and pilot diverse methods for participation and engagement. 2. We invest in timely and effective communication throughout the different stages of participation processes, taking into account the needs of different population groups. 3. We strengthen opportunities for children and young people to have their voices heard across the city and pilot new ways of engaging with children and young people in vulnerable situations.
	WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP: 4. We develop and strengthen new forms of partnership with residents and a wide range of stakeholders. 5. We design participation measures and promote participation together with representatives of target groups, civil society organizations, businesses, and other partners.
Strengthening Local Influence and Community Participation	USING KNOWLEDGE AND DATA: 6. We make better use of existing knowledge and data in local participation work and in service development.
Functional Services and a Positive Customer Experience Through Participation	PARTICIPATION COMPETENCE OF STAFF: 7. We further strengthen staff competence in participation and engagement through a range of capacity-building and professional development measures.