

December 2014

Helsinki has been awarded City of Design status as part of the Creative Cities Network established by UNESCO.

The application submitted by the City to UNESCO focused on Helsinki's commitment to utilising design in developing a better city. To Helsinki, the design perspective is a part in the building of an open city.

UNESCO's Creative Cities Network supports worldwide cooperation and communication between cities. The members of the network have recognised the added value that the know-how of the creative sectors brings to sustainable urban development. The fact that Helsinki joins the network as a City of Design poses a possibility to further strengthen the city's capability as a user of creative methods and design.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network now comprises 69 cities, 15 of which have been appointed to the network as City of Design cities, whose key theme is design and its utilisation in urban development.

UNESCO's Creative Cities Network, the City of Design cities:

www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/creativity/creative-cities-network/design

[Helsinki Unesco Creative Cities application](#)

November 2014

Helsinki ranks at the top of an international creativity index

Helsinki has achieved the highest score of 20 cities surveyed for the new Creative Cities Index by the internationally renowned urban researcher Charles Landry, who studies the abilities of cities to utilize their creative capacity and potential. The Creative City Index is a method for assessing cities holistically.

The Creative Cities Index is based around ten cross-cutting domains – headings for groups of indicators for creativity. One of these domains, Political & Public Framework, explores how well city administrations and political systems function. In this domain Helsinki scored highest of all the cities surveyed.

Another domain in which Helsinki places at the top is Communication, Connectivity & Networking. Good data communication links, airline connections and strong foreign language skills powerfully connect Helsinki to the rest of the world, although Helsinki is fairly remotely located geographically. Because of the city's small size and low hierarchies, internal communications are straightforward, and citizens feel that they can influence the state of affairs.

Appreciation for entrepreneurship has grown

The index also shows that attitudes towards entrepreneurship have changed in Helsinki: it is now trendy to be a young entrepreneur, and failure is accepted better than before. Events like [Slush](#) are examples of a novel innovation culture in which small actors are brought together and can obtain various forms of small-scale, agile financing.

Helsinki is second in the index to Bilbao in the domain of Entrepreneurship, Exploration & Innovation. Other domains in which Helsinki scores high assess openness, the quality of life, and support for learning and talent.

October 2014

Helsinki Airport is the third best airport for passengers waiting for their flight

The website [SleepingInAirports.com](#), which rates the resting and sleeping facilities at international airports, has ranked Helsinki Airport as the world's third most "sleep-friendly" airport.

In addition to the ease and reliability of changing aircraft, factors affecting the ranking include diverse services such as free Wi-Fi, peaceful sleeping and working areas, and diverse restaurant and café services.

www.finavia.fi
sleepinginairports.com

Open Ahjo selected as the Best in Open City Category by WeGo

In Awards Category: Open City, Open Ahjo was selected as the Best from the City of Helsinki. WeGO pursues sustainable city development based on e-government by fostering collaborations among e-governing cities.

Decision making documents in Helsinki are published in the web: agendas before the meeting, decisions immediately after the meeting; these documents are also available as open data in now awarded Open Ahjo.

Finnair is again Europe's best airline

For the second year running Finnair has been named Best European Airline at the annual TTG Travel Awards. Punctuality, service upgrades and smooth transfer reliability helped Finnair to reach the first place.

September 2014

Finland at the top of the education efficiency index

According to a new international study of educational efficiency across OECD countries, the Finnish education system ranks first. The study, commissioned by Gems Education Solutions

compares how developed countries allocate spending on education and how well they perform in the international Pisa tests.

Finland gets best value for spending and results and is therefore treated as the theoretical benchmark of maximum efficiency in the study.

www.edefficiencyindex.com

Education innovation Me & My City named best in the world

Me & My City, developed by the Economic Information Office TAT, has won the prestigious World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) competition.

Finnish education innovation, Me & My City is a learning concept aimed at primary school students that deals with entrepreneurship, economy and society. One of the goals of Me & My City is to prevent social exclusion and unemployment by offering a study module that supports school education, offering pupils hands-on experience in working life and the role of a citizen in society.

<http://yrityskyla.fi/wordpress/en/>

August 2014

Helsinki the 8th most liveable city in the world

Helsinki retains its position in the top 10 most liveable cities in the world in the Economist intelligence Unit's yearly liveability survey.

Helsinki ranks the 8th most liveable city in the world according to the Economist intelligence Unit's yearly liveability survey. Overall 140 cities were surveyed.

Helsinki received all in all 96.0 points from the overall 100 as Melbourne, on its first place, snatched 97,5 points. Helsinki received perfect scores of 100 in stability and healthcare and the lowest in the culture & environment category.

June 2014

Finland – Most Competitive country in Europe 2014

Finland was number 1 in Europe's top 10 most competitive economies 2014 list. The ranking is part of World Economic Forum's The Europe 2020 Competitiveness Report.

Finland receives credit from its focus on education and training, which has "provided the workforce with the skills needed to adapt rapidly to a changing environment, and has laid the groundwork for high levels of technological adoption and innovation". According to WEF, Finland remains one of the innovation powerhouses in Europe ranking 1st in the innovative Europe pillar, and a global leader in moving towards a digital economy.

The report emphasizes Finland's enterprise environment that fosters business creation, and is supported by readily available finance for business investment. Country has "a well-functioning labour market and relatively strong labour market participation, as well as strong social inclusion based on low inequality in the country, providing social services and the opportunity for its citizens to improve their economic status independent of their socio-economic background".

[Europe 2020 Competitiveness Report 2014](#)

Helsinki the 5th most liveable city in the world

British magazine Monocle has chosen Helsinki as the 5th most liveable city in the world. Helsinki has done well on Monocle's lists for several years in a row; in 2011 Helsinki was ranked 1st and in 2013 Helsinki reached 3rd place.

Monocle, which is published in Great Britain, compiles a yearly list of 25 cities with the best quality of life. The magazine uses criteria such as the functionality of public transport, crime statistics, a good educational system, health services and the cities' ability to develop and improve their services.

www.monocle.com

Finland scores highest in EU in happiness and physical activity

The UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) has compiled the results of various surveys concerning the satisfaction, health, education level and lifestyle of the citizens of 28 EU countries. The ONS used statistical data from Eurostat, European Quality of Life Survey, Eurobarometer, PISA and World Gallup Poll.

Finns emerged as the happiest nation in Europe. Based on PISA survey results, Finland also took the top position among the EU countries in youth literacy and science. The comparison also shows that Finns are the most physically active nation in the EU. In addition, Finland came on top in living satisfaction among the EU countries.

Among the EU countries, Finland has reduced the highest percentage of green house gas emissions: a total of 10 percent during 2010–2011.

May 2014

Finland one of the happiest countries in the world

Finland placed 8th on economic organisation OECD's happiness index (Better Life Index). Finland's ranking improved four places compared to last year.

The happiness index is calculated using 11 variables. Finland got the highest scores from education, environment, social safety net and the happiness that people experience. According to the study, Finns are happier with the quality of life compared to the average of other countries. Some 81 per cent of the Finns stated that they experience more positive feelings than negative feelings during the day. The average for all countries in the OECD's happiness study is 76 percent.

The study also took notice of Finland's education, the results of which were better than the OECD average. In Finland, 84 per cent of adults aged 25–64 had earned the equivalent of a high-school degree, when the OECD average was 75 per cent. The skill level of the Finnish young people in the OECD's PISA tests, which measure the educational abilities of 15-year-olds, was also above average. Finnish students received an average of 529 points in the PISA study, when the OECD average was 497 points.

www.oecd.org

April 2014

Helsinki's Baana awarded in European competition

Helsinki's latest cycling and pedestrian route Baana has received an honourable mention in the European Prize for Urban Public Space 2014 competition. A total of 274 projects from almost 200 cities participated in the competition.

In its honourable mention, the jury of the competition noted the Baana's ability to combine neighbourhoods and offer a non-commercial city space suitable for several user groups. The planning process of the Baana, during which the city, its habitants and the university students cooperated, was also commended.

The Baana opened in 2012 and it was built in the old centre of Helsinki, in a 7-metre-deep and 1.5-kilometre-long old railroad corridor. Besides a passage way, the Baana is also a place for leisure, sports and arts. The European Prize for Urban Public Space competition is arranged every other year. The purpose of the competition is to highlight new high-quality public space projects around Europe. This year, prizes and honourable mentions were awarded to six participants.

March 2014

Finns' quality of life among the best in Europe

According to the Quality of life indicators report published by Statistical Office of the European Communities Eurostat, the Finns' quality of life is among the best in Europe. Finland placed 2nd in the comparison. The comparison dissected the quality of life in different countries using several indicators, such as gross domestic product, the distribution of wealth, long-term unemployment, health and education. The cleanliness of the environment and the quality of the living environment in Finland were also rated among the best in Europe. The report also noted that there are relatively few dropping out of education in Finland.

The Finnish criminal law the best in the world

The Finnish criminal law was rated the best in the world on the World Justice Project's WJP Rule of Law Index 2014, which measures how the rule of law is experienced in everyday life in 99 countries around the globe. Finland's legal system was ranked 4th in the total comparison. The report praises the working, responsible and transparent institutions of Finland. The court system is also independent.

Helsinki in European Smart City top class

Helsinki landed in the top tier of the European Smart City ranking, thanks to the opening of information and the inclusion of citizens.

The study compliments the Helsinki Region Infoshare service as a pioneering service in the field of open city data. The study also highlights the opening of the city's decision-making, Helsinki's participatory city cooperation and the developer community portal.

February 2014

Helsinki ranked 2nd on the European Cities of the Future list

The city was commended especially for its ability to attract plenty of foreign investment. According to the FDI, Helsinki's ability to attract investment is based on three key issues: research, development and innovations. FDI Intelligence is a division of the Financial Times Ltd, which provides insight and analysis. Technology start-ups is another strength of Helsinki. This was the first time Helsinki was mentioned on the list.

January 2014

International interest for Helsinki

Helsinki has once again reached the lists of travel destinations in the international media. The users of TripAdvisor, one of the biggest social media travel services in the world, ranked Helsinki 5th on their list of interesting travel destinations in Europe. The City is also on the Travel+Leisure magazine's best travel destinations of 2014 list.

Helsinki Central railway station among the most beautiful in the world

The Helsinki Central railway station was one of the ten most beautiful railway stations in the world in a comparison made by the British Broadcasting Corporation BBC.