

December 2015

Finland 6th best country for business

A total of 144 countries were measured across 11 indicators including individual and property rights, taxes, technology, investor protection, innovation and stock market performance.

The Forbes list combines several annual country comparisons by institutions and organizations, such as the World Bank, the World Economic Forum (WEF) and Transparency International.

Forbes also focuses attention to businesses and persons that have contributed to the Finnish business environment. The businesses mentioned were Fiskars, Nokia, Sampo Group, Stora Enso, UPM and Wärtsilä. Four members of the Herlin family and Antti Aarnio-Wihuri made it to the list of key persons.

Forbes Best Countries for Business Report: <http://www.forbes.com/best-countries-for-business/>

November 2015

Helsinki on the 34th place among Best Student Cities of the world

Helsinki was on the 34th place in the QS Best Student Cities ranking which included 74 cities around the world. Helsinki got particularly high score, 16th place, in the “desirability” category of the index.

[QS Best Student Cities 2016](#)

October 2015

Finland in top 10 for doing business

Finland has been ranked 10th in the world for doing business by the World Bank’s annual Doing Business 2016 report.

Surveying a total of 189 countries, the list is widely considered the most authoritative in the world.

The index takes into account regulations that affect facilitating the smooth flow of business. A total of 10 different areas were assessed, included everything from starting a business, to dealing with construction permits, getting credit, paying taxes, and enforcing contracts.

[Doing Business 2016](#)

Helsinki 4th best European city for digital companies

Helsinki ranked 4th on the European Digital City Index which measures the best European cities for digital entrepreneurs. Above Helsinki were only London, Amsterdam, and Stockholm.

The comparison included 35 cities, and it was carried out by innovation organization Nesta and think tank European Digital Forum.

Helsinki's good position was partly explained by the strong start-up field and major companies in the gaming industry.

[European Digital City Index](#)

University of Helsinki on place 76 at Times Higher Education -ranking

University of Helsinki climbed 27 places on the Times Higher Education ranking, which provide the definitive list of the world's best universities, evaluated across teaching, research, international outlook, reputation and more. The new position of University of Helsinki is 76th.

The University improved its performance in all five categories: teaching, research, references, international and industrial financing. Also, the number of publications in relation to academic staff developed very positively.

Overview of the University of Helsinki's ranking among the world's approximately 17 000 universities was created with versatile methods and evaluation criteria.

Times Higher Education ranking:

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/>

September 2015

Finland on the 8th place at the annual Global Competitiveness Report

Finland shows its global competitiveness and stays among the top ten list of the Global Competitiveness Report. Finland remains the world leader in health and primary education. The transparency and efficiency of the country's public institutions were also recognized as the globe's best.

Meanwhile, Finland's higher education and training system is second best in the world. From a business perspective, Finland is also the second most innovative country and has the fourth highest number of PCT patent applications per capita in the world.

<reports.weforum.org>

Finland ranked as third most dynamic economy

Grant Thornton, a leading network of accounting and consulting member firms, has ranked Finland the world's third most dynamic economy. Finland shares the third place with Australia.

The report looks at different criteria such as business operating environment, financing environment, labour market, technology and market growth.

The report states that Finland is the world's fifth best business operating environment while the digital and technological capacity of the local economy, including broadband penetration, IT and R&D spending, are the world's third best. Finland's financing environment, defined as the ability of firms to fund the growth of their operations, came in third.

www.grantthornton.global

Finland has the globe's best education and entrepreneurship

Finland's education and skills, along with its asset building and entrepreneurship, are the best in the world according to the latest report from the World Economic Forum.

The report looked at a total of 112 economies, assessing their individual efforts to nurture economic growth, which in turn elevates living standards across the whole of society.

More than 140 quantitative indicators were utilised to compile the rankings. These fell under seven main categories: Education and Skills Development; Employment and Labour Compensation; Asset-building and Entrepreneurship; Financial Intermediation of Real Economy Investment; Corruption and Rents; and Basic Services and Infrastructure.

When all of these categories were taken into account, Finland came in at fifth position.

reports.weforum.org

August 2015

Helsinki University among the best in the world

Helsinki University is the only Finnish university on the top 100 on the 2015 Academic Ranking of World Universities. The yearly ranking is made by the Center for World-Class Universities at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

Helsinki University ranked 67th, which is its best placement yet on the comparison. Among Nordic universities, Helsinki University was the fifth best.

www.helsinki.fi

Helsinki on the 10th place at the World's Most Liveable Cities 2015 listing

The Economist Intelligence Unit has given an annual assessment of the world's most liveable cities. This time Helsinki was at the 10th place. Helsinki was the only Nordic country among the top ten.

Criteria includes stability, healthcare, culture, environment, education and infrastructure, and assesses which cities have the most enviable living conditions.

The Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Global Liveability Ranking and Report is a data driven ranking based on 30 qualitative and quantitative factors spread across five areas: stability, infrastructure, education, healthcare and environment.

http://www.eiu.com/public/topical_report.aspx?campaignid=Liveability2015

Finland is the world's third freest country

Finland ranked third in the Cato Institute index of freedom. Research involved in 152 countries which were compared in 76 different areas including legislation, security, mobility, justice and commerce.

Index also evaluated the level of economic freedom and other personal freedoms. In terms of personal freedom, Finland is the world's fourth best country. In comparison of economic freedom Finland is ranked seventh.

www.cato.org/economic-freedom-world

July 2015

Finland one of the world's most reputable countries

Finland has been ranked sixth in this year's Country RepTrak, an index that surveyed the global reputation of 55 countries with the highest GDPs.

In the 2015 index, Finland was found to be the third most ethical country in the world, as well as the fourth safest. Finland also came in fifth position globally regarding the effectiveness of its government, the efficient use of public resources, its institutional environment, social and economic policies and international participation.

Data was gathered from 48 000 consumers in G8 countries in order to compile the index, deducing levels of trust, esteem, admiration and respect for various countries.

www.reputationinstitute.com

Finland tops WEF's list of most innovative countries

Finland is the most innovative country in the world, according to the Global Competitiveness Report 2014-2015 of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

In addition to its top score in innovation, Finland ranks also first on the list in higher education & training. The report concludes that Finland scores well in overall global competitiveness, ranking 4th.

The Global Competitiveness Index is composed by 12 pillars that capture the different aspects of competitiveness.

www.weforum.org

Finland the world's second best country to raise a family

Finland is the world's second best country to raise a family, according to the latest Family Life Index -survey, published by InterNations.

Finland received the best ratings for its quality of education, with 66 per cent finding the quality of education “very good”, compared to the global average of 21 per cent.

www.internations.org/expat-insider/2015/family-life-index

June 2015

Finland still the world’s least fragile country

Finland has once again been ranked in the lowest position in the annual Fragile States Index. This marks the fifth year in a row Finland has been recognised as the least fragile country in the globe by the index, which is produced by non-profit Fund for Peace.

A total of 12 political, social and economic indicators including Demographic Pressures, Human Flight & Brain Drain, State Legitimacy and Public Services were used to rank 178 countries. These sought to highlight current trends in the various social, economic and political pressures affecting all states.

Finland was the only country to be ranked as Very Sustainable.

The Nordic states as a whole were recognised for having low budget deficits and corporate tax rates, and high levels of transparency within public institutions and government. Social equality, high female workforce participation, robust functioning democratic institutions and press freedom were additional factors that saw the quartet ranked favourably.

Finnair named Northern Europe’s best airline

Finnair has been named Northern Europe’s Best Airline at the World Airline Awards, for the sixth year running. Organised by Skytrax, the recognition is based on an independent survey of some 18 million travellers from more than 160 countries.

At the same time, the oneworld alliance, to which Finnair belongs, was named Best Airline Alliance for the third straight time.

www.finnair.com

Helsinki ranked 18th most popular city for international meetings

Helsinki improved its international ranking as a venue for international meetings last year. Out of 1493 cities and 181 countries, Helsinki ranked 18th in 2014.

In its annual survey of the most popular cities and countries in the world for holding international meetings, the Union of International Associations (UIA) ranked Helsinki two places higher in 2014 than in the previous year. Helsinki outperformed many major cities, including London and Istanbul. In the country survey, Finland also ranked among the top in 19th position.

Background information about the survey

For its 2014 survey the UIA collected statistics from 181 countries and 1493 cities. The statistics cover only international meetings that are held over at least two days and are attended by foreign delegates (minimum 40 percent of all attendees). The UIA has used the same method and criteria for the past 65 years, so its statistics provide a reliable and coherent picture of trends in the meetings industry.

May 2015

Helsinki Region Transport successful in international benchmarking

Helsinki Region Transport (HSL) came out on top in the European BEST (Benchmarking in European Service of Public Transport) survey for the fifth year running.

Residents in the HSL area are more satisfied with the reliability of public transport and with the modernity and cleanliness of the fleet than they have been in previous years.

A total of 1,900 respondents from all of HSL's member municipalities participated in the survey, and 79 per cent of HSL area residents were satisfied with the public transport.

www.hsl.fi/en

Finnish schools 6th in OECD global study

Education rankings from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have placed Finnish education in sixth position worldwide.

Finland was ranked ahead of all European countries and was also the first non-Asian country to be represented on the list.

The study focussed particularly on the mathematics and science skills of 15 year olds in 76 countries.

www.oph.fi

April 2015

Helen won the Global District Energy Climate Award

Helen Ltd's combined district heating and cooling solution has won the esteemed Global District Energy Climate Award.

Helen was awarded in the category 'Expansion', expansion of district heating and cooling systems. The award panel was particularly impressed by Helen's energy-efficient solutions that utilise the densely-built urban structure to maximise energy efficiency.

The district cooling system in Helsinki is the third largest in Europe, and it is expanding at the most rapid pace. Helsinki is the only city where almost all waste heat from cooled properties is extensively utilised with a solution that combines district cooling and heating.

District heating and district cooling solutions from all over the world took part in the International District Energy Climate Awards. The competition was organised by the energy expert organisation Euroheat & Power in co-operation with the International Energy Agency IEA.

www.helen.fi/en

Finland is one of the world's happiest countries

According to the World Happiness Report Finland is the sixth happiest country in the world. Finland placed one position higher this year compared to the previous report in 2013.

The World Happiness Report saw Finland's strengths as, above all, its strong GDP per capita and the social support that people can expect in difficult times.

The report drawn up by independent experts and published by the UN listed 158 countries. The predictors of happiness were GDP per capita, healthy life expectancy at birth, freedom to make life choices, perceptions of corruption, generosity and whether people can expect social support in difficult times.

<http://worldhappiness.report>

English skills of Finns among the best in the world

Finns came fourth in the EF English Proficiency Index, published by EF Education First, which compares English language skills in countries where English is not a native language. The fourth edition of the report, which covers 63 countries, tested altogether 750 000 adults.

Finns begin to learn English early on at school, which contributes to good language skills as an adult. Finns begin to learn English early on at school, which contributes to good language skills as an adult.

The originator of the report, EF Education First, is the world's largest private language training organisation.

www.ef.fi/eipi

March 2015

Smart Meetings listed Helsinki among top-10 congress cities of the world

International congress and conference magazine Smart Meetings raised Helsinki among the top 10 congress cities in the world. Helsinki received special mentions about safety, cleanliness, modernity, design field, and good connections.

Other cities on the list were Barcelona, Hong Kong, Lisbon, Bangkok, Cape Town, Prague, Shanghai, Frankfurt and Rio de Janeiro.

[Read more](#)

Finland is the best country in the world to be a working woman

According to latest glass-ceiling index by The Economist, women in Finland have the best chances of equal treatment at work among the 28 countries investigated. The index combines data on higher education, labour-force participation, pay, child-care costs, maternity rights, business-school applications and representation in senior jobs.

[Read more](#)