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Effective work programmes: toponymic guidelines for
international use by map and other editors

Background document

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Update of toponymic guidelines: Finland

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TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP EDITORS AND OTHER EDITORS

FINLAND

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* Prepared by Sirkka Paikkala (Research Institute for the Languages of Finland) in collaboration with the National Land Survey of Finland (Teemu Leskinen) and the Geographical Society of Finland (Kerkko Hakulinen). The 22nd session of UNGEGN in 2004, WP 49.

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SUMMARY

Finland is a multilingual country. According to the constitution, Finnish and Swedish are, on an equal basis, Finland's national languages and official state languages. According to the Saami Language Act, the Saami languages have official status as minority languages and Saami speakers are granted the right to use their language when contacting the authorities. Both the national languages and Saami are written with variants of the Roman alphabet.

The Finnish alphabet, its pronunciation and its use in geographical names are described, as well as the Saami alphabet and its pronunciation. The Swedish used in Finland does not differ essentially from the Swedish used in Sweden (see Toponymic Guidelines – Sweden).

Authority over place names is divided in Finland. The right and responsibility for providing normative recommendations about place names belong to the Institute for the Languages of Finland. The power of decision concerning administrative names of various categories belongs to the respective administrative bodies but according to the request of the Parliament of Finland (1957) they should consult name experts before making their decisions (the statutory obligation to ask for a statement covers only the names of municipalities). The National Land Survey of Finland and the Institute for the Languages of Finland are jointly responsible for the standardization of names on maps.

The report also gives (1) the names of the administrative divisions and areas of Finland, (2) the names and addresses of place name authorities, (3) lists of common generic terms, adjectives and other words contained in Finnish and Saami place names, (4) a list of common abbreviations of explanatory texts used in large-scale maps, (5) recommendations concerning the use of place names in Finland in different languages, (6) a bibliography of the most important maps, atlases, and place name indexes and (7) a list of gazetteers of Finnish, Swedish, and Saami place names.

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1 LANGUAGES

1.1 Introduction

Finland is a multilingual country. According to the Finnish constitution, Finnish and Swedish are, on an equal basis, Finland's national languages and official state languages. According to the Saami Language Act Saami languages (North Saami, Inari Saami and Skolt Saami), have official status as regional minority languages and Saami speakers are granted the right to use their language when contacting the authorities.

According to the Statistics Finland, the population of Finland is 5,635,971 (at the end of 2024) of whom 4,738,386 (84.1 %) speak Finnish, 285 360 (5.1 %) Swedish and 2 077 (0.04 %) Saami as their native language. Speakers of foreign languages amount to 610,148 (10,8 %), the largest groups being speakers of Russian (102,487), Estonian (49,563), Arabic (43,534), Ukrainian (38,850), English (36,971), Somali (26,891), Persian (22,154) and Chinese (19,264).

A municipality (*Fi kunta*, *Sw kommun*) is considered to be bilingual if the speakers of the minority language constitute at least 8 % of its population, or, alternatively, if they amount to more than 3,000. The Council of State determines which municipalities are monolingual Finnish or Swedish and which are bilingual on the basis of the census, which is conducted every tenth year. On the recommendation by the municipal council, the Government may determine (a Government Decree) that the municipality remains bilingual for the following ten year period even if the municipality would otherwise be monolingual. A municipality cannot be declared monolingual unless the proportion of speakers of the minority language has fallen to 6 % or less of the total population. Saami is spoken as a minority language in the four northernmost municipalities of Finnish Lapland (see Map 1).

According to the Language Act, all public notices and proclamations, announcements and other documents given by officials to the public have to be written in the local language in monolingual areas and in both languages in bilingual areas. The language legislation in Finland, and especially the proceedings in the official language aimed at the public, are based on the principle that the two language groups shall be treated equally. The only exception is the Autonomous Province of Åland, where Swedish is the only official language.

The national languages and Saami are written with variants of the Roman alphabet.

Most place names in Finland are Finnish. The Swedish-language population have lived on the west and south coasts and in the southwestern archipelago since the Middle Ages, and the Swedish place names of Finland are concentrated in these areas (see Map 1). Saami names are best preserved in Lapland.

The only names published on official topographic maps, are names which are actually used. In other words, map-makers do not invent new names for places lacking a name, nor do they create unattested name forms by translating or modifying names in another language. Parallel names in bilingual areas are written on maps in both languages, with the majority name mentioned first. However, in Saami areas, the Finnish name is always mentioned first, followed

by possible North Saami, Inari Saami and Skolt Saami names – in this particular order. In monolingual areas, also names in other languages are given if they are in actual use. In bilingual areas, road and street signs and signposts are bilingual, with the language of the majority being placed first. However, they may remain monolingual in monolingual areas which have administratively become bilingual due to a municipal merger.

1.2 The national language Finnish

Finnish, a Finno-Ugric language, uses the following letters of the Roman alphabet:

A a	G g	M m	S s	X x	Ö ö
B b	H h	N n	(Š š)	Y y	
C c	I i	O o	T t	Z z	
D d	J j	P p	U u	(Ž ž)	
E e	K k	Q q	V v	Å å	
F f	L l	R r	W w	Ä ä	

Originally Finnish words do not contain the following letters: *b, c, f, q, š, x, z, ž, å*. The letters in parentheses do not belong to the Finnish alphabet but do appear in loanwords. *w* is alphabetized as *v*, *š* as *s*, and *ž* as *z*. For technical reasons, *š* may be replaced by *sh* and *ž* by *zh* (both digraphs are alphabetized as separate letters).

The vowels *ä* and *ö* represent independent sounds and should be strictly distinguished from the vowels *a* and *o*. These vowels have separate orthographic status in the alphabet.

1.2.1 The spelling of Finnish place names

The following rules are applied to the spelling of Finnish place names and to Finnish exonyms, for instance in the maps compiled by the National Land Survey and in linguistically checked books and other publications.

* Place names and their specific (proper noun) elements begin with a capital letter: *Yli-Ii*, *Iso Arajärvi*.

* Names with a specific and a generic element are usually written as one word: *Hirvijärvi* ‘Moose Lake’, *Tornionjokilaakso* ‘Tornio River Valley’, *Sibeliuksenkatu* ‘Sibelius Street’.

* Names are written as separate words if (a) the basic element is a compound noun and the preceding qualifier is an inflected adjective or a noun in genitive case: *Iso Ahvenlampi* ‘Big Perch Pond’ (genitive: *Ison Ahvenlammen*), *Vanha Viipurintie* ‘Old Viipuri Road’ (genitive: *Vanhan Viipurintien*), *Nuuksion Pitkäjärvi* ‘Nuuksio Long Lake’, (b) the term designates an artefact and the preceding qualifier is in the genitive: *Saimaan kanava* ‘Saimaa Canal’, *Lokan allas* ‘Lokka Reservoir’, (c) the term is preceded by a hyphenated proper noun: *Ison-Antin tie* ‘Big Antti’s Road’, and (d) the qualifying specific element is a word combination, such as a given name and a surname: *Mikko Määtän vaara* ‘Mikko Määttä’s Mountain’, *Aleksis Kiven katu* ‘Aleksis Kivi’s Street’.

* Names are hyphenated if they are composed of (a) a qualifier preceding a noncompound proper noun: *Iso-Syöte* ‘Big Syöte’, *Pohjois-Savo* ‘Northern Savo’, (b) a non-inflecting qualifier (nouns or prefixes, such as *Ala-*, *Ylä-*, *Etu-*, *Keski-*, *Väli-*; *Pohjois-*, *Etelä-*) preceding a compound proper noun: *Etelä-Konnevesi* ‘South Konne Lake’ or (c) parallel proper nouns: *Helsinki-Vantaan lentoasema* ‘Helsinki-Vantaa Airport’.

For historical reasons, some officially fixed names do not follow these rules, for instance the municipality name *Ylitornio*, which, according to the rules, should be spelled “Yli-Tornio”.

1.2.2 The pronunciation of Finnish place names

The main stress in Finnish words is invariably on the first syllable. A weaker secondary stress occurs on the third or fifth syllable, if it is not the final syllable. Final syllables are always unstressed. Stress is not marked in the written language.

The phonetics of Finnish is simple. Each sound has its own written symbol and in principle each symbol corresponds to one sound only. In standard Finnish, however, the following noteworthy exceptions are encountered: *n* preceding *k* is pronounced [ŋ]: *Helsinki* [helsiŋki]; the long velar nasal [ŋŋ] is represented in writing by *ng*: *Helsingin* [helsiŋŋin] ‘Helsinki’s’. An *n* before a *p* is assimilated to [m]: *Järvenpää* [jærvempæ:]. If the initial element in compound words ends in an *e*, the initial consonant of the following element is usually lengthened *Kortejärvi* [kortejjærvi].

One characteristic of Finnish is vowel harmony. The vowels *a*, *o*, and *u* function in strict opposition to *ä*, *ö*, and *y* and cannot be used in the same non-compound word. The vowels *e* and *i* are, however, neutral and can be used in combination with vowels of either group.

Length distinctions are meaningful between short and long vowels and short and long consonants: *Tulisaari* [tulisa:ri] ‘Fire Island’, *Tuulisaari* [tu:lisa:ri] ‘Wind Island’ Double letters are used to represent the written form of long vowels and consonants: *Tullisaari* [tullisa:ri] ‘Customs Island’.

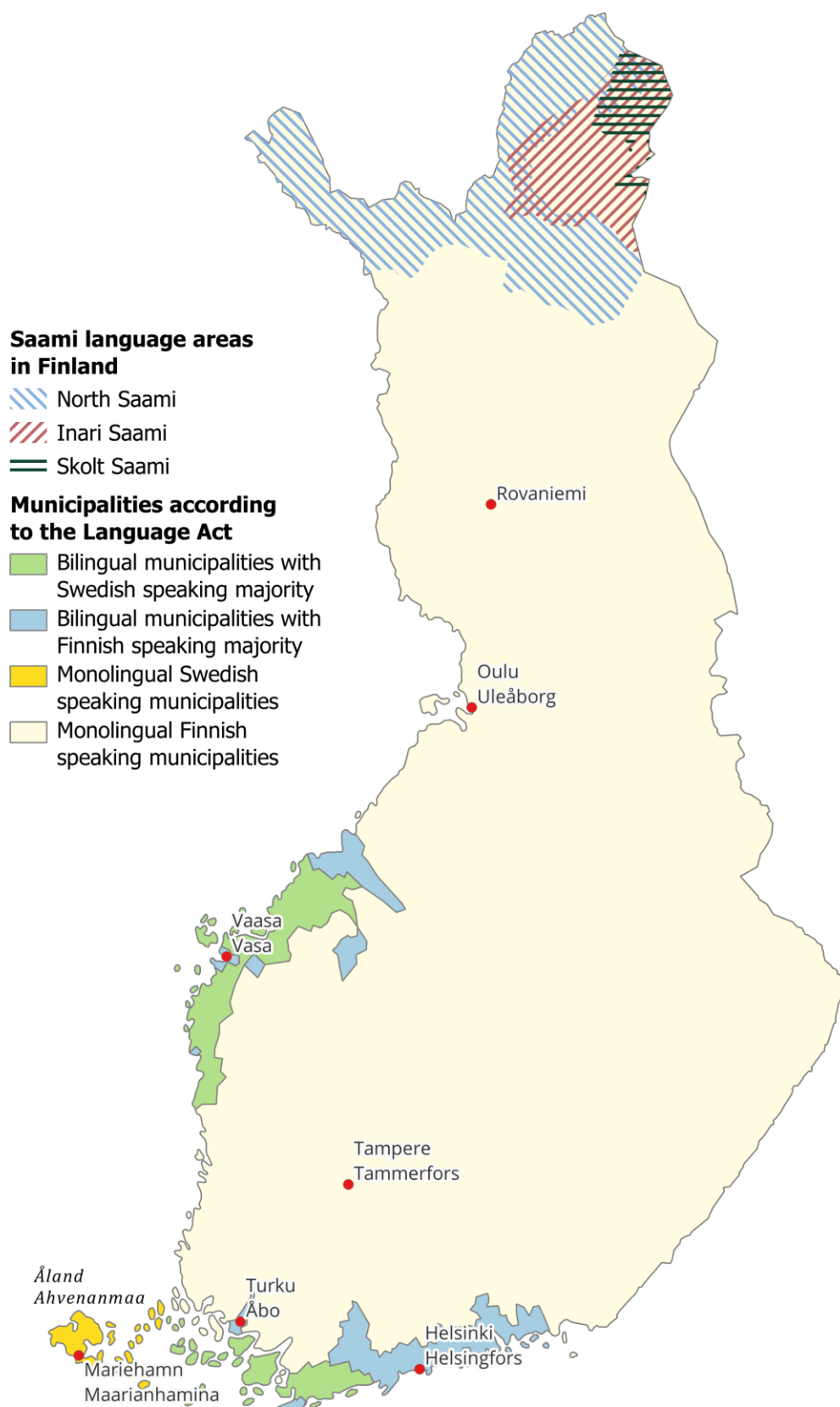
There are 18 diphthongs in Finnish: *ai*, *oi*, *ui*, *ei*, *äi*, *öi*, *yi*; *au*, *ou*, *eu*, *iu*; *iy*, *äy*, *öy*, *ey*; *uo*, *ie*, *yö*. They cannot be divided into separate syllables.

Table 1 gives an approximate picture of the relation between writing and pronunciation in Finnish. The letters in parenthesis are used only in foreign proper nouns and in loanwords. If a pronunciation is not separately marked, the letters have a Finnish pronunciation close to that found in the original language.

Table 1. Pronunciation of the Finnish alphabet.

Spelling	Pronunciation IPA alphabet	Spelling	Pronunciation IPA alphabet	Spelling	Pronunciation IPA alphabet
a	a	l	l	u	u
aa	a:	ll	ll	uu	u:
ai	ai	m	m	ui	ui
au	au	mm	mm	uo	uo
(b)		n	n	v	v
(c)		nn	nn	(w)	v
d	d	ng	ŋŋ	(x)	ks
e	e	nk	ŋk	y	y
ee	e:	np	mp	yy	y:
ei	ei	o	o	yi	yi
eu	eu	oo	o:	yö	yø
ey	ey	oi	oi	(z)	ts, ʒ
(f)		ou	ou	(ž or zh)	ž
(g)		p	p	(å)	o
ng	ŋŋ	pp	pp	ä	æ
h	h	(q)		ää	æ:
i	i	r	r	äi	æi
ii	i:	rr	rr	äy	æy
ie	ie	s	s	ö	ø
iu	iu	ss	ss	öö	ø:
iy	iy	(š or sh)	ʃ	öi	øi
j	j	t	t	öy	øy
k	k	tt	tt		
kk	kk				

Map 1. Languages in Finland



1.2.3 Substrata

One can recognize some linguistic substrata in the place names of Finland. Saami substrata can be found throughout the country. It is also possible to identify a rather large number of substrata of Swedish origin in areas where Finnish is now the dominant language. Conversely, Finnish substrata are found in Swedish-speaking areas.

1.2.4 Dialects

Spoken Finnish is traditionally divided into five to eight dialects, which form two main groups: the western and the eastern dialects. The dialects are mutually comprehensible. The relatively young standard Finnish is based on a combination of dialects.

The spelling of Finnish place names has been standardized throughout the country to conform to the same general linguistic rules. Although standardized names do not usually contain any special phonological features of the dialects, some may reflect regional dialects and have preserved local colour in the form of dialect words and morphological features.

1.3 The national language Swedish

Swedish, a North-Germanic language of the Indo-European family, is the second national and official language of Finland. It is spoken along the coasts of the Gulfs of Finland and Bothnia (see Map 1). The province of Åland (*Fi Ahvenanmaa*) has Swedish as official language.

The Swedish alphabet and the rules of spelling Swedish place names in Finland are similar to those used in Sweden (see Toponymic guidelines – Sweden).

In bilingual areas, names are marked on maps, road and street signs, and signs of a similar nature in both languages, the majority language being placed first. In monolingual areas, the names in other languages are also marked on national maps if they are in actual use.

1.4 The Saami languages

Saami is a Finno-Ugric language distantly related to Finnish. In Finland, Norway, and Sweden, it uses variants of the Roman alphabet. Three mutually unintelligible forms of Saami are spoken in Finland, namely North Saami, Inari Saami, and Skolt Saami (see Map 1).

In 1995, the Finnish Parliament recognized the Saami people as the indigenous inhabitants of their domicile area (Constitution, article 14). They were then granted cultural autonomy within their domicile area (Constitution, article 51 a), i.e. the right to maintain and utilize their languages and customs. The new [Constitution of Finland](#) (pdf) in 1999 (the articles 17 and 121) and the [Saami Language Act](#) (pdf) in 2003 include and define the rights of Saami languages in Finland.

Saami is spoken as a native language by about 2,000 persons or 0.04 % of the population of Finland (2024). Most of them use North Saami but about 300 persons speak Inari Saami and approximately the same number Skolt Saami.

In the [Act on the Saami Parliament](#) (pdf, 974/1995) a Saami is defined as a person who considers himself a Saami, provided:

- (1) That he himself or at least one of his parents or grandparents has learnt Saami as his first language;
- (2) That he is a descendant of a person who has been entered in a land, taxation or population register as a mountain, forest or fishing Lapp; or
- (3) That at least one of his parents has or could have been registered as an elector for an election to the Saami Delegation or the Saami Parliament.

In the same act the Saami Homeland means the municipalities Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki, as well as the area of the reindeer owners' association of Lapland in Sodankylä.

The Saami languages have official status in Finland. According to the Saami Language Act the most important government documents, and in the Saami Homeland, all official documents concerning the community itself are translated into Saami. A Saami national has the right to use his or her language before a court of law or in communication with other state authorities. The Lutheran Church has long since used Saami, and this language is taught in schools in the four northernmost municipalities in Finland and the Saami speakers have the right to pass the national matriculation examination in their own language. Saami Radio broadcasts programmes in Saami and Yle (the Finnish broadcasting company) produces TV news in the North Saami language. There are also some periodicals and newspapers published in Saami.

In 1979, the Nordic Saami Council decided to adopt a new, uniform orthography for the North Saami language of Finland, Norway, and Sweden. Since then the Saami names in the maps published by the National Land Survey have been spelled by following these rules.

The North Saami alphabet is as follows:

A a	Ð ð	J j	O o	Ƨ Ƨ
Á á	E e	K k	P p	U u
B b	F f	L l	R r	V v
C c	G g	M m	S s	Z z
Č č	H h	N n	Š š	Ž ž
D d	I i	Ŋ ŋ	T t	

The diphthongs are *ea*, *ie*, *oa*, and *uo*. Inari Saami has also the vowels *â* and *ä* and the diphthongs *iä* (instead of *ea*) and *uá* (instead of *oa*), and it has no *t*. The more complicated writing system of Skolt Saami does not use *á* or *t* but it has *â*, *ǰ*, *Ǳ*, *ǣ*, *ǧ*, *ǩ*, *õ*, *â*, and *ä* and the softening mark ('). The diphthongs of Skolt Saami are *uo*, *ue*, *ua*, *uä*, *ie*, *iä*, and *eä*. In Inari Saami and Skolt Saami, long vowels are marked with double letters.

The former version of transcribing Saami place names in Finland was a special adaptation of the Saami orthography of the time. The following examples show how the new orthography differs from the old one:

Spelling before July 1, 1979	Spelling since July 1, 1979
Pissevarri	Bissevárri
Tadšajavri	Dážajávri
Tšoalmmevarri	Čoalmmevárri
Tšahkaljohka	Čáhkáljohka
Keäđgejavri	Geadgejávri
Sarekuoihka	Sáreguoika
Vaggojohka	Vákkojohka
Tšâhkarvarri	Čahkarvárri
Jamehsuolu	Jámetsuolu
Tsuoggajoknjálbmi	Cuokkajohnjálbmi

Table 2 presents the Saami pronunciation. The letters which do not occur in all language forms or which belong to the old orthography have been marked. Diphtongs and consonant clusters do not occur in the table.

Table 2. Pronunciation of the Saami alphabet

Spelling	Pronunciation IPA alphabet (sec. value in brackets)	Spelling	Pronunciation IPA alphabet (sec. value in brackets)	Spelling	Pronunciation IPA alphabet (sec. value in brackets)
a	(a)	h	h	o	o (o: ¹)
á	a: ¹ (a)	hj	j	õ ³	ə (ə)
â ^{2, 3}	a (ʌ)	hl	l̥	p	p
b	b̥	hm	m̥	r	r
c	ts	hn	n̥	s	s
č	tʃ	hr	r̥	š	ʃ
ǰ ^{3, 4}	ḑ̥	i	i (i:, j ¹)	t	t
ǰ̃ ^{3, 4}	ḑ̥j̃	j	j	ɛ ¹	θ
d	d̥	k	k	u	u (u: ¹)
dj	d̥j̥d̥i	ķ ³	kj	v	v (w: ¹)
ddj	d̥j̥:d̥j̥	l	l	z	ḑ̥z̥ (z̥ ³)
đ	ḑ̥	lj	lj̥	zz	d̥:ḑ̥z̥ (zz ³)
e	e (e: ¹)	llj	lj̥:lj̥	ž	ḑ̥z̥j̥ (z̥ ³)
f	y	m	m	žž	d̥:ḑ̥z̥j̥ (z̥z ³)
g	g	n	n	y ²	y (ʉ)
		nj	nj̥	â ⁵	a
ǧ ³	g̥j̥	nnj	n̥j̥n̥j̥ (n̥j̥:n̥j̥)	ä ^{2, 3, 4}	æ
ǧ ³	Y	ŋ	ŋ	å ³	ɔ

¹ In North Saami.

² In Inari Saami.

³ In Skolt Saami.

⁴ Formerly in North Saami.

⁵ Formerly and in scholarly works in Inari Saami, now = á.

On maps compiled by the National Land Survey, which cover the Enontekiö, Inari, and Utsjoki municipalities, the North Saami, Inari Saami and Skolt Saami names appear alongside Finnish names, in this specific language order.

2 THE NAMES AUTHORITIES AND THE NAMES STANDARDIZATION

2.1 The names authorities and their tasks

There is no specific law covering place names in Finland. The Finnish Parliament has expressed a wish number 97 (24.5.1957) that in decisions concerning place names, officials should consult experts in onomastics. The wish has been followed by administrative orders by ministries and central boards but because it has no legal force, it has not been very effective. In 1996, the situation was discussed at the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland and a working group was founded to study if a place name law was needed. In 2011, the Institute for the Languages of Finland (formerly Research Institute for the Languages of Finland) and the National Land Survey of Finland made a joint proposal through their respective Ministries (Ministry of Education and Culture and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry), suggesting that the Finnish Government should take action for the preparation of an Act on Place Names and setting up of an official body in charge of place names. In January 2014, the working group on clear administrative language (appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture) published a plan of action to improve the language of authorities (Hyvän virkakielen toimintaohjelma, ‘Action Plan for Clear Administrative Language’). It includes a suggestion for enacting an act on place names to clarify the usage of traditional place names and the planning of new official names.

The Institute for the Languages of Finland assumes the right and responsibility for providing normative recommendations for place names. Its Language Planning Department is responsible for Finnish names and its Swedish Department handles Swedish names. The Giellagas Institute at the University of Oulu takes care of Saami names. The recommendations provided by the Institutes are based on linguistics, cultural history, local tradition, and the practical demands of everyday life.

The right to decide on names of administrative units belongs to various administrative bodies. Decisions affecting the names of municipalities are made by the municipal councils, which must consult name experts before changing a name. The names in town and city plans (names of districts, streets, squares, parks, etc.) are confirmed by the Ministry of Environment but the actual naming is under the responsibility of local authorities. The National Land Survey’s regional offices have the final decision on the names of farms and estates given originally by their owners.

The central and regional organizations have the right to decide on names relating to their sphere of activities. Thus, for example, the Posti Group decides on the names of post office districts and the VR-Group Ltd (the railway company) decides on the names of railway stations. The Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency has the right to make decisions concerning names on road signs.

The Institute for the Languages of Finland acts as an authoritative organ in matters relating to the standardization of place names by providing guidance for administrative bodies and by

checking the Finnish, Swedish, and Saami names on the maps prepared by the National Land Survey. The work is based on onomastic field research conducted since the beginning of the 20th century. As a result of this research, about 2.7 million annotated place name entries based on field-collection and 625,000 name cards collected from old documents have been entered in the archives.

Addresses

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Maanmittauslaitos
Lantmäteriverket
National Land Survey of Finland
P.O. Box 84
FI-00521 HELSINKI
www.nls.fi

Posti Group Corporation
P.O. Box 1
FI-00011 POSTI, Finland
www.posti.fi

VR-Yhtymä Oy
VR-Group Ab
VR-Group Ltd
P.O. Box 488
FI-00101 HELSINKI
www.vr.fi

Väylävirasto
Trafikledsverket
Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency
P.O. Box 33
FI-00521 HELSINKI
www.vayla.fi

Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment
P.O. Box 35
FI-00023 HELSINKI
www.ym.fi

2.2 The choice of place names in different languages

The language legislation of Finland makes no mention of the use of place names in languages other than Finnish or Swedish. Many monolingual administrative areas, such as municipalities, have an official name in both languages, and when drafting documents, one has to use the name in the language of the document. Problems may arise when it is necessary to use other languages – for instances in brochures, reports and maps meant for international use. If the same object has two official names and one wants to present both, one has to choose which to mention first. Another problem is that, due to the nature of the text, one may not want to repeat both names, and a question arises as to which would be most appropriate.

Recommendation of the Language Boards

In January 1997, the Finnish and the Swedish Language Boards of the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland discussed the use of place names in Finland that occur in texts in different languages. Since the equality of the national languages is a central principle in the Finnish Constitution, the Boards gave a recommendation on the choice of place names in different languages.

The recommendation is meant for translators and editors, and it concerns public names, as the names of rural and urban municipalities, counties, regions or provinces, other administrative

units, streets and roads. Furthermore, this recommendation is only meant for current documentary texts.

1. In Finnish, Finnish place name forms are to be preferred, in Swedish, Swedish name forms are to be preferred, and in Saami, Saami name forms are to be preferred.
2. In languages that are closely related to Finnish, name forms in Finnish should be preferred, unless no other established name exists in the languages in question.
3. In Scandinavian languages, Swedish name forms should be preferred, unless no other established name exists in the language in question.
4. In other foreign languages, names of monolingual areas should appear in the form they have in the official language of those areas (for instance Fi *Iisalmi*, Sw *Mariehamn*), unless there are no other established names in the languages in question. In bilingual areas, the names in the majority language should be preferred (for instance Fi *Helsinki*, *Turku*, *Vaasa*; Sw *Jakobstad*, *Nykarleby*, *Pargas*, *Raseborg*.)

The names of many historical provinces were introduced into other languages while Finland was part of the Swedish kingdom (until 1809). Thus they have become established names (exonyms) in those languages – for instance, *Karelia*, *Ostrobothnia* and *Lapland* in English. According to the recommendation, excepting the exonyms, the Finnish forms of the names of Finnish provinces should be used in texts in foreign languages, the only exception being the province of Åland (Fi *Ahvenanmaa*). A gazetteer of Swedish place names in Finland and their Finnish equivalents has been edited by Leila Mattfolk and Maria Vidberg, updated regularly, and available at <http://kaino.kotus.fi/svenskaortnamn>.

3 PUBLICATIONS

3.1 Maps and Internet services

The National Land Survey makes the national topographic maps of Finland and the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency the official nautical charts.

Maps published by the National Land Survey:

- (a) The 1:20,000/1:25,000 series
 - Basic Map 1:20,000, 3,712 sheets, until 2007
 - Basic Map 1:25,000, 1,415 sheets, since 2007
- (b) The 1:50,000 series
 - Topographic Map 1:50,000, 370 sheets, until 2007
 - Topographic Map 1:50,000, 385 sheets, since 2007
- (c) *Atlas of Finland*, 5th edition (completed in 1993); thematic maps covering 49 topics in 26 folio books. Its 1:1 million maps are also available separately

The MapSite is a public Internet map browsing service provided by the National Land Survey. It enables searches using 800,000 place names (some 720,000 Finnish, 75,000 Swedish, 6,300

North Saami, 4,600 Inari Saami, and 650 Skolt Saami names). The service is available at <https://asiointi.maanmittauslaitos.fi/karttapaikka/> > In English.

Nautical charts published by the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency:

- Nautical charts 1:10,000 to 1:500,000, new prints or editions published annually

Some maps published by other organizations:

- (a) *GT tiekartasto Suomi – Finland = GT-vägatlas = GT Road Atlas = GT-Strassenatlas* 1:250 000 / 1:200 000 / 1:100 000 / 1:40 000 (2022). Index of names. Karttakeskus. ISBN: 978-952-266-725-0. 352 pp.
- (b) *Suomalainen maailmankartasto* [Comprehensive Atlas, Atlas in Finnish] (2021). Index of names. Karttakeskus. ISBN: 978-952-266-649-9. 240 pp.

3.2 Gazetteers

The place name indexes of the maps and atlases mentioned below are suitable for international use. Besides, there are gazetteers of various name categories:

Hyvän nimistön opas (fi) / *Namnplaneringsguiden* (sv) [Online manual on name planning], chief editor: Ulla Onkamo. The Institute for the languages of Finland, 2023. URN:ISBN 978-952-7359-18-1, ISSN 2323-3370. The online manual includes advice and material on name planning for the general public. Available in Finnish from <https://kielitoimistonohjepankki.fi/hyvan-nimiston-opas/> and in Swedish from <https://kielitoimistonohjepankki.fi/sv/namnplaneringsguiden/>. Updated regularly.

Asutusnimihakemisto [Index of Settlement Names in Finland], chief editor: Tiina Manni-Lindqvist; editor: Elina Wihuri. Helsinki, the Institute for the Languages of Finland, 2016. E-publication. ISSN: 1796-041X. – An on-line inventory of the most important Finnish Settlement Names in Finland and information on their inflection. Available from <http://kaino.kotus.fi/asutusnimihakemisto/>. Updated regularly.

Kielitoimiston ohjepankki [Guidelines Bank of the Finnish Language Office], the website for advice on the treatment of Finnish including names, available from <http://www.kielitoimistonohjepankki.fi/>

Information on the names of municipalities and areas of regional divisions based on municipalities is available from the Statistics Finland, <https://www.stat.fi/en/luokitukset/>.

Rantala, Leif, *Sámegiell báikenammalogahallan – Samisk ortnamnsförteckning – Samisk stedsnavnfortegnelse – Saamenkielinen paikannimiluettelo - Указатель саамских топонимов*. Roavvenjárga, 1988. ISBN 952-90-0133-9. – Gazetteer of Saami place names.

Leila Mattfolk & Maria Vidberg (eds.), *Svenska ortnamn i Finland*. [Swedish place names in Finland.] Helsinki, The Institute for the Languages of Finland, 2012 E-publication, ISSN 2323-3370. – An on-line inventory of the most important Swedish place names in Finland, about 5,000 entries. Available from <http://kaino.kotus.fi/svenskaortnamn>. Updated regularly.

Several publications by Metsähallitus, including a comprehensive list of standardized Saami names; contact: <http://julkaisut.metsa.fi>.

Suomalainen paikannimikirja [Place Names Lexicon of Finland] (2007). Chief editor: Sirkka Paikkala; sub-editor: Eeva-Liisa Stenhammar; other editors: Pirjo Mikkonen, Ritva Liisa Pitkänen, Peter Slotte. Helsinki, Karttakeskus: Kotimaisten kielten tutkimuskeskus [Research Institute for the Languages of Finland], 2007. 592 pp. ISSN 0355-5437, ISBN 978-951-593-976-0. https://kaino.kotus.fi/www/verkkojulkaisut/julk63/SuomalainenPaikannimikirja_e-kirja_kuvallinen.pdf

Maat, pääkaupungit ja kansalaisuudet [Countries, capital cities, nationalities] 2000. Edited by Sirkka Paikkala, Saara Welin. Material is to be continuously updated. In Finnish. Kotimaisten kielten keskus [The Institute for the Languages of Finland]. https://www.kotus.fi/julkaisut/nimijulkaisut/maat_paakaupungit_ja_kansalaisuudet

Names of countries in seven languages (Finnish, Swedish, Saami, English, French, German, Russian; 2009). Editor-in-chief: Sirkka Paikkala, ed. Minna Salonen. Material is to be continuously updated. Copyright © Kotimaisten kielten keskus [The Institute for the Languages of Finland]. URN:NBN:fi:kotus-20117, ISSN 1796-041X. <http://kaino.kotus.fi/maidennimet/index.php?h=en>

Kreikan paikannimet [Greek geographical names] 2011. Ed:s Kimmo Granqvist and Sirkka Paikkala. Material is to be continuously updated. Copyright © Kotimaisten kielten keskus [The Institute for the Languages of Finland]; Helsinki. <http://kaino.kotus.fi/kreikanpaikannimet/> URN:NBN:fi:kotus-20118; ISSN 1796-041X.

Eksonyymit. [Exonyms] Ed:s Kerkko Hakulinen and Sirkka Paikkala. Helsinki, the Institute for the Languages of Finland, 2019. E-publication. ISSN: 2323-3370. Available from <http://kaino.kotus.fi/eksonyymit>. Updated regularly.

Venäjän federaation paikannimiä, oikeinkirjoitus- ja painotusopas [Place names in the Federation of Russia. Handbook of spelling and stress] 2010. Facsimile of a publication from 2006, edited by Martti Kahla, Pirjo Mikkonen, Ida Kempinen & Anna Charnaya. Helsinki, Research Institute for the Languages of Finland. ISBN: 952-5446-18-2. 361p. <http://scripta.kotus.fi/www/verkkojulkaisut/julk11/> (pdf). URN:ISBN 978-952-5446-47-0; ISSN 1796-041X

4 GENERIC TERMS, ADJECTIVES, AND OTHER WORDS CONTAINED IN PLACE NAMES OF FINLAND

4.1 Finnish

L = especially in Lapland.

aapa fen (big treeless peatland) L
ahde hillside, slope
aho glade (burn-beaten land, open meadow)
ala-, *alainen*, *ali-*, *alinen* lower
alanko, *alanne*, *alava* lowland
allas reservoir, basin
apaja fishing ground
aukea, *aukko* opening, clearing (in a forest)

eno river L
etelä south, southern

haara fork, branch (of a river)
haka wooded pasture
hamina harbour, haven
harja, *harjanne* hogback, ridge
harju esker
hauta ditch, glen
hiekkä, *hiukka* sand
holma, *holmi* island

iso big, great, large
itä east, eastern

jaama way, stage (uninhabited woodland)
jyppyrä hill (small and steep) L
jyrkkä steep, bluff
jänkä, *jänkkä* peatland (big, almost treeless bog) L
järvi lake

kaakko, *kaakkois-* southeast, southeastern
kaarre, *kaarto* bend
kaira wilderness, backwoods (big uninhabited forest between rivers) L
kaita strait, narrow
kallio rock
kaltio spring L
kanava canal
kangas heath (dry, pine-dominated forest)
kannas isthmus
kansallis- national
kapeikko defile (narrow pass)
kari rock (in the water), shoal, skerry
kartano estate, manor-house
kaski burnt-over clearing (for cultivation)
katu street

kaula neck (narrow channel)
kaupunki city, town
keidas bog (peatbog with surface rising higher than the surroundings)
kemi ground (barren and hard-surface)
kenttä field, ground, natural lawn
kero top (rounded, treeless fell summit) L
keski- central, mid, middle
keto field, lea (grassfield green)
kirkko church
kirnu pothole (giant's cauldron kettle)
kivalo, *kiveliö* wilderness (big, uninhabited forest) L
kivi stone, boulder
kloppi islet
koillis- northeast, northeastern
korpi wilderness; swamp, marsh (birch- and spruce-dominated peatland)
korva ear (a place near by)
koski rapid(s)
krunni shoal, skerry
kuiva, *kuivio* dried-up area
kuja lane, alley
kulju hollow (in bog), soggy dent
kulma corner (part of a hamlet or a village)
kumpare, *kumpu* hillock, knoll
kunta municipality, commune
kuoppa cleff, hole (in an esker)
kurkkio waterfall L
kurkku, *kulkku* neck (strait, channel)
kuru canyon, gorge L
kurvi bend, curve
kylä village, hamlet
kytö moorland (burnt-over for cultivation)
kärki end, point, cape
köngäs waterfall, cataract, cascade L

laakso valley
lahti bay, bight, gulf, inlet
laki summit, top, peak L
lampi, *lammi* pond, tarn
latva upper course (of a river)
lehto rove, coppice
letto fen (wet, fertile, treeless peatland) L
linna castle, chateau, fortified hill
lompolo tarn, small lake, river enlargement L

luode, luoteis- northwest, northwestern
louhi, louhu quarry, boulder field
lounais- southwest, southwestern
luola cave, cavern
luoma rivulet; small lake
luonto, gen. *luonnon-* nature
luoto islet
luusua outlet (of a lake)
lähde spring
länsi, läntinen west, western

maa land, country; island; area
majakka lighthouse
mella sandy ridge, sandy bank L
meri sea
metsä forest, woodland
monttu hole, pit, excavation
muotka isthmus (between two waterways) L
musta black
mutka, mukka curve, bend
mylly mill
mäki hill, slope

neva bog (open, infertile, treeless peatland)
niemi cape, promontory
niitty, niittu meadow
niska neck (head of a river, head of rapids)
niva current, race (fast-flowing part of a river)
nokka end, cape, point
noro trickle (small brook); wet hollow
notko del, glen, hollow (small valley)
nulkki hill (small isolated elevation) L
nummi heath (sandy, often pine-dominated forest)
nuora strait (long and narrow)
nurkka corner (of a hamlet or village)

oja ditch, brook
oura reef (low and sandy)

pahta cliff L
paikka abode; site (of a small house)
pakka bank
paljakka fell top (above the tree line) L
palo burnt land
pato dam
pekki brook
pelto field (arable land)
perä, perukka end, periphery, corner (of a hamlet or village)
pieni, pikku small, little
pitkä long
pohja, pohjoinen, pohjois- north, northern

pohja, pohjukka bottom; end (of a place); corner (of a hamlet or village)
polku path
polvi bend
portti gate
poukama cove, bight
pudas channel (short side-channel of a river)
puhto group (of houses)
puisto park
puoli side
puro brook (small stream)
putous waterfall
pyöli hamlet, abode
pää head, point, end

raitti street (in a village)
raja boundary, border, frontier
rakka boulder field L
ranta shore, bank, beach
rauma strait
raunio ruin, boulder field, boulder heap
riipi tarn (small and deep lake) L
rimpi, rimmi flark (soggy part of a bog)
rinne slope, side (of a hill)
rinta slope, brink
*risti, ristey*s cross, crossroads, crossing
riutta reef, bank
rotko gorge, canyon
rova hill (small, burnt elevation) L
runni spring, pool
räme bog (infertile peatland with stunted pines)

saajo grove (in a peatland) L
saari island
saaristo archipelago, islands
sahi small rapid(s)
saivo lake (limpid) L
salmi strait
salo wilderness; island (large, forest-growing)
santa sand
satama harbour, haven
selkonen backwoods; wilderness
selkä back, ridge (gently sloping elongated elevation); offing (open water area in the sea or in a lake)
selänne ridge (gently sloping elongated elevation)
silta bridge
sola defile, pass *soppi* corner (of a hamlet or village), nook
suntti strait
suo bog (wet, spongy peatland)
suppa pit (in an esker)
suu mouth, estuary

uoma channel; bog (large, treeless) L
uopaja see *vuopaja*
uura, *uuro* cleff, ravine
uus-, *uusi* new

jávri (javri) lake
jeaggi (jeäggi) bog
johka river

lásis (lasis) rock (glaciated; bare, smooth, and level or slanting)
lietna (liedna) province, county
lulli, lulle- south, southern
luokta bay, gulf
luoppal (luobbal) tarn (river enlargement)

máddi, máтта (maddi, madda) south, southern
máđii pathway
muotki isthmus

njavvi (njâvvi) current (fast-flowing stream)
njárga (njarga) cape, point
njunni nose, spur
nuorti, nuorte- east, eastern

oaivi mountain, top (round-shaped)
oarji, oarje- west, western

savu (sâvu) still water, broad
skáidi (skaidi) interfluvium (land between two joining waterways)
stuoris, stuorra- large, great
suolu island, islet

uhcci, uhca (uhttsi, uhtsa) small
unni, unna small

vággi (vaggi) valley
várri (varri) hill, mountain (with trees on the top)
vuolle-, vuolli lower, under, nether
vuopmi (vuobmi) woodland; bottom (flattish stretch of a valley)
vuotna (vuodna) fiord
vuovdi forest, woodland

5 ABBREVIATIONS USED IN MAPS

The list contains the most common abbreviations of explanatory texts used in Finnish large-scale maps.

Abbreviation	Decoding	English equivalent
Amp.r.	ampumarata Fi	shooting range
Ast.	vesiasteikko Fi	water level gauge
Avstj.	avstjälpningsplats Sw	waste-disposal site
Badstr.	badstrand Sw	bathing beach
Bollpl.	bollplan Sw	ball park
Brandbev., Br.bev.	brandbevakning Sw	fire guard station
Brandst.	brandstation Sw	fire station
Busst.	busstation Sw	bus station
Camp.plats/Camp.	campingplats Sw	camping ground
Cklv.	cykelväg Sw	cycle path
Fridl./F	frildlyst Sw	under protection
F.hus	föreningshus Sw	club house
Hdl	handel Sw	shop, market
Hot.	hotelli Fi, hotell Sw	hotel
Huoltoas./H.as.	huoltoasema Fi	service station
Hälsoc.	hälsocentral Sw	health center
Hälsost.	hälsostation Sw	private health center
Idr.	idrottsplats Sw	sports area
Inkv.	inkvarteringsaffär Sw	lodging-house
K.	koulu Fi	school
K.talo	kaupungintalo Fi	town hall, city hall

K.talo	kunnantalo Fi	municipality hall
Kaatop.	kaatopaikka Fi	waste-disposal site
Kpa	kauppa Fi	shop, market
Kraftv.	kraftverk Sw	power station
Kuntor.	kuntorata Fi	fitness path
Kursc.	kurscentral Sw	residential college
Kurssik.	kurssikeskus Fi	residential college
L.as.	linja-autoasema Fi	bus station
Leir./Leir.alue	leirintäalue Fi	camping ground
Lomak.	lomakylä Fi	resort village
Ls.alue	luonnonsuojelualue Fi	nature reserve
Maj.liike	majoitusliike Fi	lodging-house
Mot.	motelli Fi, motell Sw	motel
Mus.	museo Fi, museum Sw	museum
Näköt.	näkötorni Fi	observation tower
P	posti Fi, post Sw	post office
Pallok.	pallokenttä Fi	ball park
Paloas.	paloasema Fi	fire station
Palov.	palovartio Fi	fire guard
Perusk.	peruskoulu Fi	comprehensive (primary) school
Pp.tie	polkupyörätie Fi	cycle path
Pys.alue/Pys.al.	pysäköintialue Fi	parking lot
Pälsf.	pälsfarm Sw	fur farm
Rauh./R	rauhoitettu kohde Fi	under protection
Ravir.	ravirata Fi	trotting track
Retk.m.	retkeilymaja Fi	youth hostel
Rukoush.	rukoushuone Fi	chapel, prayer house
S.talo	seuratalo Fi	club house
Sair.	sairaala Fi	hospital
Sem.by	semesterby Sw	resort village
Servicest./Serv.	servicestation Sw	service station
Sjukh.	sjukhus Sw	hospital
Skj.b.	skjutbana Sw	shooting range
Sk.	skola Sw	school
Stadsh.	stadshus Sw	town hall, city hall
Terv.as.	terveysasema Fi	health center
Terv.k.	terveyskeskus Fi	health center
Travb.	travbana Sw	trotting track
Turkist.	turkistarha Fi	fur farm
Uimah.	uimahalli Fi	indoor swimming pool
Uimar.	uimaranta Fi	bathing beach
Urh.	urheilupaikka Fi	sports area
Utsiktst.	utsiktstorn Sw	observation tower
Vandr.h.	vandrarhem Sw	youth hostel
Vanhaink./Vanh.k.	vanhainkoti Fi	old people's home
Vir.t.	virastotalo Fi	local government offices
Vt.	vesitorni Fi	water tower
Äld.hem/Äld.h.	äldringshem Sw	old people's home
Ämb.h.	ämbetshus Sw	local government offices

6 ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

6.1 Municipalities

The basic administrative unit of Finland is municipality or commune (Fi *kunta*, Sw *kommun*). In the beginning of 2025, there were 308 municipalities of which 259 were monolingual Finnish, 18 bilingual with a Finnish majority, 16 monolingual Swedish, and 15 bilingual with a Swedish majority. The Council of State decides every tenth year – after a census – which category each of the municipalities belongs to. The last decision is effective from 2023 through 2032. On the recommendation by the municipal council, the Government may determine (a Government Decree) that the municipality remains bilingual for the following ten year period even if the municipality would otherwise be monolingual. (A complement to the Language Act 2014).

Lists 1 and 2 below indicate the language situation of the municipalities in the beginning of 2025.

In List 1 the municipalities are alphabetized according to the Finnish names. Monolingual Finnish municipalities are indicated by the symbol Fi and monolingual Swedish municipalities by Sw. Bilingual municipalities with a Finnish majority are indicated by Fi-Sw and those with a Swedish majority by Sw-Fi. Municipalities with the administrative status *kaupunki* Fi. *stad* Sw. ('township' Eng.) are indicated by an asterisk (*). The term refers to a unit of government, not to an urban settlement. Numbers indicate the regions in which the municipalities are located (see Map 2).

In List 2, the municipalities that have two names are alphabetized according to their Swedish name.

The Saami names of the four northernmost municipalities (Enontekiö, Inari, Sodankylä and Utsjoki) are given after List 2.

List 1. The municipalities of Finland (in 2025) alphabetized according to the Finnish names (except for those having only a Swedish name). The Swedish names are written in *italics* and the majority language names with **bold** letters.

Akaa – <i>Ackas</i> Fi 6	Evijärvi Fi 14	Hartola – <i>Gustav Adolfs</i> Fi 7
Alajärvi* Fi 14		Hattula Fi 5
Alavieska Fi 17	<i>Finström</i> Sw 21	Hausjärvi Fi 5
Alavus – <i>Alavo</i> * Fi 14	Forssa* Fi 5	Heinola* Fi 7
Asikkala Fi 7	<i>Föglö</i> Sw 21	Heinävesi Fi 10
Askola Fi 1	<i>Geta</i> Sw 21	Helsinki – <i>Helsingfors</i> * Fi-Sw 1
Aura Fi 2		Hirvensalmi Fi 10
	Haapajärvi* Fi 17	Hollola Fi 7
Brändö Sw 21	Haapavesi* Fi 17	Honkajoki Fi 4
	Hailuoto – <i>Karlö</i> Fi 17	Huittinen – <i>Vittis</i> * Fi 4
Eckerö Sw 21	Halsua – <i>Halso</i> Fi 16	Humppila Fi 5
Enonkoski Fi 10	Hamina – <i>Fredrikshamn</i> * Fi 8	Hyrynsalmi Fi 18
Enontekiö – <i>Enontekis</i> Fi 19	<i>Hammarland</i> Sw 21	Hyvinkää – <i>Hyvinge</i> * Fi 1
Espoo – <i>Esbo</i> * Fi-Sw 1	Hankasalmi Fi 13	Hämeenkyrö – <i>Tavastkyrö</i> Fi 6
Eura Fi 4	Hanko – <i>Hangö</i> *, Fi-Sw 1	Hämeenlinna – <i>Tavastehus</i> * Fi 5
Eurajoki – <i>Euraåminne</i> Fi 4	Harjavalta* Fi 4	

Ii – *Ijo* Fi 17
Iisalmi – *Idensalmi** Fi 11
Iitti – *Itis* Fi 8
Ikaalinen – *Ikalis** Fi 6
Ilmajoki – *Ilmola* Fi 14
Ilomantsi – *Ilomants* Fi 12
Imatra* Fi 9
Inari – *Enare* Fi 19
Inkoo – **Ingå** Sw-Fi 1
Isojoki – *Storå* Fi 14
Isokyrö – *Storkyro* Fi 15

Janakkala Fi 5
Joensuu* Fi 12
Jokioinen – *Jockis* Fi 5
Jomala Sw 21
Joroinen – *Jorois* Fi 10
Juuka – *Juga* Fi 12
Juupajoki Fi 6
Juva Fi 10
Jyväskylä* Fi 13
Jämijärvi Fi 4
Jämsä* Fi 13
Järvenpää – *Träskända** Fi 1

Kaarina – *S:t Karins* Fi 2
Kaavi Fi 11
Kajaani – *Kajana** Fi 18
Kalajoki* Fi 17
Kangasala Fi 6
Kangasniemi Fi 10
Kankaanpää* Fi 4
Kannonkoski Fi 13
Kannus* Fi 16
Karjajoki – *Bötom* Fi 14
Karkkila – *Högfors** Fi 1
Karstula Fi 13
Karvia Fi 4
Kaskinen – *Kaskö** Fi-Sw 15
Kauhajoki* Fi 14
Kauhava* Fi 14
Kauniainen – *Grankulla** Fi-Sw 1
Kaustinen – *Kaustby* Fi 16
Keitele Fi 11
Kemi* Fi 19
Kemijärvi* Fi 19
Keminmaa Fi 19
Kemiönsaari - **Kimitoön** Sw-Fi 2
Kempele Fi 17
Kerava – *Kervo** Fi 1
Keuruu – *Keuru** Fi 13
Kihniö Fi 6
Kinnula Fi 13
Kirkkonummi – *Kyrkslätt* Fi-Sw 1
Kitee – *Kides** Fi 12
Kittilä Fi 19
Kiuruvesi* Fi 11
Kivijärvi Fi 13

Kokemäki – *Kumo** Fi 4
Kokkola – *Karleby** Fi-Sw 16
Kolari Fi 19
Konnevesi Fi 13
Kontiolahti – *Kontiolax* Fi 12
Korsnäs Sw-Fi 15
Koski TL – *Koskis* Fi 2
Kotka* Fi 8
Kouvola* Fi 8
Kristiinankaupunki – **Kristinestad***
Sw-Fi 15
Kruunupyy – **Kronoby** Sw-Fi 15
Kuhmo* Fi 18
Kuhmoinen – *Kuhmois* Fi 13
Kumlinge Sw 21
Kuopio* Fi 11
Kuortane Fi 14
Kurikka* Fi 14
Kustavi – *Gustavs* Fi 2
Kuusamo Fi 17
Kyyjärvi Fi 13
Kärkölä Fi 7
Kärsämäki Fi 17
Kökar Sw 21

Lahti – *Lahtis** Fi 7
Laihia – *Laihela* Fi 15
Laitila – *Letala* Fi 2
Lapinjärvi – *Lappträsk* Fi-Sw 1
Lapinlahti Fi 11
Lappajärvi Fi 14
Lappeenranta – *Villmanstrand**
Fi 9
Lapua – *Lappo** Fi 14
Laukaa – *Laukas* Fi 13
Lemi Fi 9
Lemland Sw 21
Lempäälä Fi 6
Leppävirta Fi 11
Lestijärvi Fi 16
Lieksa* Fi 12
Lieto – *Lundo* Fi 2
Liminka – *Limingo* Fi 17
Liperi – *Libelits* Fi 12
Lohja – *Lojo** Fi-Sw 1
Loimaa* Fi 2
Loppi Fi 5
Loviisa – *Lovisa** Fi-Sw 1
Luhanka Fi 13
Lumijoki Fi 17
Lumparland Sw 21
Luoto – **Larsmo** Sw-Fi 15
Luumäki Fi 9

Maalahti – **Malax** Sw-Fi 15
Maarianhamina – **Mariehamn*** Sw
21
Marttila – *S:t Mårtens* Fi 2

Masku Fi 2
Merijärvi Fi 17
Merikarvia – *Sastmola* Fi 4
Miehikkälä Fi 8
Mikkeli – *S:t Michel** Fi 10
Muhos Fi 17
Multia Fi 13
Muonio Fi 19
Mustasaari – **Korsholm** Sw-Fi 15
Muurame Fi 13
Mynämäki – *Virmo* Fi 2
Myrskylä – *Mörskom* Fi-Sw 1
Mäntsälä Fi 1
Mänttä-Vilppula* Fi 6
Mäntyharju Fi 10

Naantali – *Nådendal** Fi 2
Nakkila Fi 4
Nivala* Fi 17
Nokia* Fi 6
Nousiainen – *Nousis* Fi 2
Nurmes* Fi 12
Nurmijärvi Fi 1
Närpiö – **Närpes*** Sw-Fi 15

Orimattila* Fi 7
Oripää Fi 2
Orivesi* Fi 6
Oulainen* Fi 17
Oulu – *Uleåborg** Fi 17
Outokumpu* Fi 12

Padasjoki Fi 7
Paimio – *Pemar** Fi 2
Paltamo Fi 18
Parainen – **Pargas*** Sw-Fi 2
Parikkala Fi 9
Parkano* Fi 6
Pedersören kunta – **Pedersöre** Sw-
Fi 15
Pelkosenniemi Fi 19
Pello Fi 19
Perho Fi 16
Petäjävesi Fi 13
Pieksämäki* Fi 10
Pielavesi Fi 11
Pietarsaari – **Jakobstad*** Sw-Fi 15
Pihtipudas Fi 13
Pirkkala – *Birkala* Fi 6
Polvijärvi Fi 12
Pomarkku – *Påmark* Fi 4
Pori – *Björneborg** Fi 4
Pornainen – *Borgnäs* Fi 1
Porvoo – *Borgå** Fi-Sw 1
Posio Fi 19
Pudasjärvi* Fi 17
Pukila Fi 1
Punkalaidun Fi 6

Puolanka Fi 18
Puumala Fi 10
Pyhtää – *Pyttis* Fi-Sw 8
Pyhäjoki Fi 17
Pyhäjärvi* Fi 17
Pyhäntä Fi 17
Pyhäranta Fi 2
Pälkäne Fi 6
Pöytyä Fi 2

Raahe – *Brahestad** Fi 17
Raasepori - **Raseborg*** Sw-Fi 1
Raisio – *Reso** Fi 2
Rantasalmi Fi 10
Ranua Fi 19
Rauma – *Raumo** Fi 4
Rautalampi Fi 11
Rautavaara Fi 11
Rautjärvi Fi 9
Reisjärvi Fi 17
Riihimäki* Fi 5
Ristijärvi Fi 18
Rovaniemi* Fi 19
Ruokolahti – *Ruokolax* Fi 9
Ruovesi Fi 6
Rusko Fi 2
Rääkkylä Fi 12

Saarijärvi* Fi 1
Salla Fi 19
Salo* Fi 2
Saltvik Sw 21
Sastamala* Fi 6
Sauvo – *Sagu* Fi 2
Savitaipale Fi 9
Savonlinna – *Nyslott** Fi 10
Savukoski Fi 19

Seinäjoki* Fi 14
Sievi Fi 17
Siikainen – *Siikais* Fi 4
Siikajoki Fi 17
Siikalatva Fi 17
Siilinjärvi Fi 11
Simo Fi 19
Sipoo – *Sibbo* Fi-Sw 1
Siuntio – *Sjundeå* Fi-Sw 1
Sodankylä Fi 19
Soini Fi 14
Somero* Fi 2
Sonkajärvi Fi 11
Sotkamo Fi 18
Sottunga Sw 21
Sulkava, Fi 10
Sund Sw 21
Suomussalmi Fi 18
Suonenjoki* Fi 11
Sysmä Fi 7
Säkylä Fi 4

Taipalsaari Fi 9
Taivalkoski Fi 17
Taivassalo – *Tövsala* Fi 2
Tammela Fi 5
Tampere – *Tammerfors** Fi 6
Tervo Fi 11
Tervola Fi 19
Teuva – *Östermark* Fi 14
Tohmajärvi Fi 12
Toholampi Fi 16
Toivakka Fi 13
Tornio – *Torneå** Fi 19
Turku – *Åbo** Fi-Sw 2
Tuusniemi Fi 11
Tuusula – *Tusby* Fi 1

Tyrnävä Fi 17

Ulvila – *Ulvby** Fi 4
Urjala Fi 6
Utajärvi Fi 17
Utsjoki Fi 19
Uurainen Fi 13
Uusikaarlepyy – **Nykarleby*** Sw-Fi 15
Uusikaupunki – *Nystad** Fi 2

Vaala Fi 18
Vaasa – *Vasa** Fi-Sw 15
Valkeakoski* Fi 6
Valtimo Fi 12
Vantaa – *Vanda** Fi-Sw 1
Varkaus* Fi 11
Vehmaa – *Vemo* Fi 2
Vesanto Fi 11
Vesilahti Fi 6
Veteli – *Vetil* Fi 16
Vieremä Fi 11
Vihti – *Vichtis* Fi 1
Viitasaari* Fi 13
Vimpeli – *Vindala* Fi 14
Virolahti – *Vederlax* Fi 8
Virrat – *Virdois** Fi 6
Vårdö Sw 21
Vöyri – **Vörå** Sw-Fi 15

Ylitornio – *Övertorneå* Fi 19
Ylivieska* Fi 17
Ylöjärvi* Fi 6
Ypäjä Fi 5

Ähtäri – *Etseri** Fi 14
Äänekoski* Fi 13

Abolished municipalities after 2012. The Swedish names are written in *italics* and the majority language names with **bold** letters.

Abolished municipality	Point of time	Annexed or a new municipality
Länsi-Turunmaa - Väståboland * Sw-Fi 2	1.1.2012	Parainen - Pargas * Sw-Fi 2 (name change)
Haukipudas Fi 17	1.1.2013	Oulu - <i>Uleåborg</i> * Fi 17
Karjalohja – <i>Karislojo</i> Fi 1	1.1.2013	Lohja – <i>Lojo</i> * Fi-Sw 1
Kerimäki Fi 10	1.1.2013	Savonlinna – <i>Nyslott</i> Fi 10
Kesälahti Fi 12	1.1.2013	Kitee* Fi 12
Kiikoinen Fi 4	1.1.2013	Sastamala* Fi 6
Kiiminki Fi 17	1.1.2013	Oulu – <i>Uleåborg</i> *Fi 17
Nilsä* Fi 11	1.1.2013	Kuopio* Fi 11
Nummi-Pusula Fi 1	1.1.2013	Lohja – <i>Lojo</i> * Fi-Sw 1
Oulunsalo Fi 17	1.1.2013	Oulu – <i>Uleåborg</i> * Fi 17
Punkaharju Fi 10	1.1.2013	Savonlinna – <i>Nyslott</i> * Fi 10
Ristiina Fi 10	1.1.2013	Mikkeli - <i>S:t Michel</i> * Fi 10
Suomenniemi Fi 9	1.1.2013	Mikkeli - <i>S:t Michel</i> * Fi 10
Töysä Fi 14	1.1.2013	Alavus Fi 14
Vihanti Fi 17	1.1.2013	Raahe – <i>Brahestad</i> * Fi 17
Vähäkyrö – <i>Lillkyro</i> Fi 15	1.1.2013	Vaasa – <i>Vasa</i> * Fi-Sw 15
Yli-Ii Fi 17	1.1.2013	Oulu - <i>Uleåborg</i> * Fi-Sw 17
Lavia Fi 4	1.1.2015	Pori – <i>Björneborg</i> * Fi 4
Maaninka Fi 11	1.1.2015	Kuopio* Fi 11
Tarvasjoki Fi 2	1.1.2015	Lieto – <i>Lundo</i> Fi 2
Hämeenkoski Fi 7	1.1.2016	Hollola Fi 7
Jalasjärvi Fi 14	1.1.2016	Kurikka* Fi 14
Köyliö – <i>Kjulo</i> Fi 4	1.1.2016	Säkylä Fi 4
Nastola Fi 7	1.1.2016	Lahti – <i>Lahtis</i> * Fi 7
Juankoski* Fi 11	1.1.2017	Kuopio* Fi 11
Luvia Fi 4	1.1.2017	Eurajoki – <i>Euraåminne</i> Fi 4
Valtimo Fi 12	1.1.2020	Nurmes* Fi 12
Honkajoki Fi 4	1.1.2021	Kankaanpää* Fi 4
Pertunmaa Fi 10	1.1.2025	Mäntyharju Fi 10

List 2. The municipalities of Finland which have two official names, alphabetized according to the Swedish names. Names in the majority language are written with **bold** letters.

Ackas – Akaa	Enontekis – Enontekiö	Halso – Halsua
Alavo – Alavus	Esbo – Espoo	Hangö – Hanko
	Etseri – Ähtäri	Helsingfors – Helsinki
Birkkala – Pirkkala	Euraåminne – Eurajoki	Hyvinge – Hyvinkää
Björneborg – Pori		Högfors – Karkkila
Borgnäs – Pornainen	Fredrikshamn – Hamina	
Borgå – Porvoo		Idensalmi – Iisalmi
Brahestad – Raahe	Grankulla – Kauniainen	Ijo – Ii
Bötom – Karijoki	Gustav Adolfs – Hartola	Ikalis – Ikaalinen
	Gustavs – Kustavi	Ilmola – Ilmajoki
Enare – Inari		Ilomants – Ilomantsi

Ingå – Inkoo
Itis – **Iitti**

Jakobstad – Pietarsaari
Jockis – **Jokioinen**
Jorois – **Joroinen**
Juga – **Juuka**

Kajana – **Kajaani**
Karleby – **Kokkola**
Karlö – **Hailuoto**
Kaskö – **Kaskinen**
Kaustby – **Kaustinen**
Kervo – **Kerava**
Keuru – **Keuruu**
Kides – **Kitee**
Kimitoön – Kemiönsaari
Kontiolax – **Kontiolahti**
Korsholm – Mustasaari
Koskis – **Koski Tl.**
Kristinestad – Kristiinankau-
punkki
Kronoby – Kruunupyy
Kuhmois – **Kuhmoinen**
Kumo – **Kokemäki**
Kyrkslätt – **Kirkkonummi**

Lahtis – **Lahti**
Laihela – **Laihia**
Lappo – **Lapua**
Lapträsk – **Lapinjärvi**
Larsmo – Luoto
Laukas – **Laukaa**

Letala – **Laitila**
Libelits – **Liperi**
Limingo – **Liminka**
Lojo – **Lohja**
Lovisa – **Loviisa**
Lundo – **Lieto**

Malax – Maalahti
Mariehamn – Maarianhamina
Mörskom – **Myrskylä**

Nousis – **Nousiainen**
Nykarleby – Uusikaarlepyy
Nyslott – **Savonlinna**
Nystad – **Uusikaupunki**
Nädendal – **Naantali**
Närpes – Närpiö

Pargas – Parainen
Pedersöre – Pedersören kunta
Pemar – **Paimio**
Pyttis – **Pyhtää**
Påmark – **Pomarkku**

Raseborg – Raasepori
Raumo – **Rauma**
Reso – **Raisio**
Ruokolax – **Ruokolahti**

S:t Karins – **Kaarina**
S:t Michel – **Mikkeli**
S:t Mårtens – **Marttila**
Sagu – **Sauvo**
Sastmola – **Merikarvia**

Sibbo – **Sipoo**
Siikais – **Siikainen**
Sjundeå – **Siuntio**
Storkyro – **Isokyrö**
Storå – **Isojoki**

Tammerfors – **Tampere**
Tavastehus – **Hämeenlinna**
Tavastkyro – **Hämeenkyrö**
Torneå – **Tornio**
Träskända – **Järvenpää**
Tusby – **Tuusula**
Tövsala – **Taivassalo**

Uleåborg – **Oulu**
Ulvby – **Ulvila**

Vanda – **Vantaa**
Vasa – **Vaasa**
Vederlax – **Virolahti**
Vemo – **Vehmaa**
Vetil – **Veteli**
Vichtis – **Vihti**
Villmanstrand – **Lappeenranta**
Vindala – **Vimpeli**
Virtdois – **Virrat**
Virmo – **Mynämäki**
Vittis – **Huittinen**
Vörå – Vöyri

Åbo – **Turku**

Östermark – **Teuva**
Övertorneå – **Ylitornio**

The Saami names of the four northernmost municipalities of Finland (I = Inari Saami, N = North Saami, Sk = Skolt Saami): Enontekiö = Eanodat N; Inari = Aanaar I, Anár N, Aanar Sk; Sodankylä = Soadegilli N; Utsjoki = Ohcejohka N.

6.2 Historical provinces

There are two kinds of provinces in Finland – historical provinces and modern *regions*¹. The names of the provinces have spread into foreign languages in their Swedish forms at the time when Finland was part of Sweden (before 1809), and they sometimes survive in those languages as exonyms (for instance Karelia, Ostrobothnia, Lapland). The number of historical provinces is nine:

1. Varsinais-Suomi Fi; Egentliga Finland Sw; Finland Proper En
2. Uusimaa Fi, En; Nyland Sw
3. Satakunta Fi, Sw, En
4. Häme Fi; Tavastland Sw; Tavastia En

¹ The Ministry of Interior of Finland translates the term *maakunta* (Fi)/*landskap* (Sw) by *region* (formerly *province*).

5. Savo Fi, En; Savolax Sw
6. Karjala Fi; Karelen Sw; Karelia En
7. Pohjanmaa Fi; Österbotten Sw; Ostrobothnia En
8. Lappi Fi; Lappland Sw; Lapland En
9. Åland Sw, En; Ahvenanmaa Fi

6.3 Regions

Since February 1997, the municipalities of Finland have been grouped into regions (*Fi maakunta*, *Sw landskap*); see Map 2. The names of the historical provinces have been – at least partly – “inherited” by the regions or “new provinces”. The Ministry of Interior ratified their official Finnish and Swedish names in 1998, and donor recommended English and French names in 1999, as follow:

1. Uusimaa Fi, En, Fr; Nyland Sw
2. Varsinais-Suomi Fi, En*, Fr; Egentliga Finland Sw
3. Satakunta Fi, Sw, En, Fr
4. Kanta-Häme Fi, En, Fr; Egentliga Tavastland
5. Pirkanmaa Fi, En, Fr; Birkaland Sw
6. Päijät-Häme Fi, En, Fr; Päijänne-Tavastland Sw
7. Kymenlaakso Fi, En, Fr; Kymmenedalen Sw
8. Etelä-Karjala Fi; Södra Karelen Sw, South Karelia En, Carélie du Sud Fr
9. Etelä-Savo Fi, En*, Fr; Södra Savolax Sw
10. Pohjois-Savo Fi, En*, Fr; Norra Savolax Sw
11. Pohjois-Karjala Fi; Norra Karelen Sw; North Karelia En; Carélie du Nord Fr
12. Keski-Suomi Fi; Mellersta Finland Sw; Central Finland En; Finlande centrale Fr
13. Etelä-Pohjanmaa Fi; Södra Österbotten Sw; South Ostrobothnia En; Ostrobotnie du Sud Fr
14. Österbotten Sw; Pohjanmaa Fi; Ostrobothnia En; Ostrobotnie Fr
15. Keski-Pohjanmaa Fi; Mellersta Österbotten Sw; Central Ostrobothnia En; Ostrobotnie centrale Fr
16. Pohjois-Pohjanmaa Fi; Norra Österbotten Sw; North Ostrobothnia En; Ostrobotnie du Nord Fr
17. Kainuu Fi, En, Fr; Kajanaland Sw
18. Lappi Fi; Lappland Sw; Lapland En; Laponie Fr
19. Åland Sw, En, Fr; Ahvenanmaa Fi

* In the beginning of 2019 the Prime Minister’s Office recommended the English names Southwest Finland, South Savo and North Savo to be used for Varsinais-Suomi, Etelä-Savo and Pohjois-Savo, respectively.

6.4 Regional state administrative agencies and their areas of operation

Since January 2010, the regional administration of the State is divided into 6 *regional state administrative agencies* (*aluehallintovirasto* Fi, *regionförvaltningsverk* Sw). Their administrative areas are called *areas of operation of the regional administrative agencies* (*aluehallintoviraston toimialue* Fi, *regionförvaltningsverkets verksamhetsområde / verksamhetsområdet för regionförvaltningsverket* Sw; formerly *provinces*, *lääni* Fi, *län* Sw). The division into administrative areas is called *the breakdown of areas of operation of the regional state administrative agencies* (*aluehallintovirastojen toimialuejako* Fi, *indelningen i regionförvaltningsverkens verksamhetsområden / indelningen i verksamhetsområden för regionförvaltningsverken* Sw; formerly *division into provinces*, *lääni jako* Fi, *länsindelning* Sw).

The names of the regional state administrative agencies and their translations given by the Ministry of Finance are following.

1. Etelä-Suomen aluehallintovirasto Fi,
Regionförvaltningsverket i Södra Finland Sw,
Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland En,
Agence administrative de l'État pour la région de Finlande du Sud Fr
2. Lounais-Suomen aluehallintovirasto Fi,
Regionförvaltningsverket i Sydvästra Finland Sw,
Regional State Administrative Agency for Southwestern Finland En,
Agence administrative de l'État pour la région de Finlande du Sud-Ouest Fr
3. Itä-Suomen aluehallintovirasto Fi,
Regionförvaltningsverket i Östra Finland Sw,
Regional State Administrative Agency for Eastern Finland En,
Agence administrative de l'État pour la région de Finlande de l'Est Fr
4. Länsi- ja Sisä-Suomen aluehallintovirasto Fi,
Regionförvaltningsverket i Västra och Inre Finland Sw,
Regional State Administrative Agency for Western and Inland Finland En,
Agence administrative de l'État pour la région de Finlande de l'Ouest et intérieur Fr
5. Pohjois-Suomen aluehallintovirasto Fi,
Regionförvaltningsverket i Norra Finland Sw,
Regional State Administrative Agency for Northern Finland En,
Agence administrative de l'État pour la région de Finlande du Nord Fr
6. Lapin aluehallintovirasto Fi,
Regionförvaltningsverket i Lappland Sw,
Lappi guovlohálddahušdoaimmahat saami Sa,
Regional State Administrative Agency for Lapland En,
Agence administrative de l'État pour la région de Laponie Fr

In Åland, the regional administrative organ is State Department of Åland (Statens ämbetsverk på Åland Sw, Ahvenanmaan valtionvirasto Fi)

6.5. Wellbeing services counties

Since January 2023 the State is divided into 21 wellbeing services counties responsible for organising health, social and rescue services. The division into wellbeing services counties is mainly based on the division into regions, but the region of Uusimaa is divided into four wellbeing services counties. The City of Helsinki and Åland do not form wellbeing services counties but are responsible for organising health, social and rescue services in their areas. The division of wellbeing services counties on the map is available at <https://stm.fi/en/wellbeing-services-counties-on-the-map1>.

The names of the wellbeing service counties and their translations given by the Ministry of Finance are following:

1. Varsinais-Suomen hyvinvointialue Fi,
Egentliga Finlands välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Southwest Finland / Southwest Finland wellbeing services county En
2. Satakunnan hyvinvointialue Fi,

- Satakunta välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Satakunta / Satakunta wellbeing services county En
3. Kanta-Hämeen hyvinvointialue Fi,
Egentliga Tavastlands välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Kanta-Häme / Kanta-Häme wellbeing services county En
 4. Pirkanmaan hyvinvointialue Fi,
Birkalands välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Pirkanmaa / Pirkanmaa wellbeing services county En
 5. Päijät-Hämeen hyvinvointialue Fi,
Päijänne-Tavastlands välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Päijät-Häme / Päijät-Häme wellbeing services county En
 6. Kymenlaakson hyvinvointialue Fi,
Kymmenedalens välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Kymenlaakso / Kymenlaakso wellbeing services county En
 7. Etelä-Karjalan hyvinvointialue Fi,
Södra Karelens välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of South Karelia / South Karelia wellbeing services county En
 8. Etelä-Savon hyvinvointialue Fi,
Södra Savolax välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of South Savo / South Savo wellbeing services county En
 9. Pohjois-Savon hyvinvointialue Fi,
Norra Savolax välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of North Savo / North Savo wellbeing services county En
 10. Pohjois-Karjalan hyvinvointialue Fi,
Norra Karelens välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of North Karelia / North Karelia wellbeing services county En
 11. Keski-Suomen hyvinvointialue Fi,
Mellersta Finlands välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Central Finland / Central Finland wellbeing services county En
 12. Etelä-Pohjanmaan hyvinvointialue Fi,
Södra Österbottens välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of South Ostrobothnia / South Ostrobothnia wellbeing services county En
 13. Pohjanmaan hyvinvointialue Fi,
Österbottens välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Ostrobothnia / Ostrobothnia wellbeing services county En
 14. Keski-Pohjanmaan hyvinvointialue Fi,
Mellersta Österbottens välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Central Ostrobothnia / Central Ostrobothnia wellbeing services county En
 15. Pohjois-Pohjanmaan hyvinvointialue Fi,
Norra Österbottens välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of North Ostrobothnia / North Ostrobothnia wellbeing services county En
 16. Kainuun hyvinvointialue Fi,
Kajanalands välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Kainuu / Kainuu wellbeing services county En
 17. Lapin hyvinvointialue Fi,
Lapplands välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Lapland / Lapland wellbeing services county En
 18. Itä-Uudenmaan hyvinvointialue Fi,
Östra Nylands välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of East Uusimaa / East Uusimaa wellbeing services county En

19. Keski-Uudenmaan hyvinvointialue Fi,
Mellersta Nylands välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Central Uusimaa / Central Uusimaa wellbeing services county En
20. Länsi-Uudenmaan hyvinvointialue Fi,
Västra Nylands välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of West Uusimaa / West Uusimaa wellbeing services county En
21. Vantaan ja Keravan hyvinvointialue Fi,
Vanda och Kervo välfärdsområde Sw,
wellbeing services county of Vantaa and Kerava / Vantaa and Kerava wellbeing services county En

Map 2. Areas of operation of the regional state administrative agencies (Aluehallintovirastojen toimialueet), Regions (Maakunnat) and Municipalities (Kunnat) of Finland.

