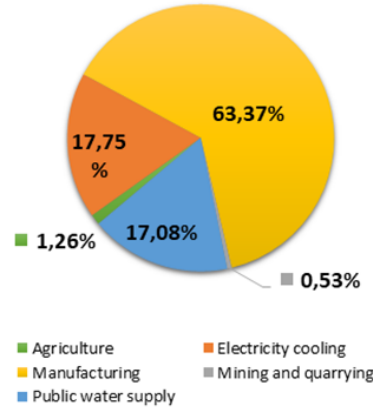
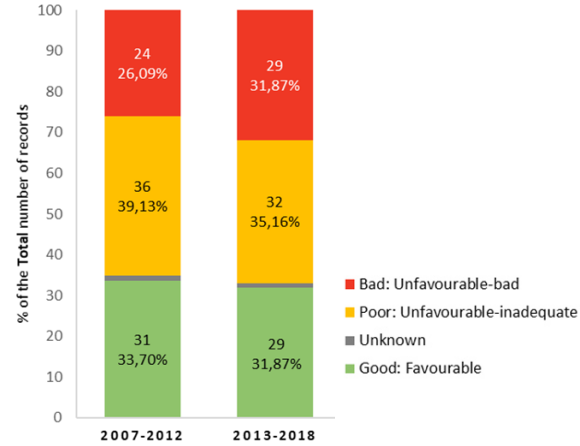




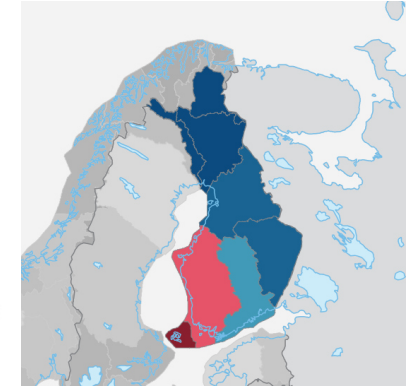
**# of inhabitants** 5.6 million  
**Surface area** 304 316 km<sup>2</sup>  
**GDP per capita** 109 pps [1]  
**Significant bodies of water (RBDs)** Kymijoki Gulf; Oulujoki; Vuoksi  
**Polity** unitary state organised on a decentralised basis  
**Layers of government** central government; 19 provinces including the autonomous region of Åland Islands; 310 municipalities  
**Legislative powers at the sub-national level** Yes  
**Decentralisation index** 2.3 (5 out of 27) [2]  
**Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+)** 0.61% (2017) [3]



Water abstraction per sector in Finland - Source: EEA (2022)



Conservation status for habitats in 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 in Finland - Source: EEA (2021)



Water bodies with less than good ecological status in Finland - Source: EEA (2021)

**Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance**

**NEXUS PILLARS**

**POLICY MAKING**

**POLICY EXECUTION**

**Water**

Ministry of the Environment;  
 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE);  
 Regional State Administrative Agencies; municipalities

**Energy**

Ministry of Employment and the Economy

The Energy Authority; Regional State Administrative Agencies; municipalities

**Food**

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

The Finnish Food Authority

**Ecosystems**

Ministry of the Environment

Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke); Centre for Economic Development; Transport and the Environment

**WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE**

**CHALLENGES**

- Invest in the water supply system
- Improve the protection of wetlands, peatlands and grassland
- Integrate biodiversity concerns into other policies
- Offset agricultural intensification and resulting water eutrophication

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- Finland aims to adopt a new national biodiversity strategy and action plan[4]
- Finland has ambitious nature protection and restoration programmes:  
 - HELMI focusing on mires, wetlands, coastal habitats and semi-natural grasslands[5]  
 - SOTKA aiming to improve the status of waterfowl[6]
- The Finnish Biodiversity Information Facility[7] is an open access data repository, allowing users to search and download information, and to record and share their own observations
- Finland's Recovery and Resilience Plan aims to invest in clean energy production and infrastructure

[6] <https://mmm.fi/en/sotka-project>  
 [7] <https://laji.fi>



More information on WEFE nexus governance in the EU

[1] EU purchasing power standard  
 [2] <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Decentralization-Index.aspx>  
 [3] The threshold for water scarcity is set at > 20%  
 [4] <https://ym.fi/en/national-biodiversity-policy>.  
 [5] <https://ym.fi/en/helmi-habitats-programme>