Existence of a National Strategy on social inclusion

The Government Programme

In accordance with legislation (for more information, visit: Youth Wiki/Finland: 4.2 Administration and Governance [1]), Finland’s national strategy for the social inclusion of young people is based on the vision of the Government Programme (Finland, a land of solutions – Strategic Programme of Prime Minister Juha Sipilä’s Government [2]). At the national level, the Government Programme sets the major policy directions to be followed. More specific strategic goals relating to social inclusion of young people are specified in the National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme.

The National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme 2017-2019

The National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme [3] is the most central public document of youth policy in Finland. Overall, young people should be taken into consideration at two different levels: in youth policy specifically, and at the general policy level as well.

Europe 2020 Strategy

Finland’s national targets [4] which are based on Europe 2020 Strategy are also considered in social inclusion policies. The Europe 2020 Strategy promotes smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth. In 2016, the Finnish Government presented the eight Europe 2020 national reform objects [5].
Scope and contents

The Government Programme

According to the Government Programme public health, and active and healthy lifestyles are promoted, along with taking responsibility for one’s own life. With regards to the social inclusion of young people, the Government’s objective is to raise the employment rate of young people. The strategic objectives of the Government Programme are realised in the form of 26 key projects.

The National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme 2017-2019

All the five objectives outlined in the National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme 2017 are closely related to social inclusion of young people: it supports the way for recreation, employability, participation in decision-making and exerting influence, mental well-being and life management related to independent housing. For more information, visit: Youth Wiki/Finland: 1.3 National Youth Strategy.

Europe 2020 Strategy

With regards to the social inclusion of young people, the most central national targets of Finland are raising the employment rate, lowering the number of 18-24 year-old early school leavers to below 8%, and reducing the number of people living at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Responsible authority

The Government Programme

According to the Constitution, the Government submits annual reports to Parliament on governmental activities and on the measures undertaken in response to parliamentary decisions. Also, according to the Government Programme, the Government uses indicators in the follow-up of its strategic objectives and, if necessary, takes corrective measures on the basis of the information. According to the Government Programme, the Government develops criteria in order to monitor its objectives together with the OECD.

The National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme 2017-2019

According to the Youth Act the Ministry of Education and Culture is primarily responsible authority that implements the National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme in conjunction with various other ministries, such as Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, and Ministry of the Environment. For more information, visit: Youth Wiki/Finland: 1.3 National Youth Strategy.

Europe 2020 Strategy

The programme presents measures to attain the national targets and how the country-specific recommendations given by the European Union have been taken into consideration. It includes several measures and various ministries are responsible for the implementation and monitoring. The
programme is published by the Ministry of Finance.

**Revisions/Updates**

**The Government Programme**

The Government Programme of Juha Sipilä has not undergone revisions or updates.

**The National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme**

The Government adopts a new youth policy programme every four year. For more information, visit: [Youth Wiki/Finland: 1.3 National Youth Strategy](#).

**Europe 2020 Strategy**

As mentioned above, there are eight Europe 2020 national reform programmes, which presented measures to attain the national targets of Finland and how the country-specific recommendations given by the EU have been taken into consideration.