

FINLAND OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES

In addition to the prime minister's office, the government of Finland has 11 ministries overseeing different policy areas: Defense; Transport and Communications; Foreign Affairs; Finance; Economic Affairs and Employment; Justice; Education and Culture; Social Affairs and Health; the Interior; Agriculture and Forestry; and the Environment. Below are overviews of the two ministries most relevant to this trip.



The **Ministry of Education and Culture**¹ is responsible for the development of education, science, cultural, sport, and youth policies, and for international cooperation in these fields. The objective of the Ministry is to provide citizens with possibilities for personal development through education and cultural services, to guarantee the skills needed in the labor market, to reinforce the national culture, and to promote international cooperation.

Specifically, the Ministry is responsible for national policies related to:

- Daycare, education, training, and research;
- Arts, culture, sports, and youth work;
- The archival, museum, and public library systems;
- Religious communities;
- Student financial aid; and
- Copyright.

There are two ministers responsible for the Ministry of Education and Culture. The current Minister of Education is [Li Andersson](#), a member of the Left Alliance. She is responsible for early childhood education and care, general education, and vocational education and training. The current Minister of Science and Culture is [Hanna Kosonen](#), a member of the Center Party. She is responsible for the Department of Art and Culture Policy and the Department of Youth and Sport Policy, including student financial aid. She is also responsible for science policy, higher education policy, and religious affairs.

*National Agency for Education*²

The National Agency for Education is the operational arm of the Ministry of Education and Culture. Whereas the Ministry is the highest authority and is responsible for preparing education legislation, all necessary decisions, and its share of the state budget, the National Agency for Education is responsible for policy implementation in the areas of: early childhood education and care; pre-primary, basic, general, and

¹ <https://minedu.fi/en/duties-and-objectives>

² <https://www.oph.fi/en/about-us>

vocational upper secondary education; and adult education and training. Higher education policy implementation remains the responsibility of the Ministry.



The main objective of the **Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment**³ is to create the conditions for economically, socially, and ecologically sustainable growth. Specifically, the Ministry is responsible for:

- Industrial policy;
- Innovation and technology policy, internationalization of enterprises, and technical safety;
- Functionality of markets, promotion of competition, and consumer policy;
- Employment and unemployment matters, as well as public employment services;
- Work environment issues, non-discrimination in working life, collective agreements, and arbitration of industrial disputes;
- Regional development and cooperation of regional councils;
- Energy policy and coordination of the preparation and implementation of climate policy at the national level;
- Integration of immigrants; and
- Non-military service.

There are two ministers responsible for the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. The current Minister of Employment is [Tuula Haatainen](#), a member of the Social Democratic Party. She is responsible for the Employment and Well-Functioning Markets Department and for employment services at the Regions and Growth Services Department. She is also responsible for work-based immigration and integration. The current Minister of Economic Affairs is [Mika Lintilä](#), a member of the Center Party. He is responsible for the Innovations and Enterprise Financing Department and the Energy Department, as well as part of the Regions and Growth Services Department.

³ <https://tem.fi/en/ministry>