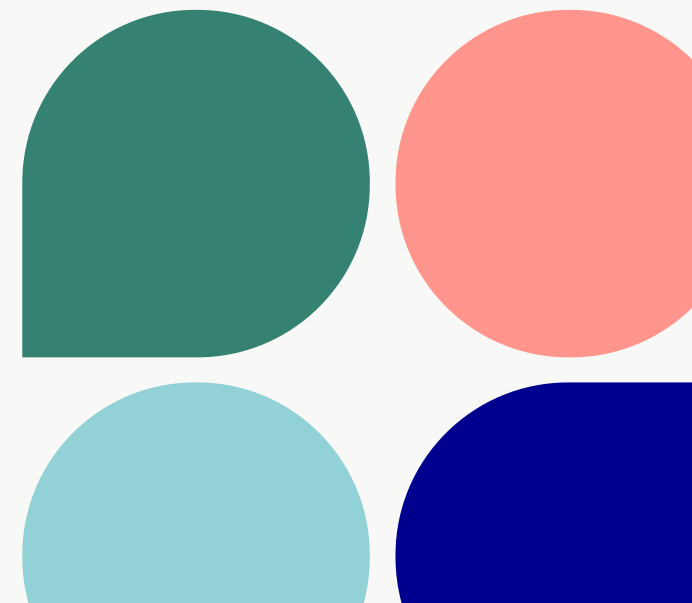


The Finnish example

14 May 2026

Marko Pukkinen, Director General



The basis of Finland's civil preparedness

Introduction to Finland's civil preparedness

Principle of total defence

Civil preparedness is based on broad-based cooperation between authorities, citizens, companies and organisations.

Historical development

The preparedness system is based on experiences from the Winter War and the Continuation War, as well as the Cold War preparedness culture.

Legislation and obligations

The Emergency Powers Act and the Rescue Act guide preparedness alongside international agreements.

Geopolitical challenges

Finland's location, its border with Russia and its membership in the EU and NATO influence preparedness planning.



National leadership of civil defence

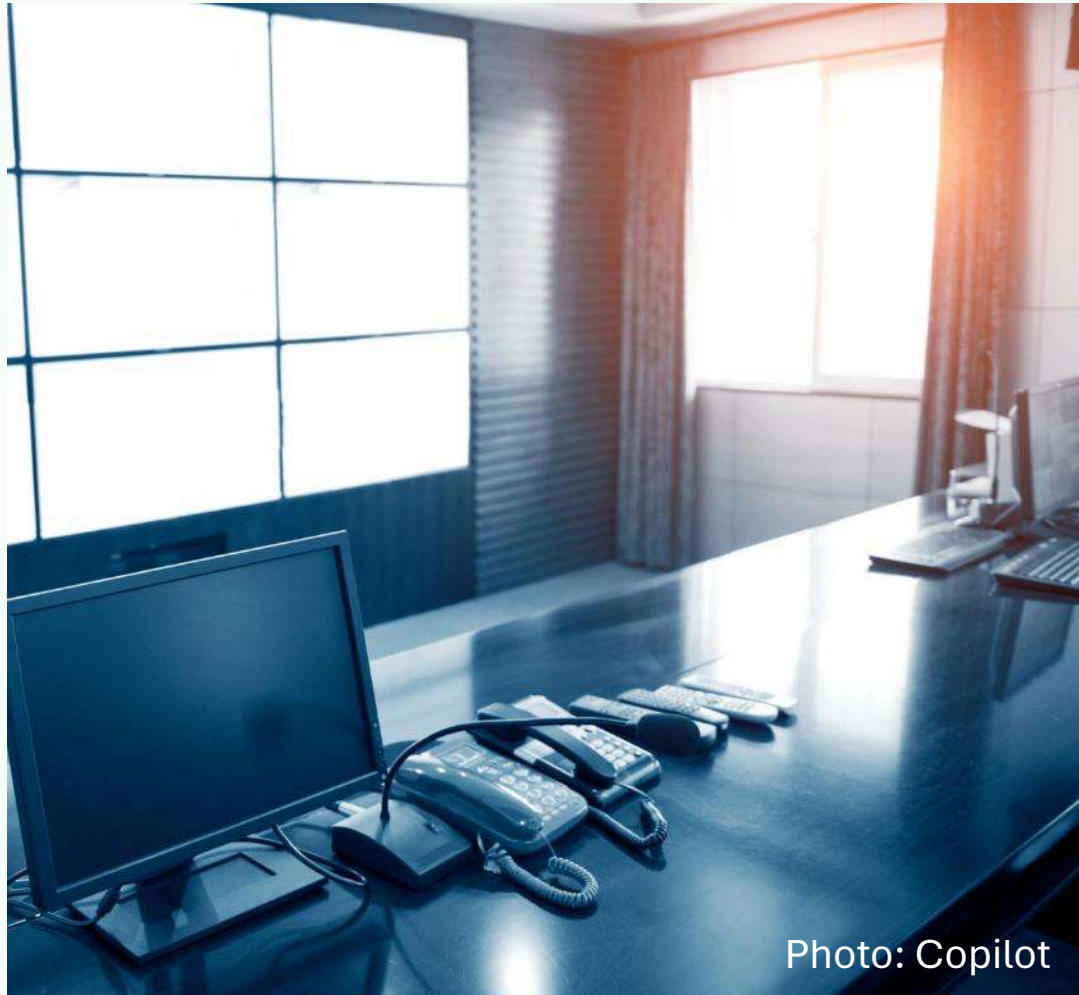


Photo: Copilot

Strategic management

The Ministry of the Interior coordinates the national civil defence and is responsible for its strategic guidance in Finland.

Operational cooperation between authorities

The ministry directs rescue services and other authorities at national, regional and local levels.

International cooperation

Finland complies with international agreements and cooperates with the EU and NATO in civil defence.

Public early warning systems

The Ministry maintains and develops the general warning signal and digital alarm systems.

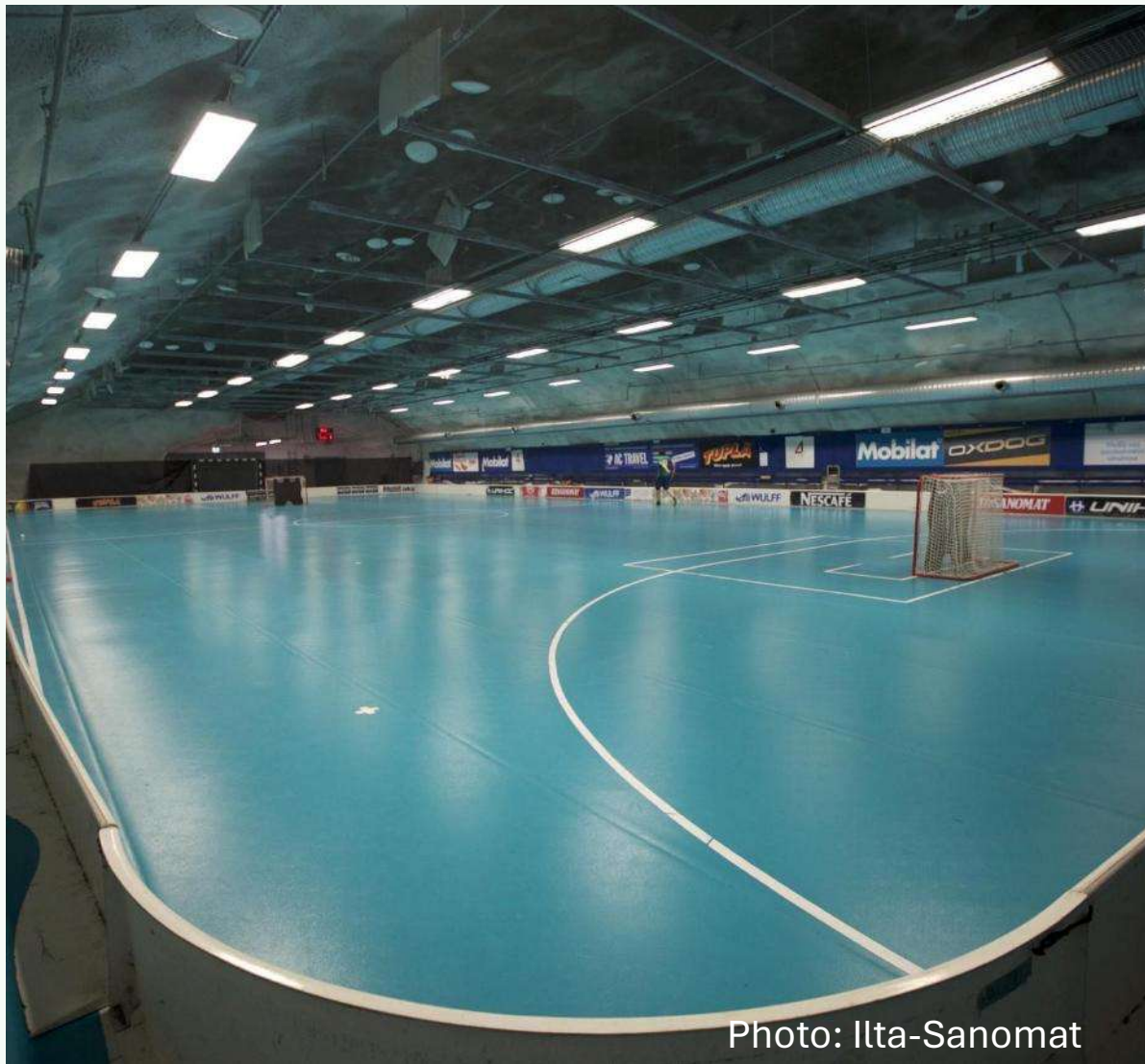


Photo: Ilta-Sanomat

Protection of the population and civil defence shelter infrastructure

Extensive civil defence shelter network

Finland has approximately 50,500 civil defence shelters that provide protection for almost the entire population in urban areas.

Protection against various hazards

Shelters protect the population from blast waves, building collapses, radiation and chemical and biological threats.

Maintenance and persons in charge

Property owners are responsible for maintaining the shelters; the state and rescue services provide guidance and supervision.

Total defence and resilience in society

Responsibility shared by the whole of society

Total defence is based on the responsibility for security being shared between the public sector, business sector and citizens.

Strengthening crisis resilience

Resilience focuses on voluntary training, networks between authorities and awareness of preparedness across the whole population.

Seven critical functions

The state must ensure continuity in energy, food, health, cyber and border security in crisis situations.

Impact of NATO membership

NATO membership improves situational awareness and cooperation opportunities, but requires more careful preparedness for hybrid threats.



Finland's operating environment and the development of military threats

International security environment

Finland's security environment has changed rapidly in recent years and requires continuous monitoring and adaptation.

Prevention of military threats

Prevention is based on foreign and security policy, diplomacy and a comprehensive security model.

Leadership in crisis situations

The Government and the President lead the response in a crisis, under the Emergency Powers Act and the State of Defence Act.

Current military threats

The situation is tense, particularly due to Russia's actions and the strategic importance of the Baltic Sea.



The Finnish Supervisory Agency's activities from the perspective of comprehensive security

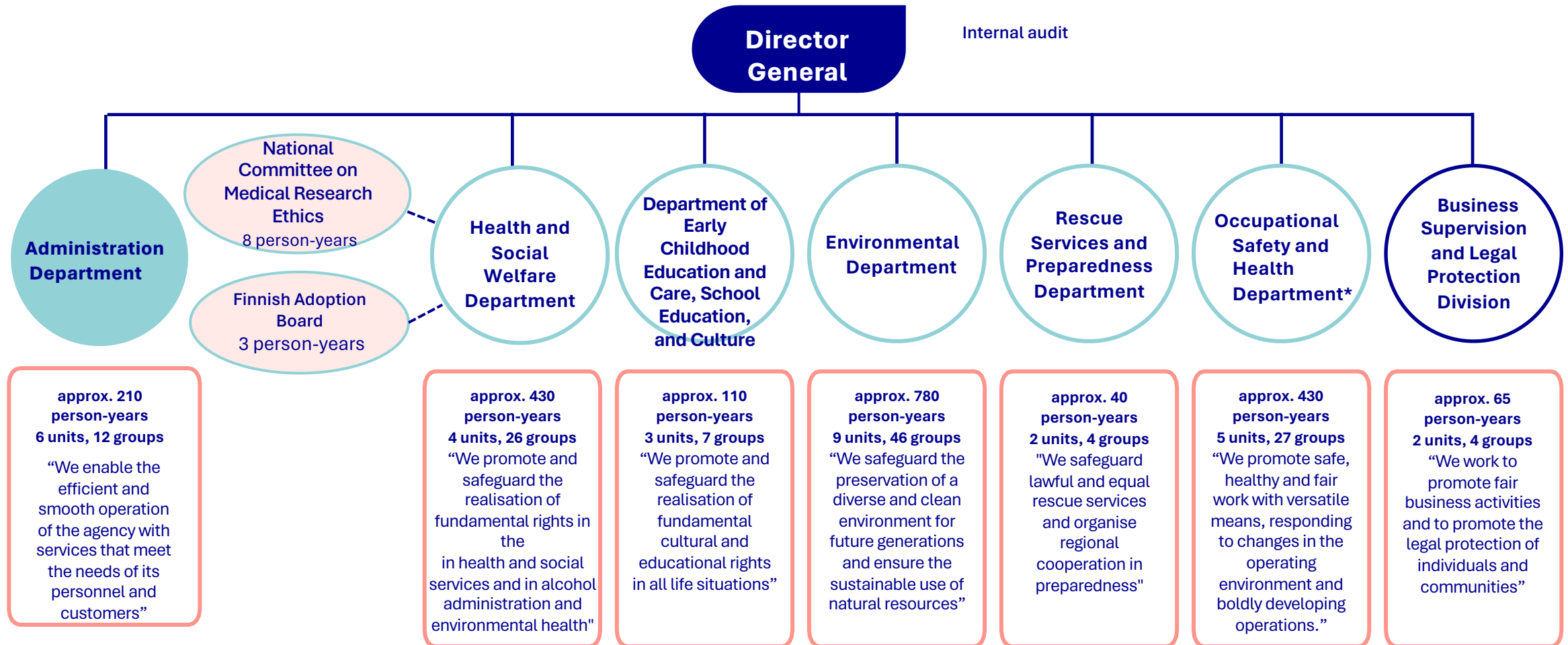


A national agency, a regional presence

- The Finnish Supervisory Agency's nationwide authority ensures consistent practices across the country.
- The network of 18 offices ensures the agency's regional presence.
- The agency will operate in close interaction with central government authorities, municipalities, wellbeing services counties, business life and civic activities in the regions.
- The tasks are organised so that knowledge of the region and regional presence can be utilised effectively.

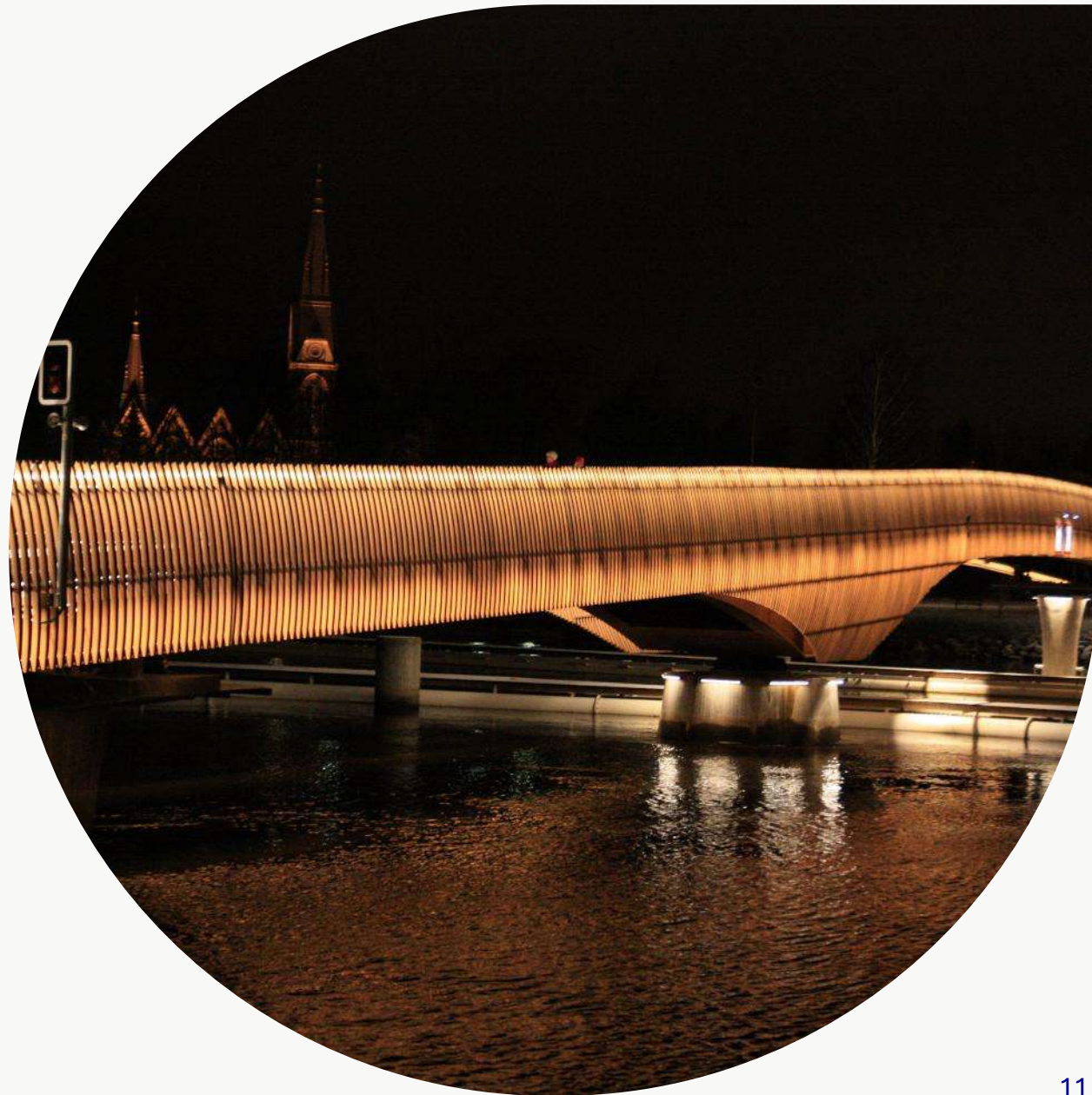


Organisation of the Finnish Supervisory Agency



Organising regional cooperation on preparedness

- Rescue services and
Preparedness Department

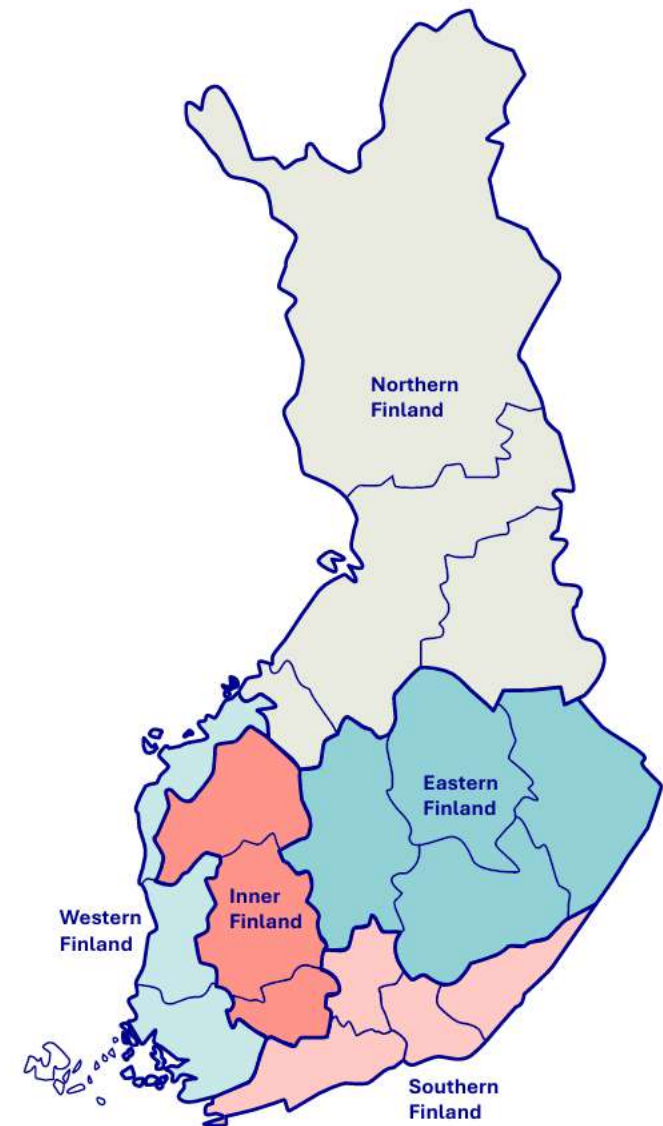


Regional cooperation for preparedness

The Finnish Supervisory Agency is responsible for regional cooperation on preparedness by the following means:

- Regional foresight activities that support preparedness.
- Regional risk assessments: development, participation in drafting, coordination of assessments, monitoring the development of threat models.
- Promoting the preparedness planning by regional actors.
- Organising preparedness exercises that support regional preparedness.
- Organising regional national defence courses.
- Monitoring the state of preparedness and readiness in the region.
- Organising other regional cooperation.

Cooperation areas of preparedness (5)



Regional preparedness committee (5)

- The chairperson is from the Finnish Supervisory Agency. Additionally, authorities, organisations and other local actors have representatives on the committee.
- The task of the regional preparedness committee is to:
 - 1) monitor the state of regional preparedness and readiness
 - 2) promote the shared situational understanding of issues affecting security among actors.
 - 3) promote common goals in preparedness.
 - 4) monitor the implementation of the region's preparedness exercises and, where necessary, participate in planning the agency's preparedness exercises
 - 5) act as a collaborative body in the task of organising regional preparedness cooperation
 - 6) take care of communications related to its activities.



Photo: Copilot

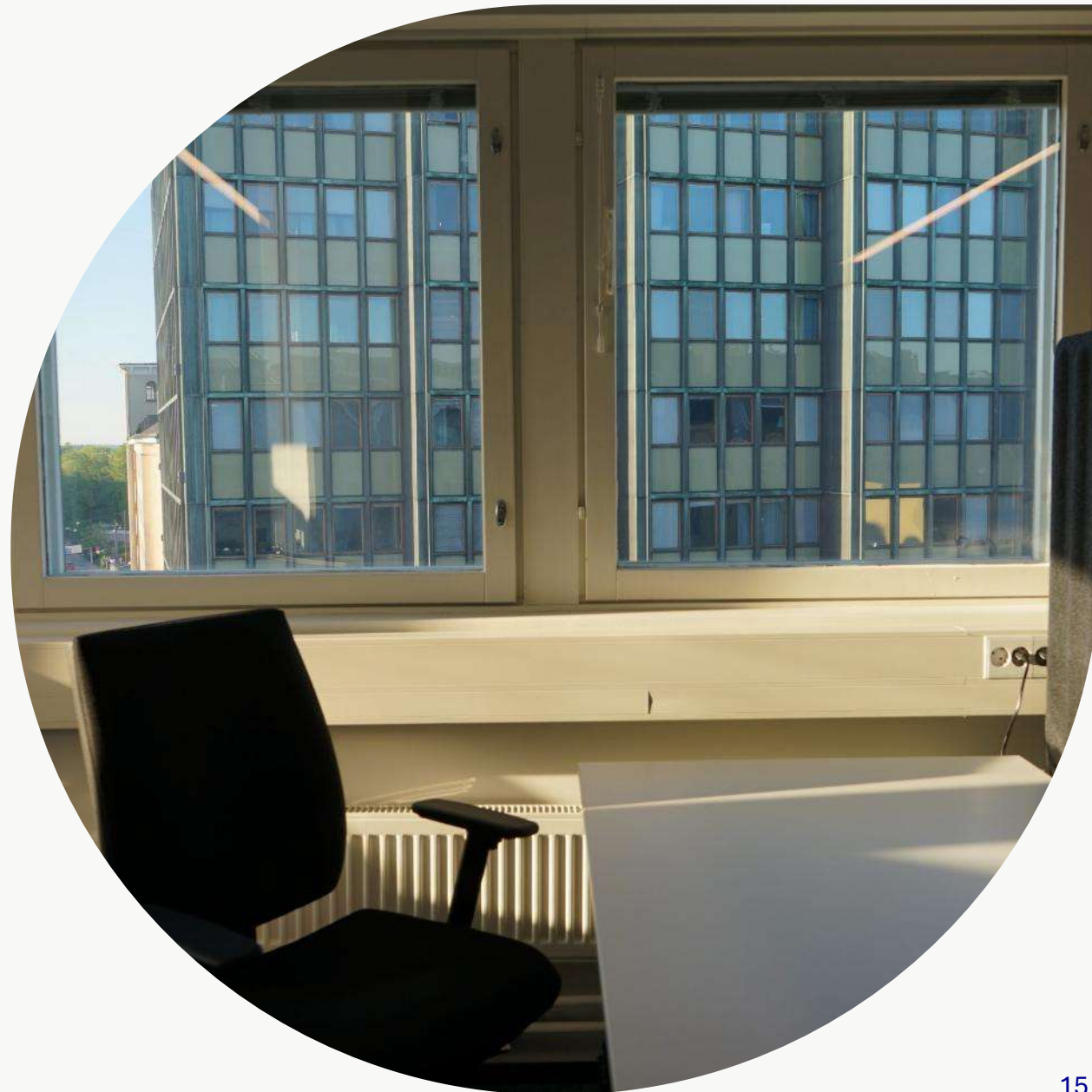
Regional national defence courses

- The Finnish Supervisory Agency organises regional national defence courses in cooperation with the Defence Forces.
- The national defence courses cover topical and central issues of foreign and security policy and provide the participants with an overview of the arrangements, preparedness and readiness of different sectors in normal conditions, in the event of disruptions and in emergencies.
- The focus is on regional and local tasks and cooperation.
- Approximately 25–28 courses are organised each year.



The agency's other tasks related to safeguarding comprehensive security

By sector



Health and social services sector

Preparing for radiation hazards

- regulations and guidelines pursuant to the Health Protection Act and supervision by the environmental health services
- Radiation hazard action plan, instructions and decisions on measures in exposure situations

Preparing for chemical threats

- municipal environmental health guidance; preparedness, training, exercises

Ensuring the functionality of social and healthcare information systems and the availability of key supplies

- guidance and supervision of information systems pursuant to the Data Act
- tasks pursuant to the Cybersecurity Act

Safeguarding waste management and water supply

- Plan to ensure the quality of drinking water in the event of an accident
- Steering of municipal health protection authorities

Safeguarding health and social services

- steering and supervision of social welfare and health services.
- coordination and supervision of communicable disease control work pursuant to the Communicable Diseases Act, and decision-making in accordance with the Communicable Diseases Act
- supervision of critical actors (incl. the CER directive,)
- functionality of official registers and register information

Early childhood education and care, education, and culture

Mental resilience in crises and the population's functional capacity and services

Early education: Supervision, guidance, legal protection

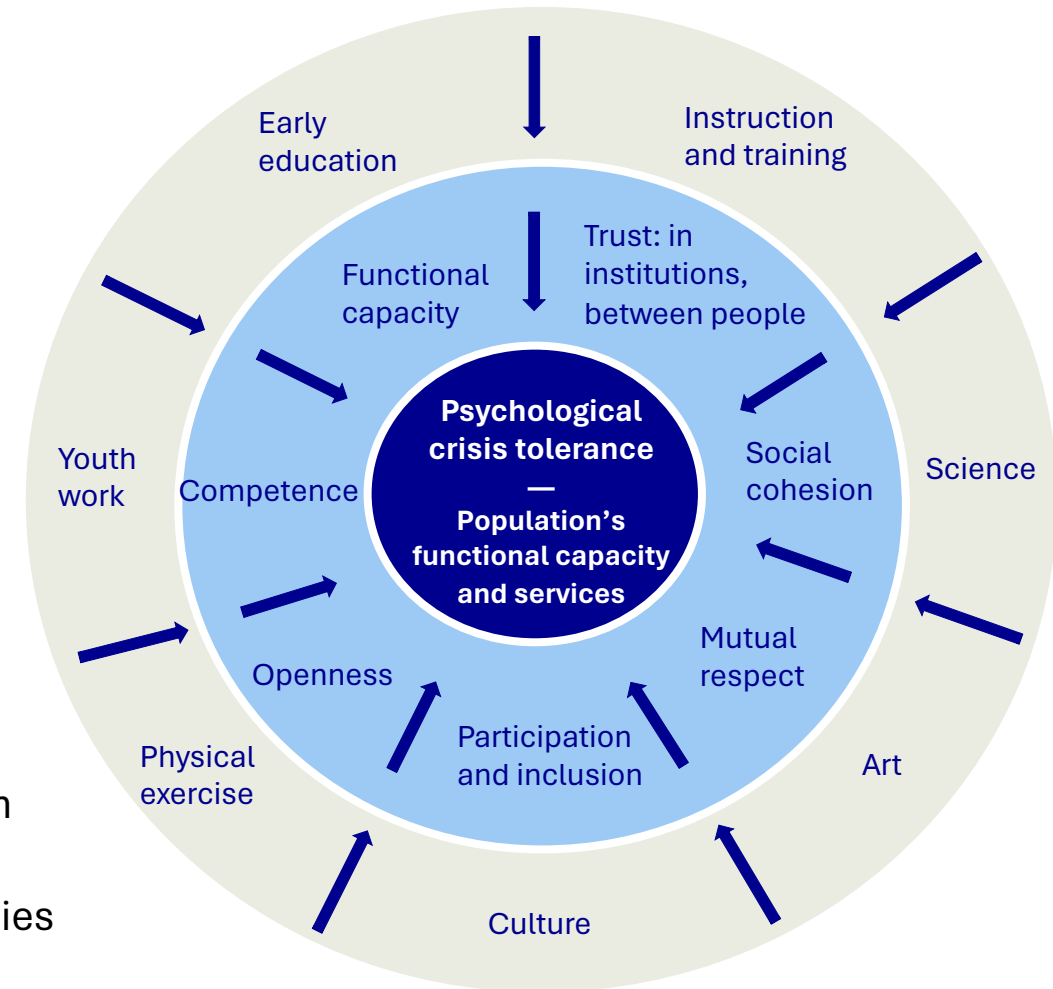
Education: Supervision and guidance of pre-primary and basic education, legal protection, supervision of communal student welfare

Library, sports and youth services: Government grants, training (sector-specific skills development), enhanced youth work, Time Out activities for young people of conscription age, health promotion work,

Burial services: Supervision, permits, guidance: Fatality care

Act on the Finnish Supervisory Agency (530/2025): The department's task is to support preparedness planning in its field of activity in collaboration with the Rescue Service and Preparedness Department

The Ministry of Education and Culture, the National Board of Education and Finnish Supervisory Agency: cooperation launched, roles not yet fully defined in normal conditions, during disruptions and in emergencies



Environment

- Supporting the activities of other authorities
 - A central role in the coordination of agency cooperation
 - Production of accurate and up-to-date information for national decision-making
- Acting as a specialist for the sectors and functions it supervises
 - Focus on the environmental perspective
- As a licensing authority, also considers permit matters concerning large projects from the perspective of comprehensive security

Business supervision and legal protection

During emergencies,

- the retail sector is regulated pursuant to the Emergency Powers Act

During a state of defence,

- movement is restricted under the State of Defence Act

The Finnish Supervisory Agency's first steps

- The agency's operations have largely started as expected.
- The first steps towards becoming a new agency have been taken; we have started building our own way of working, where matters are often handled differently from the previous agencies.





www.lvv.fi