

# **Finland's success hinges on skills – The next government will hold the fate of the country in its hands**

**A high level of skills and their flexible development are the key strengths upon which Finland's future welfare is built. That is why investment in education, research and innovation must become strategic focus areas for the next government. The only guarantee of Finland's future success is ensuring the provision of sufficient funding for higher education institutions, research and skills.**

Universities and universities of applied sciences have committed to carrying out their significant societal duties, flexibly developing their operations to meet the needs of society. The successful execution of their mission also in the future requires improved guarantees for the stability, predictability and sufficiency of their core funding.

We need a long-term strategy for a scientific policy and an innovation policy that serve both the research and higher education sphere as well as the business sector in a sustainable manner. Funding allocated to education and research must be considered an investment that will secure our continued success.

Innovations and research that will lay a foundation for our welfare and growth for decades – even centuries – are being conducted right now.

Finland cannot thrive without unrestricted top-level basic research, state-of-the-art applied research and interaction between academic communities and society. From the perspective of fostering employment and economic growth, other central factors include improving the level of education, as well as developing models and funding for life-long education.

A highly educated workforce, products with high added value and attractive competence clusters draw more international experts, investments and businesses to Finland. The work-related immigration of skilled experts must be further streamlined.

## **When the government pursues a higher education policy with a forward-looking perspective, it will**

- *Offer Finland's education, scientific and innovation policy a long-term direction based on a consensus that extends across government terms and in a sustainable manner serves both the research and higher education sphere as well as the business sector.*
- *Commit to supporting the achievement of the goal of increasing research, development and innovation investment to 4% of the gross domestic product by 2030, which also means a significant growth in contributions to research and development activities, as well as increasing the funding for institutions of higher education in the coming government term. The government will improve the stability and predictability of the funding allocated to higher education institutions, for example, by permanently reinstating their funding indexes. Currently, the core funding of higher education institutions has decreased throughout the 2010s.*
- *Steer research, development and innovation policy on a shorter term through various funding instruments by removing redundancies and focusing on larger entities, also in competitive funding. Funding awarded by Business Finland and the Academy of Finland will be developed as broader and increasingly strategic entities.*
- *Choose education and research as the spearhead theme of its presidency of the Council of the European Union.*

## ***Signatories:***

Confederation of Finnish Industries  
Finnish Education Employers  
Confederation of Unions for Professional and Managerial Staff in Finland Akava  
Finnish Psychological Association  
Finnish Association of Speech and Language Therapists  
Akava Special Branches  
Finnish Association of Academic Agronomists  
Association of Finnish Lawyers  
Union of Diaconal Workers in Finland  
Finnish Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
Talentia Union of Professional Social Workers  
Finnish Dental Association  
Finnish Association of Public Health Nurses  
Finnish Union of University Professors  
Social Science Professionals  
Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers  
Union of Professional Business Graduates in Finland  
Union of Professional Engineers in Finland  
Trade Union of Education in Finland  
Finnish Business School Graduates  
Academic Engineers and Architects in Finland TEK  
Finnish Pharmacists' Association  
Association for Managers and Professionals YTY  
Union of Professionals in Natural, Environmental and Forestry Sciences Loimu  
Union of Sales and Marketing Professionals

Universities Finland UNIFI  
Rector's Conference of Finnish Universities of Applied Science Arene  
National Union of University Students in Finland SYL  
University of Applied Sciences Students in Finland SAMOK

Aalto University  
University of Helsinki  
University of Eastern Finland  
University of Jyväskylä  
University of Lapland  
LUT University  
University of Oulu  
Hanken School of Economics  
University of the Arts Helsinki  
University of Tampere  
University of Turku  
University of Vaasa  
Åbo Akademi University  
National Defence University

Centria University of Applied Sciences  
Diaconia University of Applied Sciences  
Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences  
Humak University of Applied Sciences  
Häme University of Applied Sciences  
JAMK University of Applied Sciences  
South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences  
KAMK University of Applied Sciences  
Karelia University of Applied Sciences  
Lahti University of Applied Sciences  
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Metropolia University of Applied Sciences  
Oulu University of Applied Sciences  
Police University College  
Saimaa University of Applied Sciences  
Satakunta University of Applied Sciences  
Savonia University of Applied Sciences  
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Tampere University of Applied Sciences  
Turku University of Applied Sciences  
Vaasa University of Applied Sciences  
Arcada University of Applied Sciences  
Novia University of Applied Sciences  
Åland University of Applied Sciences