



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN S K I L L S

Skills Finland is a non-profit organisation which promotes quality and attractiveness of skills, vocational education, training and entrepreneurship. This is achieved through skills competitions and by training and coaching young professionals, competition experts and trainers.

Skills Finland organises the annual Finnish championships in vocational skills, and selects and trains TeamFinland for the international skills competitions.

Skills
skillsfinland

Finnish Skills Competitions

Competitions enhance the attractiveness of vocational education and ease recruitment through increased cooperation between schools, vocational training institutions and working life.

Taitaja – Finnish Championships in Vocational Skills

Taitaja is the annual competition for young VET (Vocational Education and Training) students and apprentices. The participants compete in about 40 vocational skills over three days of competition. The competitions are designed to capture the essence of skills at work and for work. Many competitors continue their path to the international competitions as members of TeamFinland.

Taitaja is the largest annual event in the field of vocational education and training in Finland. It's more than just a competition, there is also a big educational fair with skill shows and various conferences. The event acts as an important meeting point for students, teachers and representatives of VET providers, working life, research institutions and administration.



More information: www.skillsfinland.fi

TaitajaPLUS – Competition for Students with Special Needs

TaitajaPLUS competition is organised together with the finals of Taitaja. Young people with special needs compete in three to five skills categories, which change every year.



Taitaja9 – Ninth-graders Compete in Craftsmanship

In the Taitaja9 event, pupils (15–16-year-olds) from comprehensive schools compete in teams of three. The aim of the competition is to improve knowledge of practical subjects, particularly on technical and textile handicrafts, in a fun and inspiring way. After hundreds of trial competitions, the finals take place in conjunction with the annual Taitaja competition.



International Skills Competitions

Participating in and training for international competitions is a way of developing top-of-the-line Finnish competence. It also promotes the internationalisation of vocational training. Since 1989, TeamFinland has represented Finland in international competitions.



WorldSkills – Competition Between the Best of the Best

The WorldSkills Competition is a biennial international skills event where young professionals compete for the world championships in over 45 skill categories. About 1,000 highly-skilled young competitors from dozens of countries take part in the World Skills Competition. It is the biggest skills competition in the world.

Skills Finland is the official member of WorldSkills International and it organises the Finnish entry to the WorldSkills Competitions. Skills Finland organised in cooperation with national partners the 38th WorldSkills Competition, WorldSkills Helsinki 2005, in Finland. The event attracted 120,000 visitors to the Helsinki Fair Centre and greatly increased the attractiveness of VET in Finland.

www.worldskills.org



EuroSkills – European Forum for Excellence in Skills

The first EuroSkills competition was held in 2008 in Rotterdam. Every other year young people compete for the European championships in some 50 skills categories. The competition specifically promotes compatibility of vocational degrees as well as increases the mobility of craftsmen in Europe. Skills Finland is the official member of the European Skills Promotion Organisation.

www.euroskills.org



EuroSkills2010	Lisbon, Portugal
WorldSkills2011	London, UK
Abilympics2011	Seoul, South Korea
EuroSkills2012	Spa, Belgium
WorldSkills2013	Leipzig, Germany

Abilympics – Competition for Persons with Disabilities

The Abilympics competition is organised every fourth year with the aim of elevating the desire of persons with disabilities for vocational independence and improving their skills. It also aims at supporting full participation of persons with disabilities in society and creating more contacts between education and working life.

Abilympics competitors participate in some 30 skill categories. Finland has participated in Abilympics Competitions since 2007.

www.jeed.or.jp/english/aboutabilympic.html



Excellence in Skills – Coaching and Training System

A three-step process helps young people to develop their vocational skills and strengthen their professional pride, enabling them to be successful in the field of their trade.

The basic training phase is executed in groups and it concentrates on vocational basic skills. The best candidates are selected to proceed further. Intensive training phase aims at developing the skills that are required at international competitions. The national team is selected at the end of this phase. During the national team training phase, team-mates form a cohesive group and learn to support each other.

Excellence in Skills coaching and training system is developed and implemented by Skills Finland in cooperation with vocational education and training providers and business life.



Training for Competition Specialists – A Guarantee of Quality

Skills Finland trains specialists who act as judges, supervisors, coaches and head coaches or trainers in skills competitions.

These specialists include vocational teachers and workplace instructors in companies and other organisations. Training helps them to guide the students on their way to achieve excellence and become skilled professionals. In addition, training improves skills and competence of the specialists in organising and developing national and international skills competitions.



Research Improves the Quality of Training

The Research Centre for Vocational Education of the University of Tampere has studied the personal characteristics of the young professionals that have participated in the WorldSkills competition. Also, the Centre has surveyed how their exceptional abilities are utilised in the working life.

The first phase of the survey (MOVE) focused on mapping out the personal characteristics of the top young professionals and the requisites for succeeding in the competitions. The second part of the study (AVE) investigates how the young people who have succeeded in the competitions have succeeded in the working life and how they have used their skills in their jobs. This area has not been very widely studied, so the survey has generated interest outside Finland, too, and is now leading to international, collaborative research. The study results can be used in developing both skills coaching and vocational training.



UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE





Finland facts

- ▶ Population: 5.4 million
- ▶ Capital: Helsinki, population 580,000
- ▶ Area: 340,000 square kilometres
- ▶ Official languages: Finnish 91%, Swedish 5,4%
- ▶ Currency: Euro
- ▶ Major sectors of the economy (% GDP): services 69% , manufacturing industry and construction 28%, agriculture and forestry 3%
- ▶ Religion: Evangelical Lutheran 80%, Orthodox 1%, others 1%, unaffiliated 18%
- ▶ Proportion of people with post-basic education of total population: 66%

Skills Finland

- ▶ Promotes top vocational competence and its appreciation.
- ▶ Organises and develops national vocational skills competitions in co-operation with regional training providers.
- ▶ Selects and manages Finnish teams to compete in international skills competitions.
- ▶ Organises training for young professionals in the pursuit of excellence in skills.
- ▶ Organises training for experts, trainers and specialists in skills competitions.
- ▶ Promotes research on excellence in skills.

Skills Finland is a non-profit organisation and supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Finnish National Board of Education, labour market organisations, teacher and student organisations and VET training providers and institutions. Skills Finland was established in 1993.

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Skills

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