## The European policies of Finland



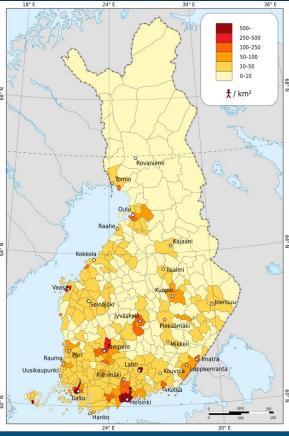
I. Factors explaining the European policies in Finlanda) geography

> borders with Sweden, Norway and Russia

> 5th largest country in the EU

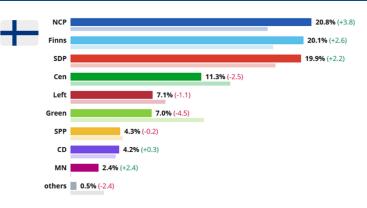
> one of the smallest in term of population





### b) political life

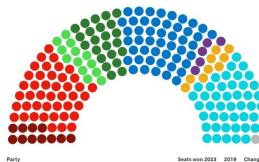
- > parliamentary republic
- > unicameral parliament (Eduskunta) with 200 members
- > National Coalition party is the leading one



Comparison with results from the 2019 parliamentary elections.

Graphic: Election results. Source: Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE (4.4.2023)

Finland elections 2023 Breakdown of seats in parliament



Party	Seats won 2023	2019	Change
Left Alliance	11	16	+5
Social Democrat Party	43	40	+3
Green League	13	20	+7
<ul> <li>Centre Party</li> </ul>	23	31	+8
<ul> <li>National Coalition Party</li> </ul>	48	37	±11
<ul> <li>Christian Democrats</li> </ul>	5	5	0
Swedish People's Party	9	9	0
The Finns	46	39	†7
Others	2	3	+1

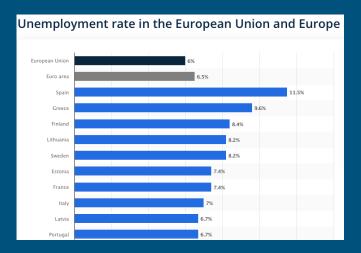


#### Peterri Orpo, current Prime Minister

Source: YLE

#### c) economy

- > example for gender equality
- > 9th European country in term of GDP per capita
- > falling economic growth
- unemployment rate of 8,2%,country with the 3rd highest rate in the EU





### <u>d) history</u>

- > under the Russian influence
- > but a neutral status (Finlandization)
- > 1948 : agreement of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between Finland and the Soviet Union
- > 1961 : became an associate member of EFTA (full member in 1986)
- > 1975 : Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe



EFTA's members



Helsinki conference

## II. The European policies of Finlanda) why did Finland join the EU at that time ?

> became a member in 1995 during the 4th Enlargement

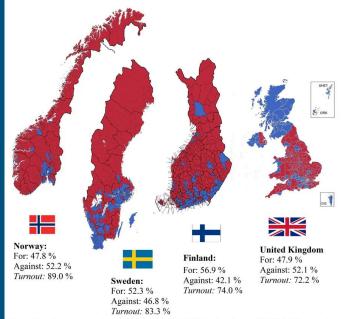
> in 1990 Sweden applied for membership

> in 1991 the Soviet Union was dissolved

> decline of the Finnish economy

> referendum in 1992 with 57% yes

**Referenda on EU membership in Norway, Sweden and Finland in 1994 and in United Kingdom in 2016** Majority choice by municipality in NO, SE & FI and voting district in UK



The referenda were organized 16/10 in Finland, 13/11 in Sweden and 28/11 in Norway. A referendum was first held in Finland since it was believed to be the most pro-EU and Norway was believed to be the least pro-EU. In UK the referendum was held June 23, 2016.

### b) what kind of EU did Finland join?

> 4th Enlargement wasn't a cultural change in the EU

> but shifted the EU's centre of gravity (created a Nordic bloc with Finland, Sweden and Denmark)

- > Finland in favor of deep integration
- > in 1999 became a member of the Eurozone (only Nordic country to have done so)
- > in 2001 became a member of the Schengen zone
- > support the enlargement towards Baltic and Central European countries

# III.Current crises and rise of Euroscepticisma) <u>Russian-Ukraine war</u>

- > Finland feared for its safety after the Russian attack in 2022
- > became a member of NATO in april 2022
- > but relations with NATO since 1994
- > was part of the "Partnership for Peace"Programme

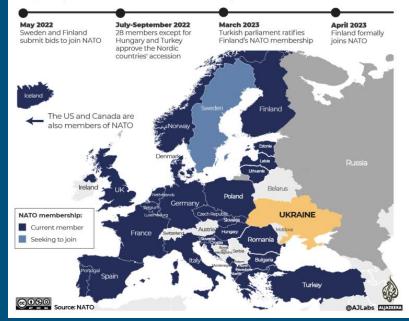
> in January 2022, only 28% were in favor of joining NATO

> in May 2022, 76% were in favor of it

#### NATO Finlandia

### Finland joins NATO

Finland has become the 31st country to join the world's largest military alliance. The Nordic nation shares a 1,340km (833-mile) border with Russia, which has long complained about NATO's eastwards expansion.



### b) Enlargement to Ukraine

> Finland support Ukraine in the conflict and in its adhesion to the EU

> military help of 118 million €
> 68% of Finnish are in favor of the
Enlargement (in the EU, only 45%)
> Nordic strategists believe that this
integration can weaken Russia



### c) the migrant crisis

- > impacts of the war in Ukraine
- > the November crisis led to the closing of all eastern border crossing points
- > instrumentalization of migration by Russia
- > Finnish parliament restrict the rights of asylum seekers
- > breach of European and international norms
- > but the European Commission remain silent



INFO MIGRANTS FINLAND: EASTERN BORDER CHECKPOINTS RUSSIA asvlum seekers 🖬 Raja-Jooseppi Closed as of Nov. 24, 2023 Salla I SWEDEN Kuusamo Vartius Closed as of Nov. 18, 2023 FINLAND Imatra Nuiiamaa Vaalima <sub>I</sub> Vainikkala Rail traffic only Source: Finnish governm

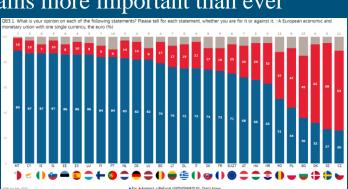
### <u>d) Euroscepticism</u>

> large majority in favour of the EU at the start

> in 2011 the Finns Party entered the parliament

- > became the 2nd party in 2015, and will remain so in 2023 with 46 seats
- > but the European elections in 2024 were a surprise

> euroscepticism has its limits in Finland, and security remains more important than ever



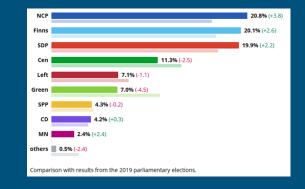
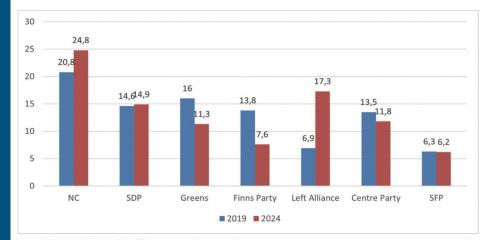
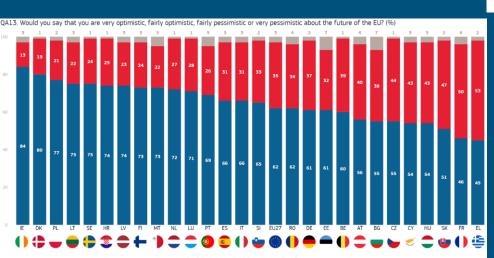


Figure 3. Electoral support in the 2019 and 2024 EP elections in Finland by political party (% vote share)



Source: Election Statistics (2024b)



ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

Total 'Optimistic'
 Total 'Pessimistic'
 Don't know