



**Working group of the
Programme for the
Promotion of Digitalisation
for the application and
development of legislation**



MINISTRY
OF FINANCE



WHAT? Support to authorities for digital service development

The goal of the Programme for the Promotion of Digitalisation was to harness digitalisation and technological opportunities in Finland. The preparation of government policies and proposals, as well as statute drafting were among the measures aimed at achieving these goals.

In view of these tasks, a working group was appointed for 2020–2023 to promote

digitalisation and support the work of authorities developing digital services in the field of legislation, for example. The working group's efforts also promoted the priority of digital services and harmonised their development and provision.

According to the appointment decision, the working group's tasks included:

- Ensuring and contributing to the implementation of measures in the Programme for the Promotion of Digitalisation by examining legal questions arising during the project's implementation.
- Preparing and formulating recommendations for the application of legislation concerning the development and use of digital services
- Identifying any needs to develop regulation with the aim of promoting digital services and propose initiatives on regulatory development.
- Monitoring and supporting the implementation and realisation of legislation issued to promote digitalisation.



HOW? Situational picture, manual, surveys and training

The working group drew up the first situational picture concerning digital legislation in autumn 2021. In this context, it defined as its main goals for the following year to update the situational picture, prepare a manual of good practices, identify laws hampering or slowing down digitalisation, and based on all these, prepare a presentation on the state of digital services and the measures required to promote them.

The goal of separate subgroups was to identify any needs to develop regulation related to digital services, in terms of both general and special laws. In this regard, various organisations were asked for opinions on legislative challenges related to digital services. In addition, discussions were carried out with the organisations' representatives to determine in greater detail the reasons for and nature of such challenges.

In the spring of 2022, the working group conducted an open survey to map out the challenges to digital services. In addition, it monitored the implementation of the Digital Services Act, and the third survey concerning this topic was carried out in late 2021, early 2022.

Based on the survey results, a training series to support the implementation of the Digital Services Act was organised jointly with the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland in autumn 2022. In May 2022, a separate survey was conducted to obtain further information about the challenges observed during the implementation of the Digital Services Act. This survey was carried out to help plan training. The focus of training was to specify the obligations imposed by the Digital Services Act and discuss problems that had arisen in the implementation of the Act.

- Update to the situational picture of digital legislation
- Surveys about legislative challenges related to digitalisation
- Training series to solve challenges related to the Digital Services Act



FOR WHOM? Assistance for authorities providing digital services

The examination of regulation affecting the promotion of digitalisation primarily benefits the authorities who develop digital services and must take such regulation into account in their work. In the surveys and discussions conducted in subgroups, the goal was to determine the situation of municipalities, businesses and developers of public services in terms of digitalisation.

The training series provided jointly with the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland in autumn 2022 mainly targeted these authorities. The focus was on specifying the obligations imposed by the Digital Services Act and discussing any problems that had arisen in the surveys.



BENEFITS? Situational picture and examples for promoting digitalisation

The working group's efforts benefited service developers and the authorities by providing an up-to-date situational picture of the progress made in digitalisation. It highlighted conflicts and bottlenecks related to the interpretation and application of legislation and provided training for solving them. The work was considered important, and the feedback from the target groups was mainly positive.

Both good and non-recommended examples were included in the manual of digital legislation to support authorities in interpreting and

dealing with various situations related to legislation and digitalisation.

Overall, the working group identified many practices and laws that slow down digitalisation. In future, greater attention should be given to the promotion of digitalisation in legislation to put it on a par with print services. The ultimate goal is to make digital services and practices the primary option, while still enabling print operations.

- An up-to-date situational picture describes the state of legislation concerning digitalisation and the related challenges.
- The manual of good and non-recommended examples helps interpret and apply statutes.
- The working group's observations benefits legislative work.



RESULTS? The working group's efforts will help remove obstacles to digitalisation

As a result of the working group's efforts, a situational picture of digital legislation was published and updated, and a manual of both good and non-recommended examples was compiled for organisations working with legislation. Surveys shed light on different authorities' views on factors slowing down legislation and the obstacles they had encountered in their work. This information was used to organise a training series focused on the implementation of the Digital Services Act from the perspective of different authorities.

The working group's final report contains observations and proposed measures for improving legislative drafting and applying and

assessing current legislation. Their purpose is to support the work of government agencies, institutions and municipalities and help grasp legislative packages, identify legislation affecting digital services and provide digital services.

The working group's output also helps solve interpretative challenges concerning general and special legislation, as well as achieve the key outcomes of the digital compass by regulatory means – in other words, avoiding unnecessary service use and making digital services the primary default approach.

- Situational picture of digital legislation
- Survey on the implementation of the Digital Services Act
- Training series on the implementation of the Digital Services Act
- Manual for the application of digital legislation
- Final report ("Digitalisaation säädötilanne ja ehdotukset sen edistämiseksi") concerning measures and observations in the following fields:
 - Development needs in law drafting
 - Support for the application of current legislation
 - Needs to assess current legislation