



Spending limits session of Prime Minister Orpo's Government on 21–22 April 2026

Youth package

A whole-day school model will be piloted at the regional level.

Investments will be made in improving young people's entrepreneurial skills. More entrepreneurship education will be provided and financial literacy will be promoted in primary, lower secondary and secondary education based on policies to be updated regarding entrepreneurship education, which will also include policies on financial literacy.

The reasons for school absenteeism will be investigated and an action plan to intervene in absenteeism will be drawn up based on the findings of the investigation.

Pupils' Move! test results will be transferred more smoothly from teaching to school healthcare, which will make it possible to provide tailored physical activity advice and guidance in connection with comprehensive school health examinations.

Employment of young people

The Government will look into a lighter form of company for 15–25-year-olds by further developing the Junior Achievement model. The profits of companies set up through the model would be tax-exempt up to a certain limit, their accounting would be automated e.g. through the Tax Administration's systems, and the model would be supplemented by education on entrepreneurship and financial literacy in upper comprehensive school and lower secondary education.

The Government will carry out a study comparing the effectiveness of different forms of rehabilitation in promoting return to the workforce. The aim is to reduce the number of young people on sickness pensions and find operating models to ensure that the rehabilitation provided produces genuine results.

Employment services

Occupational healthcare expertise will be integrated into employment services. A regional pilot will be launched in cooperation with occupational healthcare and employment areas to improve the assessment of the health and work ability of long-term unemployed persons and restore their work ability. We will explore the possibility of offering incentives for wellbeing services counties to carry out work ability assessments.

Increasing the budget authority for interest subsidies for rural livelihoods

The budget authority for interest subsidies for rural livelihoods will be altered so that starting in 2027, interest subsidies can be approved for loans with a maximum capital of EUR 200 million. This will ensure that the investments facilitated by the new growth are implemented.

Biogas

Efforts to phase out fossil fuels and promote nutrient recycling will be promoted through investments in biogas production. The ministerial working group on clean energy and security of supply will launch a study on measures to promote biogas production in spring 2026, taking into account the current financial constraints.

Healthcare and social welfare

Together with Finnish-Swedish bilingual wellbeing services counties, a report will be drawn up on the organisation and development needs of Swedish-speaking disability services, which were previously the responsibility of Kårkulla.

As part of the women's health strategy drawn up by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, efforts will be made to harmonise treatment pathways for gynaecological diseases and syndromes, such as endometriosis, adenomyosis, PCOS and vulvodynia as well as hyperemesis gravidarum.

Digitalisation in healthcare and social welfare services

The digitalisation of healthcare and social welfare will be promoted through models that use data to target preventive services to those population groups and situations where they will achieve the greatest health and economic benefits.

Freedom of choice pilot for persons aged 65 and over

The freedom of choice pilot for reimbursements from the health insurance fund for persons aged 65 and over will be extended by one year and will be expanded within the scope of resources in the Government Programme reserved for reimbursements for medical expenses paid by Kela. The list of eligible medical procedures included in the pilot will be expanded (e.g. X-rays) and the number of annual doctor's appointments will be increased to improve the continuity of treatment. To support everyday functional capacity among older people, physiotherapy appointments will be included in the pilot.

NGO grants for wellbeing services counties

The Government will allocate a fixed-term annual discretionary government grant of EUR 25 million to the wellbeing services counties and the City of Helsinki for 2027–2030 to develop the activities of regional health and social services organisations and support their work to promote health and wellbeing. Within the framework provided by the Act on Discretionary Government Grants, the wellbeing services counties and the City of Helsinki may determine the priorities for development work based on their respective organisational structures, areas of specialisation and needs. Linguistic rights will be taken into account when awarding discretionary government grants. The call for applications will be prioritised so that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health can award the discretionary government grants by early 2027 at the latest.

Developing healthcare and social welfare services

The Government will allocate a fixed-term discretionary government grant of EUR 40 million to the wellbeing services counties and the City of Helsinki for 2027. The goal is to use the grant for developing informal care, for piloting and developing continuity of care and the personal doctor model, for pilots and development projects to prevent long-term homelessness, for developing the service system for children and young people, and for development projects in wellbeing service counties subject to the assessment procedure. Special characteristics of the regions, linguistic rights and the objectives of the assessment procedure will be taken into account when awarding discretionary government grants. The call for applications will be prioritised so that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health can award the discretionary government grants by early 2027 at the latest. The ministerial working group on a sustainable welfare society will agree on the conditions for awarding the discretionary government grants at a later date.

Promoting the equine industry

The continuity of activities in the equine sector will be ensured while the licence system for harness racing is in its transition phase in 2027–2029. The entry into force of the legislation on the new gambling system has been postponed to July 2027. The need for appropriations will be assessed and the necessary decisions made in the 2027 government budget session.

Special economic zones

Disparities in regional development and deep structural changes in Finland's eastern border regions require new ways to boost competitiveness and create opportunities for growth. In many EU countries, special economic zones are an established and effective operating model, which aims above all to attract international investments and support economic renewal, growth and employment in areas where there is a special need and reason to do so. In separate reports, both the OECD and the European Commission have also recommended that Finland establish special economic zones specifically in the areas on the EU's eastern border. Special Representative Harri Broman has proposed a pilot programme in which the municipalities in the Imatra region (namely Imatra, Rautjärvi, Parikkala and Ruokolahti) and the Kajaani data centre ecosystem would be designated as special economic zones.

As part of the implementation of the programme for eastern Finland set out in the Government Programme, the Government will begin preparing a temporary legislative trial concerning special economic zones. The final decision on possible pilot areas and the support measures and incentives to be introduced in the zones will be made as part of the new legislative drafting project.

Joint working groups with representatives from the central government, municipal bodies and Finngird will be established in the areas covered by the programmes for eastern and northern Finland in order to bring together key actors in the public and private sectors and maintain shared situational awareness regarding future electricity demand and production in the areas.

Regional air services

A working group will be appointed to prepare a model for the flight connections to regional airports. The goal is to ensure that the preparations lead to a model for organising flight connections to regional airports over the long term.

Grey economy

The Government will combat the grey economy and prevent labour exploitation by extending the scope of the legislation on tax numbers to apply to the real estate services sector.

State grant system

The level of the index brake applied to central government transfers to municipalities for basic public services will be increased to 2.8 percentage points for 2027, which will lower central government transfers by EUR 60 million. The reduction in central government transfers to municipalities will be implemented so that the euro amount of the reduction is distributed equally per capita.

In 2026, the central government transfer to municipalities for basic public services will be reduced by 2.09 per cent, which will produce a savings of EUR 75 million in central government transfers to municipalities. The reduction does not apply to those municipalities for which the central government transfer is negative. Provisions on the reduction are laid down in section 32a of the Act on Central Government transfers to Municipalities for Basic Public Services, which will be in force for a fixed term. The permanent reduction of EUR 75 million will continue to be targeted from 2027 as outlined in the 2025 spending limits session so that the reduction will be equal to the percentage of the central government transfer for basic public services in each municipality and will not be targeted to municipalities for which the central government transfer is negative.

From the beginning of 2029, a system will be introduced in which Kela will invoice municipalities for the municipal share of basic social assistance in real time (with a two-month delay) instead of the current two-year delay.



Transport investments

The Government has agreed on funding for the following projects:

- Deepening the Loviisa fairway
- Main road 51, Kela junction
- Junction arrangement on main road 9 in the centre of Suonenjoki
- Deepening the Vaasa port fairway
- Electrification of the Vaasa port railway
- Main road 8 Ytterjeppo interchange
- Widening of main road 8 between Bäckliden and Brännbacken
- Satamatie junction and additional funding for the Tähtelä junction in Inkoo
- Vuohimäki interchange in Kirkkonummi
- Karelian railway (extension of the double track rail line between Luumäki and Joutseno (Lappeenranta–Lauritsala) and Poiksilta by-pass rail between Imatra and Joensuu)
- Continuation of the Karelian railway in the north, Joensuu–Nurmes (measures to improve functionality and capacity, including electrification planning for the Joensuu–Uimaharju section), electrification of the Vuokatti–Kontiomäki rail line
- Main road 2 in Pori
- Lepplax interchange
- Tolosenmäki junction
- Main road 9 in Ylämylly (budget authority)
- Improvement of highway 749 between highway 7494 (Furuholmsvägen) and Risöhällvägen in Luoto
- Improvement of main road 23 between Rantala and Lajunlahti in Heinävesi
- Improvement of main road 506 at the Karjalankatu junction in Juuka

Culture

Svenska Teatern in Helsinki will be given the status of national stage of Finland from 1 January 2029.

Increasing environmentally and health-motivated taxes

The EUR 50 million package of environmentally and health-motivated taxes agreed on in the government budget session will be targeted at the excise duty on conventional tobacco products (EUR 30 million) and the alcohol tax (EUR 20 million). The increase in alcohol tax will apply evenly to products with an alcohol volume over 5.5 per cent, but not to beer or to ethyl alcohol-based products with a maximum alcohol volume of 10 per cent (such as long drinks). The exact tax rates will be determined in further preparations.

Productivity programme

The EUR 25 million savings target set for the government agency report in the 2025 budget session will be allocated to the administrative branches in proportion to the additional savings in operating expenses decided on earlier. In addition, from 2027 onwards, the Government will increase the level of savings in

central government operating expenses by a total of EUR 60 million, including an annually increasing productivity reduction weighted by administrative branch. The basis for the productivity reduction at government level will be the net sum of on-budget labour costs. The reduction will also apply to other actors receiving funding from the budget, such as Kela, Metsähallitus, Forest Centres and the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health. Overall, the productivity reductions will be allocated to agencies and public bodies from 2027 onward. In addition, permanent savings in operating expenses (EUR 73 million) allocated by main title will be targeted at agencies and public bodies based on more detailed preparation by the ministries in the 2027 budget proposal.

Steps will be taken to prepare for the declining level of operating expenses primarily by prioritising tasks and eliminating less important tasks and, for example, by harnessing digitalisation to improve productivity. The ministries will ensure that the savings do not target personnel in service tasks in the defence, security and administration of justice sectors that are important to citizens, and that they apply instead to resources allocated to administrative and support services and to other expenses in these sectors.

Deduction for donations

A legislative proposal on the deduction for donations will be submitted in autumn 2026 so that the act can enter into force at the start of 2027. The extension of the deduction for the promotion of art and science to apply to donations made to universities, higher education institutions or affiliated university funds for the purpose of promoting science, art, preservation of Finnish cultural heritage, youth work or activities, sports, physical activity or the position of children will be implemented in the manner agreed on earlier. In addition, the tax deductions applicable to donations will be broadened to include healthcare and social welfare organisations.

Company acquisitions

The provisions on corporate restructuring will be updated and made more flexible in line with the newly completed assessment memorandum on the matter. The aim of the reforms is to promote companies' investments and improve productivity. The changes will take effect at the beginning of 2027.

Developing drone performance capabilities

The development, procurement and use of unmanned aerial systems (drones) will be coordinated through multi-authority cooperation between the Defence Forces, the Border Guard and the police. To ensure efficient use of resources, prevention and response capabilities will also be developed in a coordinated manner.

Pumped storage power plants in the legislation on land use and building

The construction of pumped storage power plants will be promoted in order to strengthen the security of electricity supply. To achieve this, measures will be taken to ensure predictable regulation, smooth and clear permit processes and sufficient resources for permit and supervisory authorities. A permanent priority procedure will be introduced for energy projects that are important for security of supply. In connection with the transition to clean energy, Finland's energy network will be made more functional by adding requirements supporting the introduction of national regulating power to the national land use guidelines referred to in the Land Use Act by government decision in 2026.

The special situation in Eastern Finland

The Government will explore measures to use a part of the real estate tax revenue from offshore wind power in Finland's economic area to support those areas where wind power cannot currently be built for reasons related to national defence. In further preparations, the Government will investigate losses in municipal tax revenue due to the demands of the Defence Forces.

Support for Ukraine

Finland will continue to support Ukraine militarily. Support totalling EUR 300 million will be allocated for the remainder of the parliamentary term. The goal is to begin industrial cooperation that will support both Ukraine's defence and Finland's defence industry. A further goal is to take part in multinational initiatives to finance critical defence materiel procurement in Ukraine. The Ministerial Committee on Economic Policy will decide on the use of the reserve in further detail at a later date.

Reforms to curb indebtedness

The Government will launch a project and continue the preparation of reforms to strengthen debt sustainability over the long term. A key objective of the parliamentary working group assessing the funding model for healthcare and social welfare services and the service system is to ensure the sustainability of general government finances. The Government will continue its comprehensive reform of transport taxation and financing.

Measures to promote digitalisation and the use of artificial intelligence in the public sector will continue. In line with an earlier decision, the Government will allocate EUR 10 million to the implementation of AI projects in the public sector. In addition, the Government will launch a project to promote the use of AI to achieve long-term cost savings in the public sector in line with the Estonian model.

The Government will launch a series of studies on how best to achieve long-term savings. Furthermore, the Government will commission reports and studies from research institutes and international organisations on how to curb expenditure growth.

Security of supply of energy peat

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment will prepare a support model to ensure sufficient availability of energy and security of supply also in winter. The support will make it possible to build biogas-powered gas turbines and to extend the use of bioenergy-powered CHP plants.

The Government will decide on continuing the emergency stockpiling of peat until 2030. The availability of reliable domestic energy will be ensured in a variety of situations, and the National Emergency Supply Agency will be provided with sufficient funding to enable this.

Preparedness

The Government is preparing to take effective measures targeted at citizens and businesses, within the fiscal leeway allowed by general government finances, to alleviate the situation if consumer prices of fuels become exceptionally high on a permanent basis.

The Government is looking into measures that could be implemented to ensure security of supply in the food sector (raw proteins and seeds, security of supply of plant protection products, securing critical capabilities related to drinking water and foodstuffs, and measures to support security of supply in the fisheries sector) and will assess the need for measures in the supplementary budget and budget processes.

Measures in the mineral sector

The Environmental Protection Act will be amended so that the financial guarantee for waste treatment operations referred to in section 59 will be calculated and presented exclusive of VAT. In addition, the necessary legislative amendments will be made so that the Government can make decisions on permits based on overall consideration. Along with these measures, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment will prepare a report for the Ministerial Committee on Economic Policy on the situation in the mining and minerals sector and put forth proposals for concrete measures to improve the situation in the sector.

European Athletics Championships

In line with the Government Programme, Finland will increase its role as an international organiser of sporting events and events involving physical activity. In line with its earlier decisions, the Government is committed to supporting the application for and organisation of the 2030 European Athletics Championships. The Government will support the European Athletics Championships and grant EUR 2 million for 2027.