

## Promoting a healthy workplace

The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) is a research and specialist organization in the field of occupational health and safety.

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## TYKES Workplace Development Programme

The Finnish Workplace Development Programme (TYKES 2004–09) sets out to enhance the way Finnish companies and other work organizations operate, with a view to boosting productivity and, at the same time, improving the quality of working life. This approach is known as qualitatively sustainable productivity growth.

TYKES is based on the view that the most effective way of generating new innovative solutions for working life is close cooperation and interaction between workplaces, researchers, consultants, public authorities and the social partners. In a small country like Finland, it is essential for different parties to join forces in order to cope with the globalising economy. Success in the new competitive environment increasingly calls for workplace innovation.

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## Finland ends transitional arrangements concerning the free movement of workers from the new EU Member States

Finland is no longer applying the transitional arrangements concerning the free movement of workers from the new Member States of the European Union. The right to engage in gainful employment in Finland is determined by citizenship.

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## Contents of the USB Memory Pen

Media guide  
Topic guide (this leaflet)  
Who's who – ministerial photo gallery

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health folder  
Ministry of Labour folder  
City of Helsinki folder  
Finland folder

You can erase the existing data on the memory pen and save your own files on it. The memory pen is for you to keep as a gift from the Finnish EU Presidency.

## Other news from Finland:

### **Review of the Finnish health system**

OECD has released its review of the Finnish health system that states that the Finnish health system performs well in international comparisons. On the whole, public health spending is well under control in Finland. Finns also report higher satisfaction with their health system than people in many other OECD countries. More info: <http://www.stm.fi/Resource.phx/publishing/documents/5446/index.htm>

### **Finnish game industry experiencing strong growth**

Research and development investment by game companies, coupled with public-sector support for the industry, are beginning to pay off, making the industry the fastest growing sector in the creative economy. More info: [www.ktm.fi/?i=1677&l=en&s=222](http://www.ktm.fi/?i=1677&l=en&s=222)

**More information on Finland can be found at**  
[virtual.finland.fi/](http://virtual.finland.fi/)

## Topic guide

Guide to the meeting topics  
and the content of the Media Kit  
(USB memory pen)

Informal ministerial meeting:  
Employment, Social Policy and Health  
Helsinki, Finland, 6–8 July 2006

*eu2006.fi*

## Meeting topics

### Improvements in working life to raise the productivity of work

At the meeting, the ministers will discuss the productivity and quality of work. The welfare and wellbeing of our continent depend on sustainable and rapid economic growth, which in turn depend on our ability to raise the employment rate. As the European population ages, more attention must be paid to the productivity of labour.

To improve the productivity of labour, more emphasis must be placed on improving the quality of working life. The quality of work will improve when employees are empowered to influence what they do. The quality of work can also be improved by introducing better working methods and by organising work better at the workplace. The objective is to enhance job satisfaction and employee commitment. Development measures will support employment and encourage employees to extend their working life. This goal can be reached through cooperation in the Community, between Member States and between the social partners.

More info: [www.mol.fi/mol/en/01\\_ministry/05\\_tykes/index.jsp](http://www.mol.fi/mol/en/01_ministry/05_tykes/index.jsp)  
Contact: Ms Liisa Heinonen, Senior Adviser, Legal Affairs, tel. +358 (0) 10 60 48017  
Ms Anna Bruun, EU Assistant, tel. +358 10 60 48014

### Making work more attractive: a way to prolong working life

Over the past ten years, the Member States of the European Union have undertaken extensive reform of legislation regarding social income transfers and social service systems. The purpose of these reforms has been to prolong working life and to postpone retirement. At the same time, measures have been taken to ensure equal opportunities and rights for men and women in working life.

Some of the key incentives designed to encourage people to postpone retirement involve the accrual of pension security and other forms of social security for individuals

and organisations. Besides financial incentives, it is equally important to maintain and improve the working ability and functional capacity of human resources and to promote active ageing.

Contact: Ms Liisa Heinonen, Senior Adviser, Legal Affairs, tel. +358 (0) 10 60 48017  
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### Competitive Europe

One of the primary aims for people is to increase life expectancy, which has successfully been achieved. Life expectancy has increased with the passing years, as has the number of active years people enjoy. It is thus paradoxical that the ageing of the population is seen as a major problem.

The reason is understandable. When people live longer, there are more pensioners, which increases pension expenditure. With age, health care costs go up and in the end the cost of caring for the elderly grows too. That increases the pressure to raise taxation, which is particularly problematic since the working population is beginning to decrease. How are we to deal with this?

More info: Media Kit / Ministry of Social Affairs and Health folder  
Contact: Markku Lehto, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

### National Models Inspire EU Social Policy

A Finnish EU Presidency conference on the future of the EU's social policy will look at how national policies can shape and inform it.

More info: Media Kit / Ministry of Social Affairs and Health folder

### EU Conference Promotes Health for All

'Health in all policies' is the watchword for efforts to highlight the health-related aspects of different policy areas. Efforts in this direction have beneficial and highly cost-effective knock-on effects.

More info: Media Kit / Ministry of Social Affairs and Health folder

### Men at Work for Gender Equality

The conference on equality issues during Finland's EU Presidency will focus on what men could and should be doing to further gender equality.

More info: Media Kit / Ministry of Social Affairs and Health folder

### Interviews and photographs

Journalists and photographers are welcome to contact the following venues/organisations to arrange interviews and photo shoots.

### Promoting the attractiveness of working life

The objective of the national Veto Programme is to maintain and promote the attractiveness of work and working life. It is a programme for well-being at work and for extending working life. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health bears primary responsibility for the programme.

The Veto Programme is a continuation of projects concerned with Finnish working life, such as the National Programme for Ageing Workers and the National Well-being at Work Programme. Veto started in 2003 and will continue until 2007.

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