

European Parliament elections 2009, confirmed result

Confirmed result. True Finns and Greens successful in the European Parliament elections 2009

The True Finns won one seat in the European Parliament and the party's leader Timo Soini was the biggest winner with 130,715 votes cast. The next highest numbers of votes were cast for Anneli Jäätteenmäki of the Centre Party (80,156) and Mitro Repo of the Social Democratic Party (71,829). This time Finland elected 13 representatives to the European Parliament instead of the earlier 14. Six of the elected representatives have no prior experience of the European Parliament.

Finnish Members of the European Parliament elected in the European Parliament elections 2009, votes cast for them, their party as well as their political group in the European Parliament

Member	Votes cast for the elected Member	Elected member's party in Finland	Political Group in the European Parliament
Soini Timo	130,715	True Finns	..
Jäätteenmäki Anneli	80,156	Centre Pty of Finland	ALDE (ELDR)
Repo Mitro	71,829	Social Democratic Pty	PES (PSE)
Itälä Ville	66,033	Coalition Pty	EPP/ED (PPE-DE)
Hautala Heidi	58,926	Greens	Greens/EFA (Verts/ALE)
Hassi Satu	57,032	Greens	Greens/EFA (Verts/ALE)
Essayah Sari	53,803	Christian Democrats	EPP/ED (PPE-DE)
Korhola Eija-Riitta	51,508	Coalition Pty	EPP/ED (PPE-DE)
Pietikäinen Sirpa	51,493	Coalition Pty	EPP/ED (PPE-DE)
Jaakonsaari Liisa	45,325	Social Democratic Pty	PES (PSE)
Takkula Hannu	39,444	Centre Pty of Finland	ALDE (ELDR)
Manner Riikka	37,330	Centre Pty of Finland	ALDE (ELDR)
Haglund Carl	16,887	Swedish People's Pty	ALDE (ELDR)

Votes cast for the largest parties and seats as well as change in the European Parliament elections 2009 and 2004

Party	European Parliament elec. 2009 votes	European Parliament elec. 2004 votes	change	European Parliament elec. 2009 places	European Parliament elec. 2004 places	change
Coalition Pty	386,416	392,771	-6,355	3	4	-1
Centre Pty	316,798	387,217	-70,419	3	4	-1
Social Democr. Pty	292,051	350,525	-58,474	2	3	-1
Greens	206,439	172,844	+33,595	2	1	+1
True Finns	162,930	8,900	+154,030	1	0	+1
Swedish People's Pty	101,453	94,421	+7,032	1	1	0
Left Alliance	98,690	151,291	-52,601	0	1	-1
Christian Democrats	69,458	70,845	-1,387	1	0	+1

Support for the True Finns rose to 9.8 per cent, which is 9.2 percentage points higher than in the previous European Parliament elections. Compared with the previous European Parliament elections, support for the True Finns increased nearly in the whole country. The party won support especially in the strong support areas of the Social Democratic Party and in voting districts with high unemployment. Because of the electoral alliance of the two parties, the success of the True Finns yielded a seat in the European Parliament also for the Christian Democrats, even though their share of votes cast remained at 4.2 per cent. The Greens were the other winner of these elections, alongside the True Finns. Support for the Green League rose to 12.4 per cent, which is 2.0 percentage points higher than in the previous European Parliament elections. The party got two seats in the European Parliament.

The three major parties each lost one seat in the European Parliament. The National Coalition Party and the Centre Party both secured three seats. The Social Democrats were left with two seats. The National Coalition Party got the largest share of all votes cast, namely 23.2 per cent. Its share of votes cast fell by 0.5 percentage points from the previous European Parliament elections. The Centre Party got 19.0 per cent and the Social Democrats 17.5 per cent of all votes cast. Compared to the previous European Parliament elections, the Centre Party's share of all votes cast fell by 4.3 percentage points and that of the Social Democrats by 3.6 percentage points. The Centre Party and the Social Democrats lost support especially in their own strong support areas. The Left Alliance got a 5.9 per cent share of the votes cast in the elections and its support fell by 3.2 percentage points from the previous European Parliament elections. The Left Alliance lost their one seat. Support for the Left Alliance decreased especially in the party's strong support areas. The Swedish People's Party got a 6.1 per cent share of all the votes cast and managed to keep its one seat.

Share of votes cast for the major parties in elections for the European Parliament in 2009, 2004, 1999 and 1996

Party	European Parliament elec. 2009	European Parliament elec. 2004	European Parliament elec. 1999	European Parliament elec. 1996
National Coalition Pty	23.2	23.7	25.3	20.2
Centre Pty of Finland	19.0	23.4	21.3	24.4
Social Democr. Pty	17.5	21.2	17.9	21.5
GREENS	12.4	10.4	13.4	7.6
True Finns	9.8	0.5	0.8	0.7
Swedish People's Pty	6.1	5.7	6.8	5.8
LEFT	5.9	9.1	9.1	10.5
Christian Democrats	4.2	4.3	2.4	2.8

Voting turnout in these European Parliament elections was 40.3 per cent, which is 0.8 percentage points down from the 2004 European Parliament elections. Voting was liveliest in the Helsinki electoral district, where voting turnout rose to 50.7 per cent. Voting was least active in the North Karelia electoral district (33.7 per cent). Of individual municipalities, the country's highest voting turnout was in Kauniainen (68.4 per cent) and the lowest in Hyrynsalmi (25.5 per cent).

Parties who nominated candidates in the European Parliament elections and political groups in the European Parliament 2009

Abbreviation of Finnish name of party	Name of party	Abbreviation of the political group*	Name of the political group
KOK	National Coalition Party	EPP/ED (PPE-DE)	Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats
KESK	Centre Party of Finland	ALDE (ELDR)	Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (2004 Group of the European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party)
SDP	Social Democratic Party of Finland	PES (PSE)	Socialist Group in the European Parliament (2004 Group of the Party of European Socialists)
GREENS	Green League	Greens/EFA (Verts/ALE)	Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
RKP	Swedish People's Party in Finland	ALDE (ELDR)	Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (2004 Group of the European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party)
PS	True Finns
KD	Christian Democrats in Finland	EPP/ED (PPE-DE)	Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats
LEFT	-	-	-
SKP	The Communist Party Of Finland	-	-
SSP	Finnish Senior Citizens' Party (2004 EKA, Pensioners for the People)	-	-
IP	Independence Party (2004 VSL, Independence Party League for Free Finland)	-	-
KA	For the Poor	-	-
STP	The Finnish Workers' Party (2004 VEV, Alternative Union)	-	-
-	-	UEN	Union for Europe of the Nations Group
-	-	GUE/NGL	Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left
-	-	IND/DEM Group	Independence/Democracy Group

* The abbreviation of the name of the political group is derived of its English or French name (in 2004 abbreviation from the French name).

The new European Parliament convenes for the first time on 14 July 2009. The Members of the European Parliament elected in Finland will join the political groups of the European Parliament.

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Confirmed result. Numbers of votes cast for the candidates by party and order of magnitude, and comparison figure in the European Parliament elections 2009, those indicated by * were elected

Party	Candidate	Number of votes	Comparison figure
KOK	* Itälä Ville	66 033	386 416,000
	* Korhola Eija-Riitta	51 508	193 208,000
	* Pietikäinen Sirpa	51 493	128 805,333
	Penttilä Risto E.J.	50 881	96 604,000
	Sarvamaa Petri	27 391	77 283,200
	Metsola Ukko	18 407	64 402,667
	Vatanen Ari	17 967	55 202,286
	Pöntinen Kai	17 240	48 302,000
	Autto Heikki	17 169	42 935,111
	Siitonen Eva-Riitta	16 553	38 641,600
	Railimo Riikka	11 093	35 128,727
	Suomalainen Nina	7 775	32 201,333
	Manninen Johanna	5 842	29 724,308
	Kauma Pia	5 207	27 601,143
	Tuori Jukka	4 527	25 761,067
	Kauppi Heikki	4 126	24 151,000
	Vikman Sofia	4 009	22 730,353
	Puhakka Joonas	3 876	21 467,556
	Ukkola Tuulikki	3 154	20 337,684
	Linnonmaa Anne	2 165	19 320,800
CENT	* Jäätteenmäki Anneli	80 156	316 798,000
	* Takkula Hannu	39 444	158 399,000
	* Manner Riikka	37 330	105 599,333
	Hautala Lasse	31 773	79 199,500
	Karjula Kyösti	29 387	63 359,600
	Härmälä Esa	21 372	52 799,667
	Kaikkonen Antti	18 937	45 256,857
	Laukkanen Markku	15 189	39 599,750
	Myllymäki Pekka	8 779	35 199,778
	Juhantalo Kauko	8 130	31 679,800
	Korhonen Johanna	6 295	28 799,818
	Pirttilahti Arto	4 230	26 399,833
	Vanhanen Merja	3 634	24 369,077
	Aaltonen Helena	3 088	22 628,429
	Tornberg Helena	2 563	21 119,867
	Isoaho Juha	1 937	19 799,875
	Tapaninen Timo	1 883	18 635,176
	Reinikka Sami	1 071	17 599,889
	Ranki Anna	959	16 673,579
	Salmi Jukka	641	15 839,900

SDP	* Repo Mitro	71 829	292 051,000
	* Jaakonsaari Liisa	45 325	146 025,500
	Kiljunen Kimmo	26 936	97 350,333
	Taiveaho Satu	25 916	73 012,750
	Paasilinna Petra	17 575	58 410,200
	Olin Kalevi	13 273	48 675,167
	Hurskainen Sinikka	12 739	41 721,571
	Bryggare Arto	12 293	36 506,375
	Alho Arja	11 519	32 450,111
	Taipale Ilkka	8 956	29 205,100
	Torsti Pilvi	8 706	26 550,091
	Paananen Reijo	7 400	24 337,583
	Sievinen Jani	6 679	22 465,462
	Almqvist Fredrik	5 916	20 860,786
	Lindborg Jenny	4 059	19 470,067
	Can-Kurtakko Nesrin	3 879	18 253,188
	Korte Niko	3 210	17 179,471
	Petäkoski-Hult Tuula	2 953	16 225,056
	Lindroos Kirsi	1 505	15 371,105
	al Chibib Ahmed	1 383	14 602,550
GREENS	* Hautala Heidi	58 926	206 439,000
	* Hassi Satu	57 032	103 219,500
	Cronberg Tarja	22 205	68 813,000
	Kasvi Jyrki	16 009	51 609,750
	Abu-Hanna Umayya	8 684	41 287,800
	Sumuvuori Johanna	8 633	34 406,500
	Puoskari Mari	6 797	29 491,286
	Relander Jukka	5 317	25 804,875
	Toiviainen Pasi	4 081	22 937,667
	Räsänen Terhi	2 975	20 643,900
	Kari Emma	2 915	18 767,182
	Rantanen Elina	2 545	17 203,250
	Aalto Touko	2 095	15 879,923
	Moring Anna	1 970	14 745,643
	Holopainen Hanna	1 946	13 762,600
	Lawson Hellu Latékoé	1 191	12 902,438
	Mäntylä Aleksis	1 070	12 143,471
	Suoniemi Juhana	1 010	11 468,833
	Airto Mikko	692	10 865,211
	Bergh Flemming	346	10 321,950
PS (electoral coalition with KD)	* Soini Timo	130 715	232 388,000
	Terho Sampo	9 374	77 462,667
	Virtanen Pertti (Velto)	7 839	58 097,000
	Saarakkala Vesa-Matti	4 922	46 477,600
	Elomaa Ritva (Kike)	2 425	33 198,286
	Mattila Pirkko	2 202	29 048,500
	Havansi Erkki	1 528	17 876,000
	van Wonterghem Freddy	1 482	16 599,143
	Heikkilä Lauri	1 322	14 524,250
	Sankilampi Jaana	1 121	12 910,444

RKP	* Haglund Carl	16 887	101 453,000
	Torvalds Nils	14 044	50 726,500
	Månsson Björn	13 344	33 817,667
	Linde Bo	9 980	25 363,250
	Lundberg Britt	9 582	20 290,600
	Bertills Anna	6 000	16 908,833
	Wingren Patrick	5 878	14 493,286
	Liljeström Christel	4 224	12 681,625
	Backgren Ann-Sofi	4 099	11 272,556
	Ahlbeck Jarl	3 275	10 145,300
	Englund Greger	2 074	9 223,000
	Salonius-Pasternak Charly	1 923	8 454,417
	Storgård Päivi	1 893	7 804,077
	Arnautovic Emina	1 712	7 246,643
	Sandelin Silja Borgarsdóttir	1 611	6 763,533
	Hagelstam Axel	1 311	6 340,813
	Ohlis Oscar	1 205	5 967,824
	af Enehjelm Nina	1 051	5 636,278
	Biaudet Tom	770	5 339,632
	Eneh Oge	590	5 072,650
LEFT	Lapintie Annika	29 112	98 690,000
	Sirnö Minna	12 403	49 345,000
	Suokas Kyösti	9 848	32 896,667
	Ismail Atik	5 910	24 672,500
	Saramo Jussi	5 735	19 738,000
	Mikkola Anna	4 489	16 448,333
	Puhakka Sirpa	4 205	14 098,571
	Tiusanen Pentti	3 837	12 336,250
	Kailo Kaarina	3 094	10 965,556
	Pekonen Aino-Kaisa	2 799	9 869,000
	Sandberg Juha	2 529	8 971,818
	Virta Sari	2 225	8 224,167
	Piippolainen Vuokko	2 151	7 591,538
	Rajamäki Ari	1 814	7 049,286
	Ritanen Jarmo	1 776	6 579,333
	Kumpumäki Veikko	1 745	6 168,125
	Kärkkäinen Jukka	1 552	5 805,294
	Hartzell Saara	1 404	5 482,778
	Väätäinen Eero	1 087	5 194,211
	Lumberg Kirsti (Kiba)	975	4 934,500
KD (electoral coalition with PS)	* Essayah Sari	53 803	116 194,000
	Kärkkäinen Kari	4 398	38 731,333
	Snellman Mikael	2 113	25 820,889
	Riikonen Teuvo V.	1 957	23 238,800
	Hynynen Evelyn	1 653	21 126,182
	Jussila Jorma	1 648	19 365,667
	Ahvenjärvi Sauli	1 419	15 492,533
	Mantere Leena	1 197	13 669,882
	Holmi Markku	946	12 230,947
Soitu Kermen	324	11 619,400	

SKP	Peitsamo Kari	2 487	8 089,000
	Suonperä Arjo	800	4 044,500
	Huldén Lena	446	2 696,333
	Alhojärvi Lauri	387	2 022,250
	Leander Esther	363	1 617,800
	Pitkä Tero	334	1 348,167
	Kettunen Jonas	326	1 155,571
	Kare Aaro	324	1 011,125
	Luomala Minna	305	898,778
	Era Hanna	288	808,900
	Räikkä Laila	281	735,364
	Oinas Katriina	225	674,083
	Kainulainen Aino	223	622,231
	Väisänen Juha-Pekka	217	577,786
	Vaskonen Martti	214	539,267
	Lievemaa Tommi	205	505,563
	Toivanen Aapo	180	475,824
	Tölkö Anna-Mili	179	449,389
	Hollo Taina	160	425,737
	Muhonen Jarmo	145	404,450
KA	Törrö Terhi	433	4 338,000
	Andonov Irina	389	2 169,000
	Savola Terttu	385	1 446,000
	Roivas Sirpa	302	1 084,500
	Töyrylä Seija	243	867,600
	Kleemola Markus	230	723,000
	Tervonen Henri	227	619,714
	Mäntykangas Ensio	225	542,250
	Parkkinen Tiina	220	482,000
	Palonen Leena	216	433,800
	Seppänen Eero	203	394,364
	Makowski Adam	191	361,500
	Mehtälä Tauno	191	333,692
	Natunen Veli-Pekka	180	309,857
	Havana Kaisu	149	289,200
	Lehtonen Maija	140	271,125
	Palonen Keijo	121	255,176
	Taina Niko	116	241,000
	Levänen Reino	90	228,316
	Mether Christer	87	216,900
IP	Pesonen Antti	962	3 563,000
	Aalto Katri	237	1 781,500
	Isoaho Mirjaleena	224	1 187,667
	Wiksten Lena	216	890,750
	Henneken Markku	187	712,600
	Tyynelä Sinikka	186	593,833
	Mänttari Aune	168	509,000
	Kulmala Mikko	159	445,375
	Vaskela Jyrki	145	395,889
	Honkasalo Teppo	140	356,300
	Nygård Mauri	137	323,909
	Keskumäki Kai	133	296,917
	Renvall Merja	132	274,077
	Nordling Harri	115	254,500
	Hämäläinen Teuvo	82	237,533
	Widell Jonathan	77	222,688
	Launokari Lea	71	209,588
	Savolainen Aili	71	197,944
	Jansson Simo	62	187,526
	Kaikko Aarno	59	178,150

STP	Bäckman Johan	554	3 169,000
	Tiainen Pekka	253	1 584,500
	Hietanen Leena	247	1 056,333
	Koivisto Esko	196	792,250
	Nevalainen Anna	189	633,800
	Ekman Minna	182	528,167
	Koivula Risto	161	452,714
	Muilu Jaakko	149	396,125
	Kautto Hannu	130	352,111
	Ruttonen Raimo	126	316,900
	Paakkolanvaara Liisa	124	288,091
	Rahikainen Janne	122	264,083
	Wahrman Kalevi	121	243,769
	Tanski Juhani	108	226,357
	Valo Britt-Marie	99	211,267
	Kyrölahti-Keskivaara Rosa-Maria	90	198,063
	Lavikainen Juhani	90	186,412
	Ouarab Sami	88	176,056
	Pietikäinen Wäinö	78	166,789
	Typö Heikki	62	158,450
SSP	Järvenpää Esko	355	2 974,000
	Nelimarkka Kaarlo	265	1 487,000
	Kauppila Reijo	256	991,333
	Lilius Ulla	251	743,500
	Hölsä Matti	246	594,800
	Kotala Raimo	226	495,667
	Harju Minna	220	424,857
	Lamberg Marja	142	371,750
	Koivisto Jouni	122	330,444
	Karlsson Arja	117	297,400
	Mustakangas Maritta	109	270,364
	Närvänen Paavo	100	247,833
	Suominen Paavo	92	228,769
	Mikkonen Urmas	88	212,429
	Vuori Markku	79	198,267
	Padatsu Pekka	74	185,875
	Silván Heikki	66	174,941
	Vainionpää Raimo	60	165,222
	Viitanen Juha	60	156,526
	Kujansuu Kauko	46	148,700
Voters' associations	Sulkakoski Liisa	8 463	8 463,000

European Parliament elections, quality description

1. Relevance of statistical information

1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Statistics Finland produces official statistics from European Parliament elections containing main data on the candidates, elected MEPs, those entitled to vote, those who voted and support gained by the parties. Preliminary data have been published on the Internet starting from the first European Parliament elections held in Finland (1996); these statistics are updated by the figures of the confirmed result. Statistics Finland's statistics pages on European Parliament elections also include tables in databases, i.e. the StatFin online service, where from 2004 onwards data can be found by voting district as well.

1.2 Essential concepts

Holding of elections

The European Parliament elections are held every five years in all EU Member States. The European Parliament is the only international organ that the citizens elect by direct elections. National authorities are in charge of practical arrangements for the elections. In Finland the organiser is the Ministry of Justice that confirms the candidates and the election result. In Finland the European Parliament elections are held on Sunday, 7 June. Elections are held in accordance with the Election Act in force, more details on the Ministry of Justice's webpages www.vaalit.fi (=> Legislation) and www.finlex.fi, Election Act (714/1998).

Legislation

The elections for the Members of European Parliament (European Parliament elections) are held in each Member State in accordance with the national election legislation. In addition, the stipulations of the EU's election regulation (from 1976) are followed. By the amendment made to the election legislation in 1998, all the provisions concerning elections were collected under one act, the Election Act (714/1998), which came into force on 8 October 1998.

The main principles of holding elections

All elections in Finland are held following the principles below:

- **The elections are direct.** Electors (those entitled to vote) vote directly for the person they want to be elected.
- **The elections are proportional.** In proportional elections each party or other group gains seats in relation to the votes cast for it compared with the votes cast for other groups (not presidential elections).
- **The elections are secret.** Secrecy of the ballot means that neither the election authorities nor anyone else get to know for whom voters have cast their votes or whether they have returned an empty ballot.
- **The right to vote is universal and equal.** A universal franchise signifies that the right to vote only depends on requirements which citizens usually fulfil. An equal franchise means that every person entitled to vote has an equal right to influence the election results. In general elections everybody has one vote.
- **Voting is personal.** The right to vote may not be used through an agent.
- **Voting takes place in front of election authorities.**
- **The Finnish election system is a combination of voting for individuals and parties,** where a vote goes to both a party and a person (not presidential elections).

Right to vote and eligibility

Entitled to vote in European Parliament elections held in Finland are:

1. Regardless of domicile every Finnish citizen who has reached the age of 18 not later than on the day of the election, and
2. Every citizen of another Member State of the European Union who has reached the age of 18 not later than on the day of the election and whose municipality of residence, as defined by law, is in Finland on the 51st

day before election day, unless he/she has lost the right to vote in the Member State whose citizen he/she is. A prerequisite to the right to vote is, however, that the person enrolls with the voting register in Finland.

A person entitled to vote may only vote in one Member State in the same European elections, either in his/her home state or in his/her country of residence.

A Finnish citizen, who has registered as a voter in another Member State, is not entitled to vote in the European Parliament elections in Finland.

Persons with a right to vote can vote either 1) during the advance voting period, or 2) on the election day on Sunday.

Eligibility

The provisions on eligibility are the same as in parliamentary elections. Thus eligible is

1. every Finnish citizen entitled to vote and not legally incompetent, and
2. every citizen of a Member State of the EU who is entitled to vote and who has registered with and been entered into the voting register in Finland, and who has not lost the right to enter as a candidate in elections in his/her home state

However, a member of the European Parliament cannot be:

1. A member of the Council of State;
2. A member of the European Commission;
3. A Judge, Advocate-General or Registrar of the European Court of Justice or of the Court of First Instance;
4. A member of the executive board of the European Central Bank;
5. A member of the European Court of Auditors;
6. The European Ombudsman;
7. A member of the Economic or Social Committees for the European Community or the European Atomic Energy Community;
8. A member of the Committee of Regions;
9. A member of a Committee or another body responsible for the permanent administration or finances of the Community as is provided in the Treaties regarding the European Community and the European Atomic Energy Community;
10. A member of the Board of Directors and Board of Governors of the European Investment Bank and a member of staff of the European Investment Bank;
11. An official or a staff member working in the service of a body or a specialist organisation of the European Community;
12. A person who is in a post or a position that impedes membership of a Parliament as is provided in the Constitution.

Nomination of candidates

Candidates in European elections may be nominated

1. by parties entered into the party register, and
2. by voters' associations established by people entitled to vote.

The candidates enter as candidates in the entire country. Each party may nominate not more than 20 candidates. Parties may form electoral alliances. However, the maximum number of candidates for parties forming an electoral alliance may be the same as for an individual party, i.e. 20. All candidates are nominated for the whole country. A voters' association for the nomination of one candidate may be established by at least 2,000 people entitled to vote. Voters' associations may form a joint list that can have at most 20 candidates.

The Electoral District Committee of Helsinki compiles a combined list of the candidates in which the candidates of all parties, voters' associations and joint lists are enumerated in an order drawn by lot. The combined list contains the following information on the candidates: number (beginning with number 2), name, municipality of domicile, and title, profession or position.

Seats

The parliamentary seats are divided so that the Member States small in population have in relative terms more seats than large Member States. In the 2009 elections a total of 736 members will be elected to the European Parliament, of whom 13 will be elected from Finland.

Parliamentary seats are divided between the parties, electoral alliances and voters' associations by the number of votes gained by them in the whole country following the d'Hondt method. The party, electoral alliance or joint list receives as its first comparative index the total number of votes cast for the party, electoral alliance or joint list concerned. The candidate with the highest number of votes cast in the group then gets as a comparative index the total number of votes cast for the group, the second one half of the number of votes and the third one third and so on.

Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities

Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities concerning elections of different years are presented in the StatFin service and in the conventional European Parliament elections paper publication.

Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force. The valid statistical grouping of municipalities is used in the statistics (Statistics Finland, Municipalities and Regional Divisions Based on Municipalities). In the statistical grouping of municipalities, municipalities are divided by the proportion of the population living in urban settlements and by the population of the largest urban settlement into urban, semi-urban and rural municipalities. The classification is based on the definition of urban settlements made every five years in connection with population censuses and on the data thus obtained about the population living in urban settlements.

1. Urban municipalities are those municipalities in which at least 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, or in which the population of the largest urban settlement is at least 15,000.
2. Semi-urban municipalities are those municipalities in which at least 60 per cent but less than 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, or in which the population of the largest urban settlement is at least 4,000 but less than 15,000.
3. Rural municipalities are those municipalities in which less than 60 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, and in which the population of the largest urban settlement is less than 15,000, as well as those municipalities in which at least 60 per cent but less than 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, and in which the population of the largest urban settlement is less than 4,000.

Classifications used

Names of constituencies in European Parliament elections in 2009 are:

1. Helsinki constituency
2. Uusimaa constituency
3. Varsinais-Suomi constituency
4. Satakunta constituency
5. Åland constituency
6. Häme constituency
7. Pirkanmaa constituency
8. Kymi constituency
9. South Savo constituency
10. North Savo constituency
11. North Karelia constituency
12. Vaasa constituency
13. Central Finland constituency
14. Oulu constituency
15. Lapland constituency

In the European Parliament elections Finland forms one constituency. The candidates stand as candidates in the whole country and the voters may vote for any candidate. However, the votes cast in the European Parliament elections are initially counted by national constituency and the election committee of the constituency of Helsinki combines the results of all constituencies into a result for the whole country.

Statistics Finland's classification of municipalities. Constituency, municipality group, municipality, voting district, party (included in the Party Register), age of candidates and elected MEPs, nationality and country of residence.

Data collection methods and data sources

Statistics Finland receives basic election data from the Ministry of Justice's election data system, the technical implementation of which it has assigned to Tieto.

1.3 Acts, decrees and recommendations

The function of Statistics Finland is to compile statistics describing conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These also include election statistics. Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure define the Population Statistics department as the producer of election statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-1756-01).

2. Methodological description of survey

The statistics are based on census data. The basic data of the statistics are based on the Ministry of Justice's election information system consisting of six subsystems. They are:

1. Basic data, including data on constituencies, municipalities, voting districts and election authorities;
2. Data on polling stations (polling station register), including data on general advance polling stations and polling stations on the election day;
3. Franchise data (voting register) for which data on every person entitled to vote are collected by the Population Register Centre on the 46th day before the election day. The voting register includes of all entitled to vote the data (e.g. name, personal identity code, constituency, municipality of domicile and polling station) included in the Population Information System on the 51st day prior to the election day. The voting register gains legal force on the 12th day before the election day at 12 noon;
4. Data on candidates (candidate register) in which the following data on each candidate in the elections are entered: name, candidate number, profession, municipality of residence, party/voters' association that has nominated the candidate, and personal identity code;
5. A centralised calculation system to which the electoral district committees and the central election committees submit their results of the elections;
6. Statistics and information service by means of which the results of the elections and other statistical data are transmitted to the media and to Statistics Finland..

Statistics Finland's election data system comprises four election data files: regional file, party file, candidate file and candidate register.

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

The basic data of the statistics are based on the Ministry of Justice's election information system and data supplied by the election authorities, which can be considered reliable.

4. Correctness and accuracy of data

The confirmed data always differ somewhat from the figures of the preliminary statistics. The 'preliminary results' after the election night serve users before the confirmed result is obtained.

The results change once the result is confirmed in all respects: by voting district, municipality, constituency, party and number of votes gained by candidates, whereby even their mutual order may change.

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

The first data, or preliminary statistics are published on the Internet, in the StatFin online service and on the statistics pages on European Parliament elections as soon as possible starting from the election night. Election data by municipality and voting district (from 2004) and the numbers of votes gained by elected MEPs (on the constituency level) are entered in the StatFin service.

On the European Parliament elections pages releases and tables concerning the election in question are published in three languages (Finnish, Swedish and English). The second data, or the final data are supplied to Statistics Finland after the election result is confirmed. After the confirmation of the election result, the confirmed data corresponding to the preliminary statistics are released on the statistics pages on European Parliament elections and the StatFin databases are updated.

Later on, a conventional paper publication, or corresponding statistical tables, are also produced on the European Parliament elections.

6. Comparability of statistics

The new statistical grouping of municipalities (urban, semi-urban and rural) was introduced starting from 1999. Prior to that, municipalities were grouped as follows: towns and other municipalities. Changes in constituencies and municipalities between the elections have been taken into account in statistics that have comparative data with the results of the previous elections.

Election results are presented on the statistics pages on European Parliament elections starting from the first European Parliament elections in 1996. Preliminary statistics on European Parliament elections are released on the statistics pages on the Internet. In addition, the StatFin online service has a time series on European Parliament elections starting from 1996 (NB From 2004 also data by voting district). The paper publication European Parliament elections (see Chapter 5) contains as recurrent the so-called basic tables on voting turnout and on the election result by municipality for the election year that has comparative data from the previous elections. Publications of different years contain information on possible changes compared with the previous elections, such as changes in constituencies and municipalities.

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity and documentation

The Ministry of Justice publishes information about the results of different elections and the national candidate register on its webpages (www.vaalit.fi). The statistics published by the Ministry of Justice differ with regard to advance voters from those issued by Statistics Finland, because they are defined on different grounds:

- the Ministry of Justice counts the number of advance voters from the number of those entitled to vote, whereas
- Statistics Finland counts the number of advance voters from the number of all who voted.

The classifications used in the statistics can be found on Statistics Finland's homepages.

Suomen virallinen tilasto
Finlands officiella statistik
Official Statistics of Finland

Elections 2009

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