



VALTIONEUVOSTO
STATSRÅDET

Holistic sustainability assessment in Finland and EU TSI project

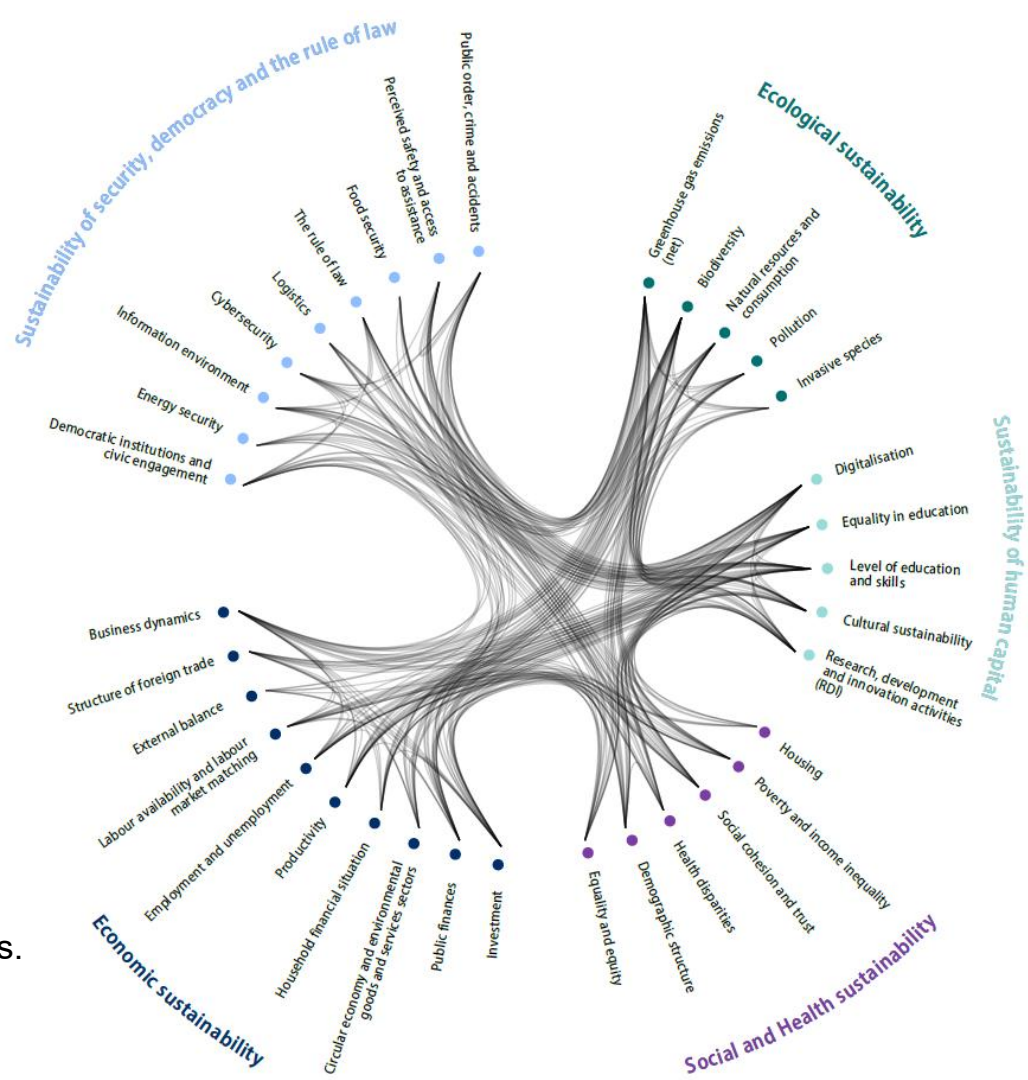
Saara Tamminen, Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Finland
ESDN seminar 18.3.2026

Holistic sustainability assessment

First report on the sustainability of the Finnish society from 5 perspectives:

- 1) Evaluates the current state of sustainability challenges and their development trends over the past decade;
- 2) Insight into possible developments over the next 5-10 years for all 5 sustainability dimensions and for 2 special themes (AI and forest vs. economy). Focus on risks and opportunities.
- 3) Proposes 42 directions for solutions prepared by civil servants.

Based on available data, research publications and scenario analyses and on extensive cooperation with research institutes, ministries and other experts. Assessment utilizes system analysis methods.



Topics covered broader than in traditional sustainability/SDG work

Sustainability dimensions (5) divided to 36 smaller sub-areas = Assessment framework

Sub-areas

Ecological sustainability
Greenhouse gas emissions (net), incl. ETS, effort sharing, LULUCF, and consumption based emissions
Natural resources and consumption, incl. use of natural resources, circularity rate
Biodiversity, incl. protected areas, endangered species and habitats
Pollution, incl. air, water, and ground pollution
Invasive species

Human capital and cultural sustainability
Level of education and skill
Equality in education
Research, development and innovation activities (RDI)
Digitalisation
<i>Cultural sustainability</i>

Social and Health sustainability
Demographic structure
Poverty and income inequality
Equality and equity
Social cohesion and trust
Health disparities
Housing

Economic sustainability
Public finances
Productivity
Structure of foreign trade
External balance
Investments
Household financial situation
Employment and unemployment
Labour availability and labour market matching
Business dynamics
Circular economy and environmental goods and services sectors

Sustainability of security, democracy and the rule of law
Democratic institutions and civic engagement
The rule of law
Public order, crime and accidents
Perceived safety and access to assistance
<i>Cybersecurity</i>
<i>Information environment</i>
Logistics
Food security
Energy security

Key findings on development trends of past decade

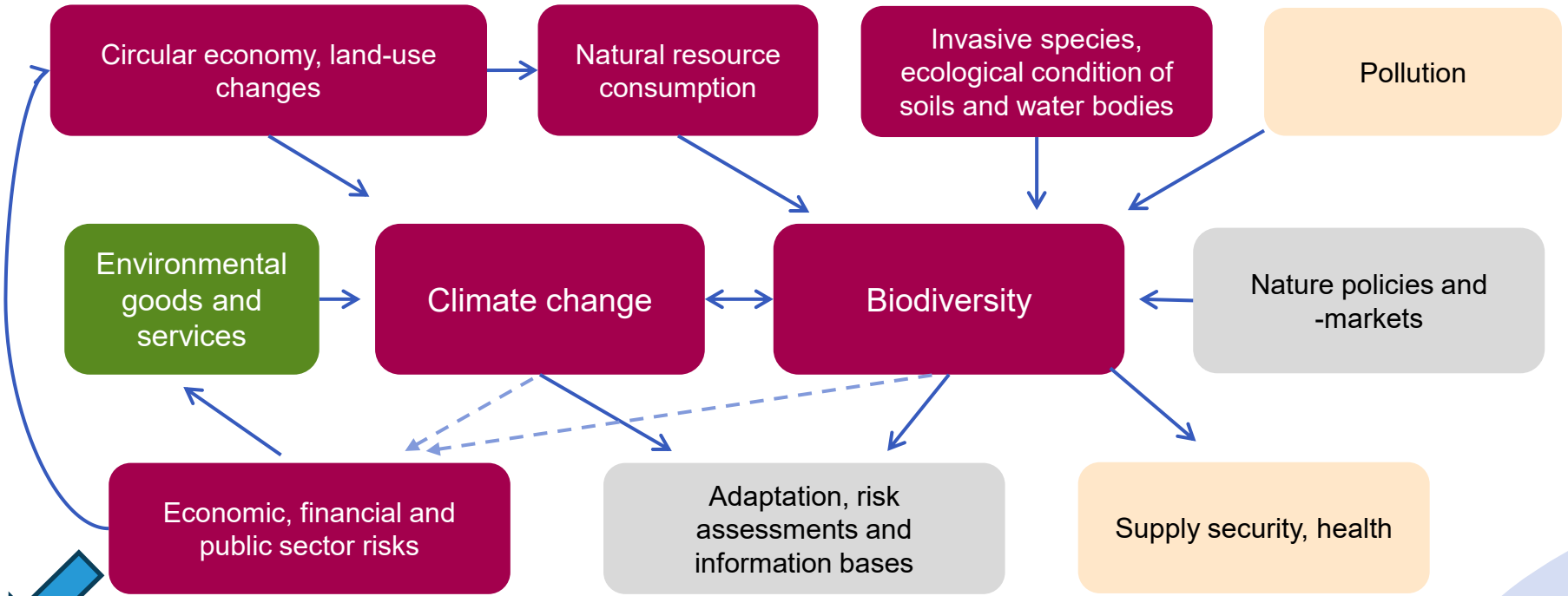
Development in **35 sub-areas were evaluated** in comparison to formal or informal targets (such as the UN Paris or Kunming-Montreal agreements), or in comparisons to international peer countries. Cultural sustainability was not evaluated, nor external security.



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDI • Digitalisation • Energy security • Business dynamics • ... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHG emissions, pollution • Food security • Equality and equity, income and health disparities • Public order, perceived safety and democratic institutions • ... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resources and consumption, biodiversity, invasive species • Public finances, productivity, investments • Level of education and skills • Demographic structure • Cybersecurity and information environment • ... |
|--|--|---|

In comparison: Finland has reached 86% of SDGs

Examples of risks and opportunities over next 5-10 years: Biodiversity



Symbols

Undesirable developments
(in past decade)

Mixed developments

Improving development

→ More certain connection

- - -> Uncertain connection

New EU TSI project: Economic analyses for climate action

- Main objectives:
 1. Help countries to get **better numbers (with new tools)** to design climate policies and assess physical and nature risks of climate change
 2. Incorporate these risks to budgetary and fiscal policy processes
- 18 member countries involved: AT, BE, CY, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, IT, LV, MT, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK
- Especially **Ministries of Finance** included, but also other **climate and nature policy related ministries and research organisations**
- Considered tools can cover also social sustainability issues!
- 2 year project, starting late 2026

How HSA has been used and ways forward (preliminary, subject to change)

- HSA has been used mostly within the government, e.g. to support advice to new government from the heads of all ministries
- Plan to renew the assessments by linking it with the foresight work that has focus on the external operating environment
 - Review of the 5 sustainabilities development in Finland
 - Key drivers of change in the world
 - Impact of the world changes to sustainabilities in Finland
- Key target to improve the utilization of the works in the strategic planning of ministries and the government, and better resource efficiency.

Lessons learned

1. Importance of strong collaboration models and networks
2. Systemic and multidisciplinary approach for the work
3. New (5 dimensional) framework provides a new view on the situation
4. Organisational design of work and communications
5. Considerations on how the work/results can impact decision-making in practice

Link to the holistic sustainability report:

