BUSINESS FINLAND



WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL FINLAND LABEL?

Liisa Kokkarinen Visit Finland Lahti, 18.1.2021 Lakeland Finland – Sustainable Destination Congress



WHY?

WE ARE COMMITTED!

'Inclusive and competent Finland – a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society'

Our government program, aims to make Finland the first carbon-neutral welfare state by 2035.

The target is ahead of the target year of 1.5°C and the Paris Agreement. The European Commission calls for a climate-neutral Europe by 2050



In 2016, Finland became one of the first countries to present its Voluntary National Review (VNR), that is, to report on its plans regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to the UN. Last review presented in July 2020.

Tourism is estimated to be accountable for 8% of the global CO2 emissions

WHY? **Finland's updated tourism strategy for 2019-2028** 'Achieving more together – sustainable growth and renewal in Finnish tourism'

- The strategy defines targets for the development of tourism until 2028 and measures to be taken between 2019 and 2023.
- Finland is aiming to become the most sustainably growing tourist destination in the Nordic countries.
- Tourism is being developed as a responsible and growing service business that generates welfare and creates jobs across the country.
- Finland's updated tourism strategy identifies four priorities that will facilitate the sustainable growth and renewal of the tourism sector:
 - supporting sustainable development
 - responding to the digital transformation

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- improving accessibility, taking into account the needs of the tourism sector
- ensuring an operating environment that supports competitiveness.

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Publications of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment Regions, Enterprises • 2020:18

Achieving More Together – Sustainable Growth and Renewal in Finnish Tourism

Finland's Tourism Strategy 2019–2028 and Action Plan 2019–2023

HOW?

DESIGNING A SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION Our process

Benchmark

Mapping the current programes supporting sustainable development
Learn from the best!

Surveys & interviews

- listen to your audience and partners!
- Learn the wants and needs

Co-create!

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Understand your key stakeholders

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Steering & working groups

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Piloting phase

Set clear goals Indipartners! National sustainable tourism principles for

common goals

Be inclusive

Current state analysis

Take holistic approach

Sustainability is multi-dimensional

- Create awareness
 - never underestimate the power of education!

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- → low treshold sustainable development programme for tourism industry in Finland; for both destinations and companies
- → marketing communication tool for Visit Finland
- → label for consumers and travel trade to identify sustainable travel companies and destinations

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Step 1. Commitment

- Appointing a person in charge of sustainable development
- Making a formal decision to develop sustainable tourism

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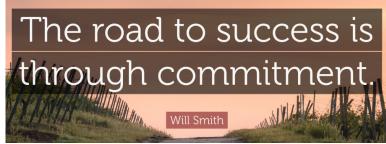
Signing national sustainable tourism principles



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Step 1. Commitment

Step 2. Increasing know-how

- Educational work-shops
- Online self-assessment
- E-learning







Step 1. Commitment

Step 2. Increasing know-how

Step 3. Development & action plan

- Everyone's commitment, responsibilities and duties
- Current state analysis and short and long term goals
- Budget, indicators and reporting



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Indicator 12.b.1: Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools

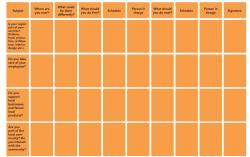




Socio-cultural sustainability

Tools for

Sustainability



Step 1. Commitment

- Step 2. Increasing know-how
- Step 3. Development & action plan

Step 4. Responsible communication

- Sustainable Finland pledge please commit, sign and share!
- Tools for sustainability communications









- Step 1. Commitment
- Step 2. Increasing know-how
- Step 3. Development & action plan
- Step 4. Responsible communication

Step 5. Certification and auditing

Onsite auditing done by 3rd parties







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7-steps approach to sustainable tourism development

Step 1. Commitment

- Step 2. Increasing know-how
- Step 3. Development & action plan

Step 4. Responsible communication

Step 5. Certification and auditing

Step 6. Verification and measurability

- National Sustainable Tourism Indicators (STIs) in use during 2021
- Verification on digital platform purposefully built for STF programme







TERVETULOA SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL FINLAND -ONLINEALUSTALLE

Suaniah Erand Finland (SFI) - onkonkuralia botenas (JF - onkonikalis seemujan historiensi Suaniah Kampinen kuliemalia (JF - onkon paktik) Daara kerakain makalain mykyelaa soi kanvitaa Jukisen pohliin tedot ouat nitä tetoja, milä ymtästenastilla tetolia valkus (JF - kanvitaa SJF - onenkin aaasuasi hityksen toiminaa tantavastilla tetolia valkus (JF - kanvitaa SJF - onenkin aaasuasi hityksen toiminaa tantavastilla tetolia valkus (JF - kanvitaa SJF - onenkin aaasuasi hityksen toiminaa tään seitä (JF - onenkin aaasua kanvitaa SJF - onenkin aaasuasi hityksen toiminaa tään seitä (JF - onenkin aaasuasta JKF - onenkin aaasuasta JKF - onenkin aaksa kanvitaa SJF - mekkin kanka aalisee liisea hähtään aanvitamaa yrityksintä SJK SIR talee alla

Voit askeltaa onlinealustalla haluamassaati järjestyksessä, ja STF -merkin hakeminen mahdollistuu, kun olet todentanut kriteeristön täyttymisen STF -polulla, tehnyt itsearvioinnin, päivittänyt julkisen profiilisi sekä vahvistanut yrityksen toimintaa tarkentavat tiedot.

Voit aina palata takaisiin tälle tervetuloa –sivulle painamalla valikossa ylhäällä olevaa STF –logoa. Valikosta, joka aukesa oikeassa STF –logon vasemmalla puolella olevasta valikkokuvakkeesta, löydät profilisi ja uloskirjautumisen.

STF-POLKU \rightarrow

 $\textbf{ITSEARVIOINTI} \rightarrow$

JULKINEN PROFIILI ightarrow

YRITYKSEN TOIMINTAA TARKENTAVAT TIEDOT ightarrow

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7-steps approach to sustainable tourism development

Step 1. Commitment

Online auditing

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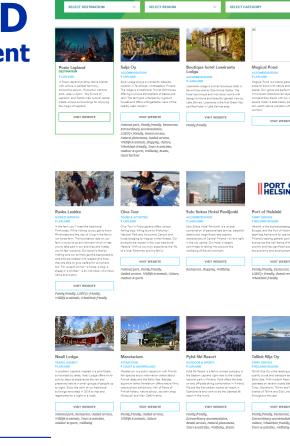
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- Step 2. Increasing know-how
- Step 3. Development & action plan
- Step 4. Responsible communication
- Step 5. Certification and auditing
- Step 6. Verification and measurability

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Step 7. Agreement and continuous development



To help the tourism industry in Finland to adopt sustainable practices, Visit Finland has developed the Sustainable Travel Finland programme. The programme is designed for Finnish tourism companies and destinations to develop more sustainable practices



Sustainable Travel Finland –label is a guarantee, that the company is committed to sustainable operations



Where are we now?

The programme became available for Finnish travel industry in June 2020

In the programme:

- ✓ 45 destinations
- ✓ 520 companies

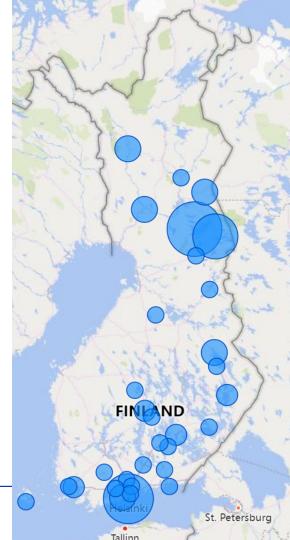
STF labelled:

- ✓ 67 companies (incl. accommodation, ferries, harbour, restaurants, attractions, events, outdoor resorts, travel agencies, transportation companies etc.)
- ✓ 1 destination (Posio, Lapland)

Educated industry

- $\checkmark\,$ Our "by invitation only" e-learning platform has 850 users
- \checkmark More than 50 sustainable tourism workshops held with over 1100 participants (companies)





What's coming up in 2021?

- Taking in use Sustainable Tourism Indicators (STIs)
 - including national, destination and company level
- Deepening collaboration between Univiersities of Applied Sciences & Visit Finland
 - Educating future work force on Sustainable Travel Finland
- New educational concepts for Finnish tourism actors to stay ahead:
 - Biodiversity protection & tourism
 - Circular economy & tourism
 - Low carbon tourism
 - sustainable food tourism
 - inclusive tourism
 - responsible meetings & conferences
 - Animal welfare & tourism
- Making it easier for travel trade & travellers to find and purchase sustainable travel options
 - Launch of "Sustainable Routes"
 - Digital trip planner for sustainable trips
 - Sustainable Finland e-learning for travel trade



THANK YOU.

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Visit Finland

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