

Contacts for press photos and for more information

Memory Pen: Photos of the city in the City of Jyväskylä Folder

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Other news from Finland

Finnish Health system performs well

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>

New act on the right to university inventions

A new act effective on 1 January 2007 protects the rights of researchers and other inventors by entitling the inventor to compensation if the university or polytechnic acquires the

rights to an invention. More information from <http://www.ktm.fi/index.phtml?i=1649&l=en&s=674>

New incubator businesses increased by 40% in 2005

Models devised for Finnish technology incubators by Sitra, in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Tekes and other investors show results. More information from http://www.sitra.fi/en/Programmes/innovation/release_2006-05-31.htm

A new patented Finnish gasification technique

A new patented Finnish gasification technique technology for biomass fuel aimed at the needs of the 21st century offers immense global export opportunities and a concrete method for reducing oil dependency. More information from <http://www.enterprisefinland.fi/liston/portal/page.jsp?r=5445&l=en>

Half of manufacturing companies and one in three of service companies had innovation activity from 2002 to 2004

The data derives from a survey by Statistics Finland in which companies were asked about their innovation activities. More information from http://www.research.fi/uutiset_en.html?id=776&kieli=en

More information on Finland can be found at

<http://virtual.finland.fi/>

Topic guide

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

Informal ministerial meeting:
Competitiveness
Jyväskylä, Finland, 10-11 July 2006

eu2006.fi

Meeting Topics

Market demand as a stimulus for innovation - towards a more effective European innovation policy

Innovation forms the central theme of the Competitiveness Council's discussions during Finland's EU Presidency. The informal meeting of ministers responsible for competitiveness in Jyväskylä is the first, and the key meeting, in which this topic will be discussed.

Success in the global economy is increasingly determined by the ability of firms to respond innovatively to the changing views and needs of customers and users – the demand side of the market. Through the informal Council meeting, Finland wishes to contribute to the development of the European Innovation Policy.

The meeting will, in particular, discuss the challenge of utilising and commercialising the results of research and development. The Presidency believes that the following key factors, at least, are necessary to optimise the climate for innovation: 1) legislation that encourages competition and innovation 2) public services that spur innovation 3) an adaptable research system and 4) a strong culture for entrepreneurship.

Finland's Presidency wishes to hear the ministers' ideas on concrete deliverables and on proposals for practical policy improvements. Following the discussions in Jyväskylä, Finland expects the Commission to make its contribution, on the basis of which we could then develop recommendations to be adopted by the December Competitiveness Council.

Memory Pen: Presidency Discussion Note

Chasing the Barcelona objective

Globalisation is advancing rapidly, challenging European industrial and economic structures. In the Lisbon Strategy and its revised form, the Member States and the European Commission have acknowledged that increased innovation is a key to responding to this challenge – innovation is an opportunity that will enable Europe to discover new markets and reinvent old ones. This is also vital to achieve improved productivity and growth in Europe. Public policies have a particularly important role in this context.

The Barcelona objective for increasing European R&D expenditure to 3 % of GDP has successfully mobilised national and EU-level efforts which are strengthening the European resource base for research and innovation. The fact that progress towards the 3 % objective has been slower than expected does not lessen its validity. On the contrary, it underlines the need to work even harder to increase public and private investment in research and innovation.

Memory Pen:

Document: Commission Communication "More Research and Innovation – A Common Approach"
Commission Press Release
More info: http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/action/2005_communication_en.htm

Radical action needed on research and innovation "before it's too late"

An Independent Expert Group led by Esko Aho, President of Sitra (The Finnish National Fund for Research and Development), called for a Pact for Research and Innovation to be signed by political, business and social leaders to show their commitment to the creation of an innovative Europe. The Group submitted its final report to the European Commission on 20 January. The experts stated that current trends are unsustainable in the face of global competition. Therefore a new vision is needed to address a series of productivity and social challenges faced by Europe. Suggestions in the report will be discussed in the Jyväskylä meeting.

Memory Pen:

Documents: "Creating an innovative Europe - report of the independent expert group on R&D and innovation appointed following the Hampton Court Summit and chaired by Mr Esko Aho"

Commission press release

More info: http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/action/2006_ahogroup_en.htm

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Contents of the USB Memory Pen

Media guide
Theme guide (this leaflet)
Who's who? – ministerial photo gallery
Ministry of Trade and Industry folder
City of Jyväskylä 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.

Photo opportunities

Take your own photographs

Photographs can be taken during the scheduled media visits organised by Finnfacts and the City of Jyväskylä as follows:

- 1) Media visit on Mon, 10 July, 14.30-16.30:**
During the whole visit, e.g., University of Jyväskylä: Agora Centre and accelerator laboratory, view to Lake Jyväsjärvi.
- 2) Mon, 10 July:**
Freely during the dinner and cruise on Lake Jyväsjärvi.
- 3) Tue, 11 July, 10.00-12.00:**
Freely during presentation of local innovations on wellness technology at IT-Dynamo
- 4) Other suggestions**
 - a.** Pedestrian and bicycle path around Lake Jyväsjärvi
 - b.** Architecture of Alvar Aalto, www.alvaraalto.fi/info/guide/jyvaskyla.htm