

Application of the Republic of Finland for the
relocation of the European Medicines Agency
to Helsinki

HELSINKI FOR EMA





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In safe hands

The most crucial criterion for transferring the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to its new location is the ability to affect a smooth transition. To get the job done.

Placing EMA alongside the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki enhances the EU's global regulatory competitiveness.

Finland, simply stated, is known for its capacity to get the job done. As a committed EU member and in our many roles on the global stage – from diplomatic conflict resolution initiatives to UN Peace-keeping missions – we are viewed as a partner to be entrusted with challenging processes.

The following application is based on a precise plan for the transfer of EMA directly to newly built, modern, permanent premises in central Helsinki. In Finland, such plans are not a precursor to delays, hiccups or unforeseen obstacles. They are simply the first stage, documenting how the rest of the action will unfold.

It is the thesis of this application that the EU should make the strategic decision of placing EMA alongside ECHA, exploiting their

synergies to create a centre of excellence for the protection of human health.

This decision is not a simple question of competition within the EU or among potential host states. This is a global competition, and to create the world's most competitive regulatory agencies, the centres of chemical and pharmaceutical regulation should be located in one city.

Helsinki offers a neutral and geographically well-positioned base for such a partnership of agencies. We believe that locating EMA and ECHA in the same city would strengthen both agencies' strategies, and increase their competitiveness globally. Indeed, once this possibility is considered, it becomes very difficult to argue the contrary position.

Finland and the Helsinki region possess top class expertise in the life sciences in terms of a high-quality talent pool, world-leading research, strong support services, and functioning networks of collaboration among academia, industry and the public sector.

As we will demonstrate, Helsinki offers an excellent, well-situated location, fulfils each of the selection criteria, and proposes a plan which is readily implementable in the short window the situation affords – while being cost effective from both the perspective of the EU and that of the host member state.

The Government of Finland, together with the City of Helsinki, is committed to bringing the EMA to the new home it deserves.

Helsinki ticks all the boxes



1. The assurance that the agency can be set up on site and take up its functions upon the date of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union

Helsinki offers newly built, ideally located premises that fulfil all accessibility and technical requirements, with three attractive backup alternatives.

2. The accessibility of the location

Flight connections between Helsinki and the capitals of the EU member states are numerous, frequent and punctual. Helsinki is now the most popular congress city in the Nordic region – and is well placed to host the annual 30,000 EMA visitors. The proposed premises are less than 20 minutes' drive from the airport.

3. Outstanding education facilities for the children of agency staff

Helsinki offers high-quality multilingual early childhood education. The city has a number of excellent internationally focused schools, including the European School of Helsinki. The Helsinki region has four universities and six universities of applied sciences that offer high-quality education in a wide range of fields.

4. Excellent employment opportunities, social security and medical care for both spouses and children

Helsinki offers comprehensive localisation services to the families of the agency staff. ECHA is acclaimed as the best example of the establishment of a new agency, with strong employee retention (as little as 3-5% expert employee turnover in the first five years).

5. Business continuity

Helsinki offers an excellent, well-situated location, fulfils each of the selection criteria, and proposes a plan which is readily implementable in the short window the situation affords. According to ECHA executives the establishment of the agency was characterised by exceptional host city and country collaboration – flexible, highly ambitious, and well organised.

6. Geographical diversity

While Finland fully respects the desirability of geographical spread in setting up new agencies, relocating EMA alongside ECHA in Helsinki enhances the EU's global regulatory competitiveness.

A smooth transition



”Finland will guarantee a smooth transition for the European Medicines Agency, and provide an excellent base for its future operations. Our plan demonstrates that the relocation to Helsinki will be both swift and cost effective for all parties, with the needs of agency employees fully accounted for.

We firmly believe that the EU should make the strategic decision to locate two agencies – the European Medicines Agency and the European Chemicals Agency – in one city, creating a centre of excellence for the protection of human health.

Thanks to increased data processing capabilities, biology and chemistry are coming to define this century. Helsinki as an innovation capital is a critical enabler for the European Medicines Agency to stake a claim on this territory.“

– Juha Sipilä, Prime Minister

The new location of the European Medicines Agency

Relocation of a major institution such as the European Medicines Agency (EMA) requires a suitably large, modern working space, with excellent connections to both air transport and the major sites within the hosting city itself. Helsinki is able to provide exactly such a space.

Finland has conducted an in-depth review of all potential EMA premises in the Helsinki region. There are a total of four possible options that fit the requirements and timeframe.

However, Finland proposes that EMA will relocate to central Helsinki, in the Vallila district. The location has excellent transportation connections and is in close vicinity to hotels and schools.

The proposed building, Fredriksberg, is an on-going office construction project that fulfills the tenants requirements, and it is still possible to modify the final design. The first phase of the new building will be finalised by May 2018, and the remaining three phases by the end of March 2019. In order to facilitate a smooth transition, Finland has created a preliminary timeline for the relocation (as shown on page 12).

Finland's main candidate for new EMA premises



As was the case with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), construction of the new premises will be subject to VAT exemption, with savings being passed on to the agency in the form of reduced rental fees. In addition, the Government of Finland and the City of Helsinki are willing to cover all rental costs on this property from August 2018 until 31 March 2019.

The building is a twenty-minute drive from Helsinki International Airport, and offers excellent public transport connections to all of the city's most popular sites. Residential areas are also close at hand, with a number

of schools and daycare facilities nearby, as are the offices of a number of the city's other major companies and institutions.

Along with our principal suggestion, one of the alternative buildings is located close to the Finnish Medicines Agency's Helsinki office, one in the newly established district of Kalasatama and the third in the very centre of Helsinki. With each of these four options, EMA will have a good position in negotiations and ensure it acquires the premises that best fit its needs.



Building location

- Vallila is an area that has seen sizable investment in recent years. It is a high-end business district home to several companies engaging in banking and finance. Two of the largest banks in Finland have their headquarters in this area. Vallila is part of the quickly evolving Pasila-Vallila-Kalasatama axis, and includes with the two largest development sites in the Helsinki region.
- The area has excellent transport connections: Centrally located by tram, bus and train lines and the international airport is also only twenty minutes away by car.
- There are also several international schools and daycare centers less than 15 minutes away from the building.
- EMA visitors will have easy access to the wide selection of hotels located in central Helsinki.



Time schedule

- Fredriksberg is a new construction being built in four phases. The first phase of 7,500 m² will be finished in May 2018, and phases two–four of (19,500 m²) will be completed in stages by Q1/2019.
- The tenant may install themselves in stages, which will enable a smooth transition.



EMA to relocate directly to its new permanent home

Offices

- The building will have 18.500 m² of modern, advanced office space including:
 - Space for 1,300 office work stations with an open plan setup. 10-20% of the work stations can be built into individual offices according to tenants' preferences.
 - Internal meeting rooms for EMA staff: 14 for 10 people each and 7 for 20 people each. Equipped according to the tenants' technical, IT and audiovisual requirements.

Meeting room space for experts and delegates

- 6,000 m² conference centre with rooms of varying sizes can be provided in the building:
 - Five large meeting rooms: two for 120 people each, one for 100 people and two for 70-85 people each. One additional 100-person room for multifunctional use can also be provided.
 - Medium and small meeting rooms: two for 35 people each and ten for 4-10 people each.
 - Possibility to combine the larger meeting rooms to provide an additional capacity of 200 people.
 - These are equipped according to the tenants' technical, IT and audiovisual requirements. (Including translation booths, broadcast and recording equipment and voting system per seat).
- An auditorium for 300 people, four training rooms for 20 people each, delegate lounge for 50 people and break-out space will all be provided in the building.

Physical structure and public areas

- The following areas can be provided in the building:
 - A 250 m² reception space with high accessibility, security office and separate lounge for pharmaceutical industry visitors.
 - A 500 m² separate enclosed lounge to work as the pharmaceutical industry area.
 - A 1700 m² restaurant for delegates

and EMA staff providing daily service for around 500 lunches. Simultaneous seating of 350 people and an additional coffee bar seating 50 can also be provided.

- Loading bay with security control and over 2.1 metre height access to technical rooms.
- Storage room capacity of 300 m² located close to loading bay and restaurant area.
- Both general parking and diplomatic parking can be provided in close proximity the building.
- Over 200 general and diplomatic parking places can be provided with additional places in nearby parking halls if required.

IT facilities

- All required areas provided with high-quality wireless internet connection and otherwise built according to tenants' requirements. Wi-fi on all floors throughout the premises.
- All technical rooms will be equipped with uninterruptible power supply and 24/7 air conditioning.
- Main and secondary equipment rooms will also be provided with internal connectivity to technical rooms.
- 25 m² IT build room and 50 m² IT store room can also be provided.
- An AV control room will be provided to monitor and control audiovisual equipment in the meeting rooms.

Security

- The building will have the ability to provide a high level of security for EMA.
- Security in the building perimeter will be provided with access control systems and video surveillance.
- Finland is home to various critical data-centres, and its cyber security is considered to be among the best globally.

In addition

- An enclosed bicycle parking area with adjacent changing room and shower facilities.
- Recycling and waste-management system provided throughout the building.
- The building will be environmentally friendly, targeting a BREEAM rating of "Excellent".

Continuity and a smooth handover

The most crucial criterion for transferring EMA to its new location is the ability to affect a smooth transition without disturbing EMA's daily operations and potentially putting European public health at risk. Finland is fully aware of the importance of the various functions of EMA, and will pay special attention to the continuity of daily operations required by this relocation. This will encompass employee retention, supporting the personnel base with an abundance of local experts, and the provision of a detailed relocation plan to enable the minimum possible interruption for each of the agency's functions.

In addition, Finland will leverage the expertise and experience of its own national medicines agency, FIMEA, which has direct experience in establishing new offices, efficiently recruiting new staff, and working in a multisite manner. Most of the agency's staff work in the Helsinki metropolitan area. The agency is ready to offer all help necessary throughout the relocation and beyond.

Employee retention

In order to retain as many current employees of EMA as possible, Helsinki will provide the following support:

- Information and help in organising employee's children's education, with dedicated personnel.
- Assistance with (temporary and permanent) housing by a real estate agent. Helsinki and the neighbouring communities will provide a large selection of apartments and houses. Commuting times are very reasonable due to the well-developed public transport network.
- Information and job-hunting assistance for spouses.

- The City of Helsinki will grant a one-year public transportation pass for all EMA personnel.
- The Government of Finland guarantees that all benefits currently granted to ECHA personnel will also apply to EMA employees.
- In addition, health and social security benefits for family members of ECHA are in the process of being enhanced. These improvements will also apply to the families of EMA employees.
- A helpline for other issues related to the relocation.

Nevertheless, it is likely that the turnover of EMA staff will be significantly higher during the relocation phase than is normally the case. Thus, normal recruitment processes may not be sufficient to ensure uninterrupted function. In case the timetable of relocation is very tight, Finland is ready to contribute to the search for new temporary and permanent staff to bridge the gap in expertise. The Helsinki region has contractors that offer skilled manpower for various regulatory, assistant, secretarial,

and IT tasks. In case scientific experts need to be recruited from the Helsinki region, the capital region has excellent universities and colleges covering all competencies needed. EMA would naturally be an interesting career opportunity for experts within many areas related to the pharmaceutical realm.

Supporting the EMA relocation plan

Finland has consistently and strongly supported the role of the centralised regulatory processes coordinated by EMA. Finland has, among other things, developed ideas to support the active participation of all members – including the smaller and middle-sized agencies – in the EU regulatory network (e.g. the multinational assessment team concept).

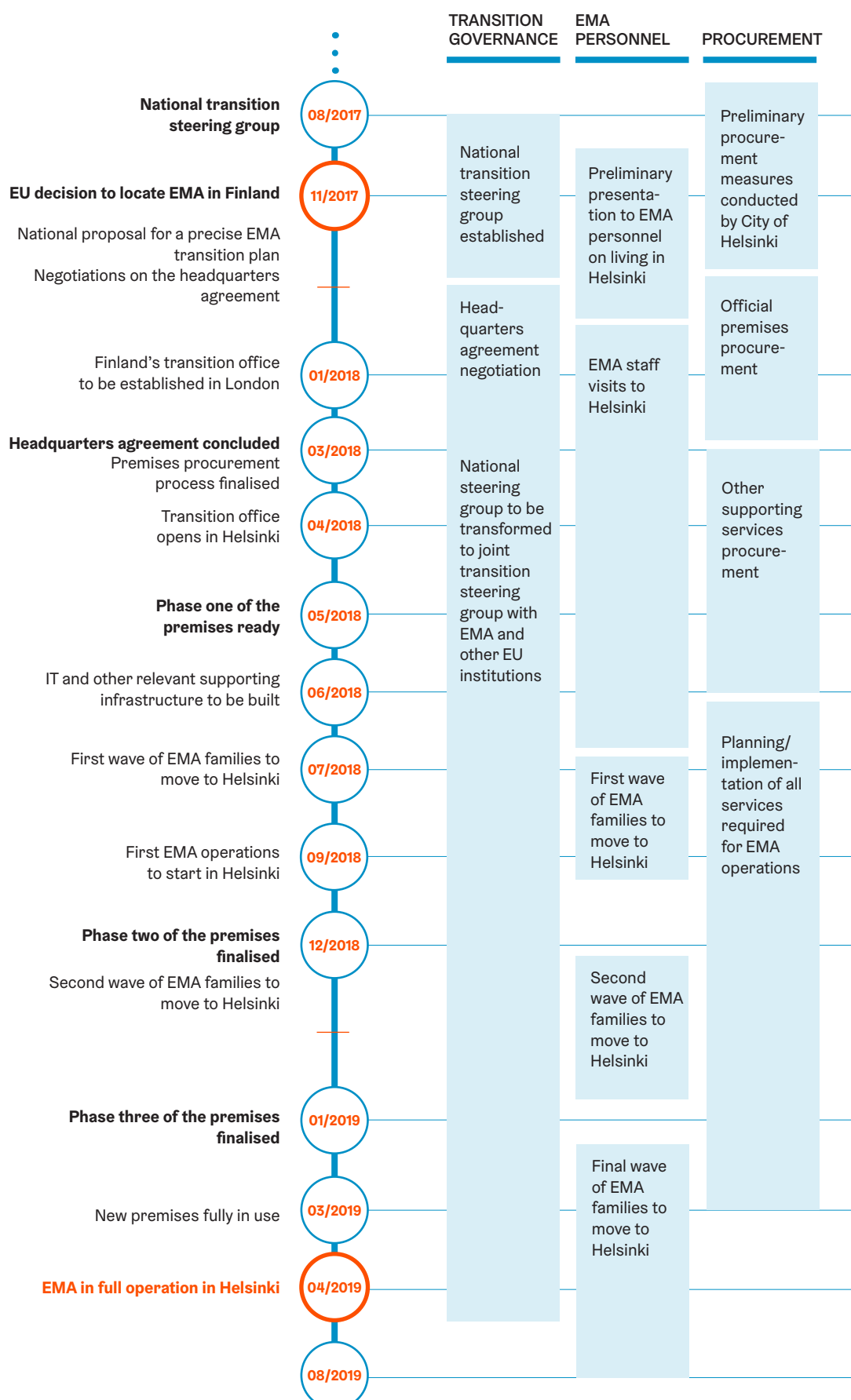
Finland is highly committed to synchronising its support plan with the relocation plan of EMA. Finland would naturally follow the detailed relocation plan of EMA and looks forward to working in very close collaboration with the EMA staff immediately after the decision of the relocation has been made. Finland is also ready to offer various scenarios for the move.

We assume that the move might take place in phases instead of all at once at the end of March 2019. Consequently, while the office building is being finished, help will be needed from the technical staff of EMA to oversee the finalisation of the interior and technology of the building to make sure that all requirements are fulfilled. Phased transition will require special arrangements to connect the old and new site on one hand, and EMA and its stakeholders, notably NCAs and the pharmaceutical industry, on the other.

The overall plans of the building naturally have to be accepted by EMA at an early phase of planning (immediately after the decision and at the latest in early 2018). The first part of the new building will be available by the summer of 2018, giving enough time to finalise the interiors and install the required IT infrastructure. In this phase, we assume that the IT staff of EMA would be heavily involved. However, Finland has a great number of IT and telecommunications experts, along with companies that can be used as temporary contract agents or contractors. Finland will help in finding the contractors with the necessary capacity to execute tasks allocated by EMA.

The moving of EMA functions could take place in various phases. Personnel involved with certain functions and committees could move to Helsinki during the summer of 2018. This would allow for piloting of the new EMA premises. These kinds of functions could include the entire veterinary or inspection processes, or the staff involved with committees overseeing human medicine (COMP, PDCO, CAT). Individuals from other functions of EMA could also start to move and work from home in Helsinki or participate in meetings through an office in Helsinki. Where appropriate, the Finnish Medicines Agency (FIMEA) could help in organising committee meetings.

Helsinki for EMA: preliminary timeline



Life in Helsinki



”Helsinki surprises visitors with elements that come together in a completely unique way. In Helsinki we believe that you are closer to the perfect functional city than you may ever get elsewhere.

Helsinki is astoundingly beautiful – still unspoilt. Nature is always nearby. Helsinki is also a rapidly growing cosmopolitan city, welcoming to all. Life here is based on the four cornerstones of our culture: equality, world-class education, maker culture and the aim of bringing out the best in everyday life for all inhabitants.

I warmly welcome the families of EMA personnel to Helsinki, home of around 1.3 million residents. We’ll do our utmost to make your move an easy and enjoyable one.”

– Jan Vapaavuori, Mayor of Helsinki

Livable Helsinki

Helsinki is renowned for offering an exceptionally high quality of life, with an outstanding modern transport system, great infrastructure, and a high degree of social trust. Everything simply works. Helsinki is at the top of global (quality of life) rankings.

Helsinki is an exceptionally livable city

Helsinki can be found consistently at the top of global rankings when it comes to quality of life and the general satisfaction of the population.

- Helsinki ranks first in life quality (Creative City Index 2014).
- People living in Helsinki have the highest satisfaction with the place where they live (European Commission, Quality of Life in European Cities 2015).
- Helsinki is the most honest city in the world (Readers Digest, Most Honest Cities 2015).
- Helsinki is the third best city in the world in terms of technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. (J. Gibson, M. Robinson & S. Cain, CITIE – City Initiatives for Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 2015).
- People living in Helsinki are the second most satisfied with cultural facilities among inhabitants of EU capital cities (Eurostat, Satisfaction with cultural facilities in EU capital cities 2015).
- Helsinki Airport is the best in the world (Lonely Planet, Helsinki takes the world's best airport award for 2016).



An open city

For years the guiding principle behind the development of Helsinki has been the idea that a city is not just a place or a group of people living their busy lives side by side. For us, it is the people of Helsinki who together make the city thrive.

The residents are generally tolerant and open-minded. A pioneer in information technology, Helsinki is one of the most digitally advanced cities in the world. Helsinki is also a rapidly growing city that likes to welcome all visitors, guests, and new inhabitants.

In Helsinki, an open city also means open government and minimal hierarchies. There is always access to the highest government or city leaders, an easy integration into society and even access to the government procurement office HANSEL which guarantees better prices and deals for the agency.

Functional, reliable and green

Helsinki is known for its exceptionally high levels of social trust, a place where bicycles can still be found where they were left unlocked, and for its public transport system, which runs like clockwork. Everything simply works here.

Due to the rarity of traffic jams, you will never miss a single flight or a working day in Helsinki. The traffic is smooth and the public transport excellent.

In Helsinki, 40 per cent of the total land area is made up of green spaces such as parks, forests, fields and wetland. There is a major conservation area and bird sanctuary right in the geographic centre of the city. Nature is always nearby. Half of Helsinki faces the open sea, and the metropolitan area boasts 130 kilometres of shoreline.

71%

of Finns speak English.

48%

of Finns speak three different languages.



Finland is the 1st in equal treatment of women at work

(Economist's Glass Ceiling Index 2015).

Easily accessible

For a number of years, Helsinki Airport has successfully pursued the strategy of becoming the principal hub for European travel to Asia and vice versa. As a result, connections with the major European cities are numerous, frequent and punctual. In addition to this extensive connection network, the airport prides itself on the quality of its service offering, widely considered to be among the best in Europe.

In terms of accessibility within the city, Helsinki offers a remarkably modern, reliable and efficient public transport system, which is ranked well in international comparisons. A subway train network (now in the process of expansion) is one major transport method, accompanied by tram and bus routes and regional overground

trains – including a direct rail connection from the city's main railway station to the airport.

Cyclists are also well provided for, while the immediate city centre and its surrounding areas remain a very walkable prospect.

 **1.1km**
to Pasila railway station

 **20min**
by car to Helsinki Airport



EMA premises



6 tram lines and 50 bus
lines in 1 km radius

 **900m**
to Sörnäinen metro station

International accessibility

Helsinki Airport is an important air traffic hub in Europe and is the leading long-distance traffic airport in Northern Europe, connecting Europe and Asia with the fastest and most direct routes. Approximately 60 airlines serve Helsinki, and the airport boasts more than 180 international landings each day. In addition to the extensive connection network, the airport prides itself on its service quality, which is among of Europe's best. Finnair provides complimentary and unlimited wireless access at Helsinki Airport.

For the coming expansion will make it possible to serve 20 million passengers. Helsinki Airport's strengths include short transit times, friendly staff and world class service. The development programme will continue until 2020.

From Helsinki, there are 118 direct flight routes to Europe and the Middle East, seven to North America and 18 to Asia. There are several daily and direct connections to Helsinki from EU capitals and other major European destinations, most within a two-three hour flight. This ensures the required flight frequency and carrier selection. Helsinki also serves as a hub to Asia. Finnair has more than 80 direct flights a week from Helsinki to 14 destinations in Asia. Finland is exceptionally well connected considering the size of its population.

Finnair has had the best on-time performance among European major carriers (with 90% of flights arriving on time) for several years in a row, making it Europe's most punctual carrier. Oneworld ranks as the best airline alliance for on-time flights.

2017 has seen the launch by other operators, of several new direct European connections from Helsinki. Other operators have also increased in 2017 the frequency of their flights between Helsinki and European cities such as Stockholm, Oslo, Copenhagen, Reykjavik, and Kiev.

Helsinki Airport is located 19 km from the centre of the city. The transport time to the city centre is 25 minutes with a direct train connection (departs every 10 minutes), and 15-20 minutes by taxi. There is a regular airport bus running every 20 minutes between the airport and the city centre, and several local buses are also available.

There are also ferry services from Estonia, Sweden, Germany, Poland, and Russia and a daily train service (travel time 3.5 hours) to and from St. Petersburg, Russia.

Local transport

Helsinki is, in practice, a walking city. It is compact, centralised, and easy to navigate on foot. Most hotels, as well as the major sights and major points of interest, are within walking distance from the main railway station, which usually marks the central point of the city.

Helsinki has an excellent, punctual public transport system consisting of bus, tram, metro, local railway and ferry services. Compared to other cities worldwide, the public transport is considered very safe.

Helsinki also has 1,200 kilometres of cycling routes, 730 kilometres of them paved. Approximately 500 kilometres of these routes run in recreational areas and 90 kilometres on waterfronts.

The City of Helsinki is committed to promoting green values in all its operations and hopes that they are taken into consideration in all events and activities organised within the city. For example by offering participants in major congresses the chance to use public transport free of charge, the city's decision-makers want to promote environmentally friendly modes of transport in the city.

Accommodation and congresses

- 100 hotels and apartment hotels in the Helsinki region: 15,000 hotel rooms.
- All hotels centrally located.
- Wide choice, including both of hotels within the city centre, international chains and independent hotels.
- There are outstanding congress facilities and services available in Helsinki. Helsinki is rated as one of the best congress cities in the world.

Helsinki offers exceptional congress and meetings facilities for EMA.

Helsinki's strengths as a congress city include first-class congress facilities, fine hotels, professional service providers, diverse tourism services and a unique, innovative environment.

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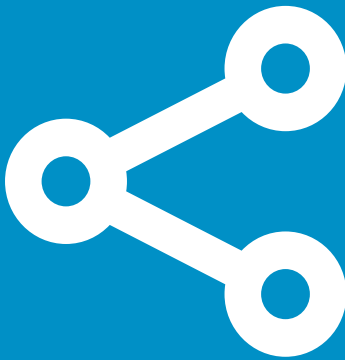
airlines serve
Helsinki

180

international
landings every day



118 direct flight
routes to Europe
and the Middle East,
7 to North America
and 18 to Asia



There are several daily
and direct connections
to Helsinki from EU
capitals and other
major European
destinations, most
within a 2–3 hour flight.

19

km from the
city centre

25

minutes to the
city centre with
a direct train
connection



train connection
to city centre
departs every
10 minutes

Major congress venues like the Finlandia Hall, Helsinki Congress Paasitorni, Marina Congress Center and Messukeskus Helsinki are all situated near the city centre, making it easy for congress visitors to enjoy the social programme, the city's cultural offerings and shopping. All of these venues can be reached on foot or by public transport.

The Helsinki metropolitan area boasts about 15,000 rooms, ranging from first-class hotels to hostels for those on tighter budgets – so there is a plentiful supply of accommodation to house the experts and delegates. Most hotels are within 1.5 kilometres of the city centre and breakfast and are (usually) included in the room rate. In February 2017, the average nightly rate was 72.78€ (Source: TAK). The hotel capacity exceeds the peak hotel room capacity requirement of 350 rooms/day.

In 2016 alone the hotel capacity in the Helsinki area increased by almost a thousand new rooms, and this positive trend will continue. By 2021 the capacity will grow by another 1500-2000 rooms with several new openings in for example the Tripla complex in the Pasila area, a new 500-room property in connection with the Helsinki main railway station and expansions in existing properties.

Most major international hotel chains have a presence in Helsinki. The annual room occupancy rate of Helsinki's accommodation providers is around 70%.

Helsinki constantly ranks among the top 20 congress cities in the world according to UIA (Union of International Associations), reaching the 15th spot in the 2016 international ranking. Helsinki is now the most popular congress city in the Nordic region and the 10th most popular in Europe. Altogether the statistics published by UIA cover about 1500 cities globally. The list of international associations, especially in the medical field, who have chosen Helsinki to host their conferences is long and impressive. For example, in the summer of 2016 Helsinki hosted the Annual Meeting of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology ESHRE attracting more than 9,200 participants, and the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Congress EAA-CI reached an all-time highest participation number of over 8,000 in June 2017.



Superb and internationally acclaimed education

Finland prides itself on its education system, which has become a benchmark for other leading nations in this sector. One of its hallmarks is its accessibility in terms of language, with English and other foreign-language schools being popular alternatives for Finnish parents who wish to boost their children's language skills, as well as those of multilingual families.

Helsinki is the flagship city in this respect, with a number of excellent internationally focused schools, including the European School of Helsinki, which was established in 2008 to serve the needs of the children of employees of the ECHA.

A competitive educational offering is to be found to meet all age criteria, from pre-school daycare to higher education, and all feature a strong multi-lingual component.

The Finnish education and school system

The main objective of Finnish education policy is to offer all citizens equal opportunities to receive education. Education from

pre-primary to higher education is free of charge in Finland for EU nationals.

Finnish students have ranked at the top end of the PISA scores for many years. The PISA results for the Helsinki capital region are even higher than in the rest of the country. Yet the quality differences between schools are low in Finland in general. The focus in education is on learning rather than testing the students.

Local municipalities are responsible for providing early childhood education and care for children under school age. Comprehensive schools are maintained by the

municipalities and other education providers. Less than two per cent of comprehensive school pupils go to a private or state school.

Multi-lingual education opportunities in Helsinki

Early childhood education and care

In Helsinki families can choose early childhood education for their children either within municipal daycare or private daycare. Most of the non-municipal international daycare centres in Helsinki offer education for children from three or four years of age.

Municipal daycare

The right to municipal daycare for a child begins after the parents' maternity and parental leaves end. There are over 320 municipal daycare centres in Helsinki for children between one and five years of age, and instruction is mainly given in Finnish and Swedish. The city also offers so-called enriched education or dual-language instruction at some of the daycare centres: English (Maunula and Siltamäki), French (Pihlajisto and Latokartano), Spanish (Käpylä) and Russian (Myllypuro). These daycare centres have native-speaking kindergarten teachers.

Most of the instruction is given in Finnish and about 25% is given in the accompanying language. Municipal daycare would be available to EMA staff on the same terms as for other citizens in Helsinki, with only a small additional education allowance (100 euros per month).

Private daycare

There are also around 115 private daycare centres in Helsinki, of which 40 offer education in languages other than Finnish and Swedish. Daycare is offered in English, Estonian, Russian, French, Spanish and Arabic. The private daycare centres host around 3400 children in Helsinki.



Pre-primary education

Pre-primary education is provided for six-year-old children in the year preceding the beginning of compulsory education.

The goal of pre-primary education is to improve children's opportunities for learning and development. Since 2015, participation in pre-primary education has been compulsory for all children in Finland. Pre-primary education is provided free of charge. Pre-primary education follows schools' operational and holiday timetables and offers four hours of instruction per day including breakfast and lunch.

Basic and general upper secondary education

Comprehensive school provides a general education and general knowledge and is typically given in comprehensive schools. The nine-year basic education – or comprehensive school – is compulsory for all children aged between seven and 16 and is free of charge.

Local authorities and the state are responsible for organising basic education. Anyone with a certificate from lower secondary school or with a corresponding completed syllabus can apply for general upper secondary education. An individual may also be admitted as a student if they have an otherwise sufficient readiness to take up the studies.

General upper secondary education ("lukio" in Finnish) provides, as its name suggests, general education and does not qualify the students for any particular occupation. At the end of general upper secondary education, the students take a national matriculation examination. Those who pass the matriculation examination are eligible to apply for further studies at universities, universities of applied sciences and vocational institutions. It is also possible to complete the EB- and IB-degree, the Reifeprüfung, the French baccalauréat and the Finnish matriculation examination in Helsinki. They are all equivalent when applying to higher education in Finland.

In Helsinki, basic and general upper secondary education is offered in Finnish, Swedish and English by the City of Helsinki and some private education providers, and in English, French, German and Russian by international schools located in Helsinki. There are also several upper secondary vocational institutions in Helsinki that offer some education in English.

The City of Helsinki offers primary, basic and upper secondary level education mainly in Finnish and Swedish but also in English and bilingual Finnish-Spanish and Finnish-Estonian. There are over 120 publicly funded comprehensive schools and about 30 upper secondary schools in Helsinki. The municipal education in English and Finnish-Spanish have aptitude tests. The City of Helsinki is prepared to expand municipal education services in English to satisfy the needs of families of EMA employees.

International schools in Helsinki

Helsinki has several international schools that offer pre-school, primary and secondary or upper secondary level education in English, French, German and Russian. One of the schools is the European School of Helsinki, established in 2008 to serve the education needs of the children of the employees at ECHA in Helsinki. It offers education in English, French and Finnish (see overleaf).

THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF HELSINKI

The school is located in the centre of Helsinki, and is accredited by the European Schools' Network and maintained by the Finnish government. It has a two-year nursery cycle, a five-year primary cycle and a seven-year secondary cycle. The school primarily admits children of European Union staff as provided in the Convention Defining the Statute of the European Schools. If the decision is made to relocate EMA in Helsinki, the Finnish government will invest in further expansion of the European School of Helsinki. <http://www.esh.fi>

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL

A private, national language school based on Christian values which has over 400 pupils. Instruction in two-year primary school (five-six-years-olds), comprehensive school (classes one-nine) and high school. The high school prepares students for the Finnish matriculation examination, as well as the internationally acknowledged SAT and Cambridge examinations. <http://www.engs.fi/>

THE FRENCH SCHOOL JULES VERNE

A French school managed by a non-profit association of parents of students, subject to Finnish law. The school welcomes children from all nationalities starting from age three. <https://ecolejulesverne.fi/en/>

THE FRENCH-FINNISH SCHOOL OF HELSINKI

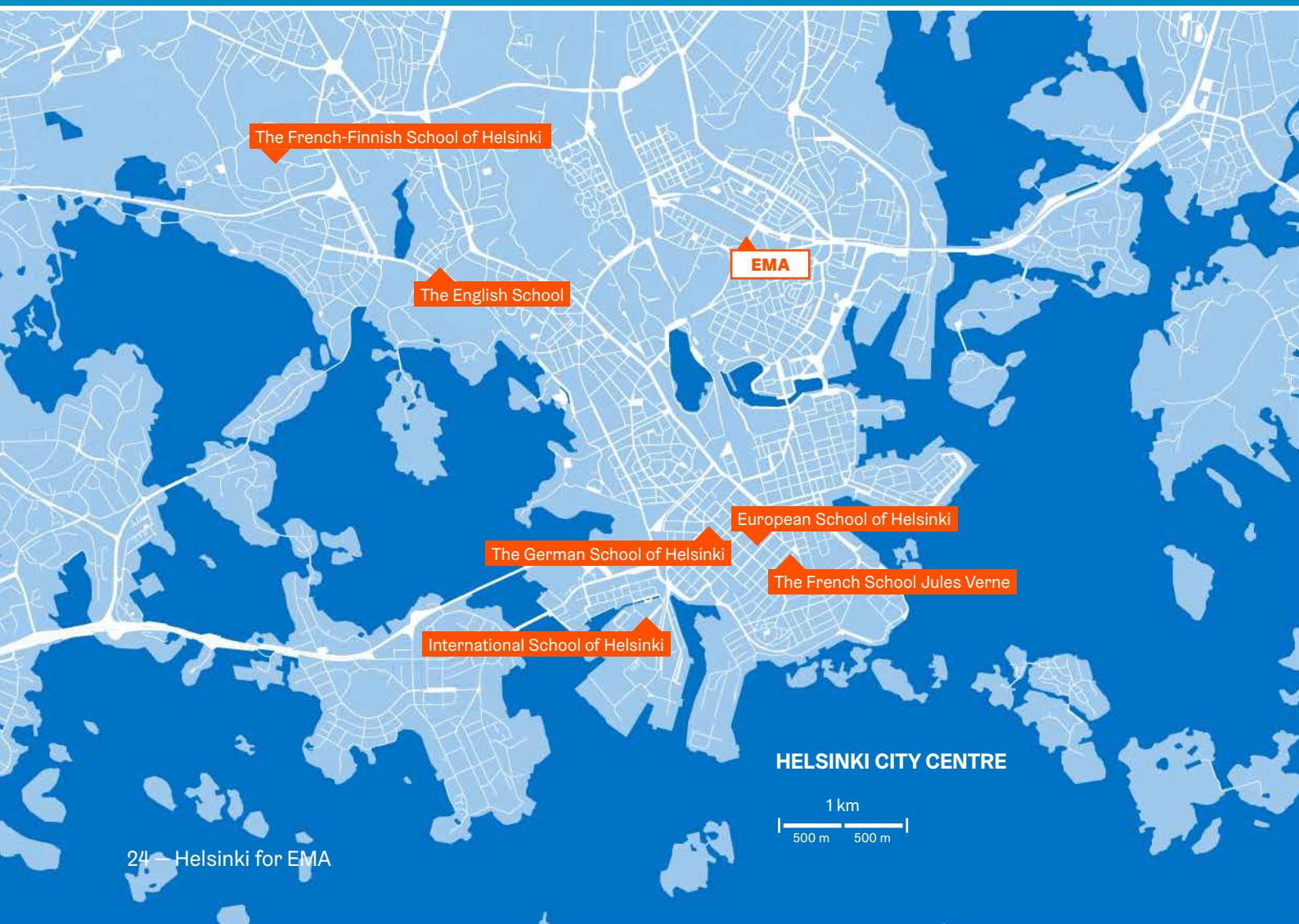
A French-Finnish school with almost 600 students, run by the Finnish state and according to the Finnish school system. Students graduating there receive the Finnish matriculation examination and the French government grants students diplomas of equal value to the French baccalauréat. <http://hrsk.fi/fr/accueil/>

THE GERMAN SCHOOL OF HELSINKI

A partly bilingual German and Finnish-speaking school with over 500 pupils. The school is a member of the German Schools Abroad Network DAS. <http://www.dsh.fi/de/>

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF HELSINKI

An independent, co-educational school with about 250 pupils. ISH is an International Baccalaureate World School, with IB programs offered from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Instruction is in English, with the school divided into a Lower School (Kindergarten through Grade 5) and Upper School (Grades 6-12). <https://www.ishelsinki.fi/>



Higher education

There are four universities and six universities of applied sciences in the Helsinki region, all of which offer high-quality education in a wide range of fields and plenty of study programmes in English. There are about 100,000 students and a rich student life in the region, and almost half of the working age population have a higher-education degree.

The University of Helsinki is one of the world's leading multidisciplinary universities. In international university rankings, the university typically ranks among the top 100. It offers first class education and research, for example in climate and atmospheric sciences as well as personalised medicine and cancer research. Aalto University also ranks highly in several fields, and offers world-leading top education and research e.g. in the fields of art and design, materials science and computer science amongst other. The Hanken School of Economics offers education in Swedish and English and performs well in international rankings. The University of

the Arts Helsinki offers artistic education. Finnish higher education offers two alternative paths: the traditional research universities and the newer universities of applied sciences. The universities of applied sciences focus on innovation and finding new ways of applying existing research results, in joint projects and close cooperation with the relevant industries. There are several high-quality universities of applied sciences in the Helsinki region offering higher vocational education at the bachelor level. The biggest are Metropolia, Haaga-Helia and Laurea University of Applied Sciences.

Most of the universities and the universities of applied sciences and some of the vocational schools in the Helsinki region offer further education in English. For example Aalto University Executive Education is placed highly in global rankings.



Employment, social security and healthcare

From an international perspective, Helsinki is an attractive location in which to seek employment. The vast majority of major Finnish companies have long since adopted English as a working language in order to attract and retain the best possible candidates from abroad. Gender equality is at an excellent level, and the market for skilled workers offers much potential, particularly in technology, media and the sciences.

Finland's economic upswing has resulted in strong growth to the labour market. Since 2015, employment vacancies have been on the rise. Indeed, due to economic growth, there are labour shortages especially in high-tech start-ups, and in certain service industries. The share of English-speaking employment vacancies has also grown accordingly.

In the Helsinki region, English-speaking vacancies can be found in almost any industry, from the financial sector to health sector, academia, sales and marketing, and management positions. Most of these vacancies are in the fields of language and communication, information and communication technologies, leadership positions, and in high-tech industries.

Social security and healthcare are vital components of Finnish society, and Finns have learned to take their availability and high level of service for granted. Helsinki's

public and private primary care centres, as well as the Helsinki University Hospital, are regarded as world-class healthcare providers. In addition to the provisions made to all the country's inhabitants, Finland will offer a tailored package to spouses and families of the agency's employees to help them find new homes, schools, and other necessary facilities to support them in relocating.

International House Helsinki: a one-stop shop service

The City of Helsinki and its partners are currently in the process of setting up a one-stop shop service for international newcomers – International House Helsinki – which will make available a wide range of government and other support services under one roof. International House Helsinki is a place where newcomers can get their paper work sorted out, talk to service counsellors and receive help, for example, in finding a job, language training or a so-

cial or professional network. International House Helsinki also arranges low-threshold info sessions for new arrivals on a variety of topics such as immigration procedures, work, housing, education and leisure activities.

The service is expected to open for customers in 2018.

Special location services for spouses and families

In order to make it easy for spouses of EMA personnel to find jobs in Helsinki, the City of Helsinki will offer comprehensive localisation services. These services will be available for housing and other settlement purposes, such as daycare, schools etc., to make the relocation of EMA employees and their families as easy as possible. The ECHA relocation process demonstrated that these are typically needed for a period of at least one year.

Furthermore, the City of Helsinki will make an agreement with a brokerage company that will help EMA staff and families to find suitable residential solutions in Helsinki. The City of Helsinki will cover the estate transmission expenses.



A new centre of excellence for the protection of human health



We look forward to welcoming the European Medicines Agency's experts to our community of medical and pharmaceutical professionals, and to providing a stable and supportive home for their families.

Finnish expertise in the health and medicines sector is strong, particularly in fields that are important with respect to the future, including biobanks, genome research and biomedicine.

Finnish expertise and the strong support guaranteed by the national Medicines Agency FIMEA would guarantee EMA's smooth relocation to Finland, while the agency's presence in the same city as ECHA would create a true centre of excellence and a competitive regulatory edge globally for the EU.

– Pirkko Mattila, Minister of Social Affairs and Health

A strategic decision – EMA alongside ECHA

Finland believes that the EU should make the strategic decision of placing the European Medicines Agency (EMA) alongside the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki, exploiting their synergies to create a centre of excellence in the protection of human health.

The decision of where to locate the European Medicines Agency is not a simple question of competition within the EU or among potential host states. This is a global competition, and to create the world's most competitive regulatory agencies, the centres of chemical and pharmaceutical regulation should be located in one city.

Helsinki offers a neutral and geographically well-positioned base for such a partnership of agencies. We firmly believe that locating EMA and ECHA in the same city would strengthen both agencies' strategies, and increase their competitiveness globally. Both agencies' employee retention and attractiveness to new candidates would also benefit.

As well as leveraging the learnings absorbed in setting up ECHA in the city a decade ago, synergies with the existing agency can also play a role in the relocated institution's smoothly continued operations.

Synergy with ECHA

ECHA is located in Helsinki. The task of the ECHA is to evaluate the risks of chemicals to human health and to the environment. The staff of ECHA have been very satisfied with their new home in Helsinki, and the turnover of staff has been very low. There is already a Memorandum of Understanding between the ECHA and the EMA aiming to ensure coherence and consistency in scientific views. There are also commonalities in technical and organisational issues between these two organisations. More synergies could be found in various areas, for example the development of (risk assessment) technology (applying the principles of 3R, metabolomics, in silico toxicology etc.), and especially in the area of environmental risk assessment of medicines. Finland, together with ECHA and EMA, is ready to explore further functional synergies between the two agencies in Helsinki.

Synergy with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

Pooling staff and expertise

Working processes and tools

Efficiencies via common
facilities and services

Creating the world's
leading regulatory centre
of protection of human health

Helsinki – a hub for the life sciences

As one of the innovation leaders within the European Union (European Innovation Scoreboard 2016) and as a forerunner in personalised healthcare and medicine, Finland and its life science hub Helsinki represent a vibrant and forward-looking environment for EMA and its operations.

An innovative environment for EMA

Thanks to digitalisation, advances in biology and chemistry are coming to define this century, with increased data processing capabilities taking the disciplines into new and uncharted territory. Helsinki's advanced technological competences can be leveraged to help EMA engage with this future.

The City of Helsinki is committed to developing Helsinki as a leading life science hub in Europe. The city, the Helsinki University Central Hospital, the University of Helsinki and the Aalto University have created a collaborative effort entitled "Health Capital Helsinki". Together they are developing a research-based innovation and business ecosystem. Health Capital Helsinki is an unprecedented co-operation between scientific communities, a cutting-edge hospital, and a city known for its advanced open data policies and great service design. The City of Helsinki has even opened its municipal health centres for clinical research. Helsinki has globally recognised knowledge and researchers in certain disease mechanism areas such as metabolic, neuroscience, oncology, and cardiovascu-

lar. These are primary sources of new drug and diagnostics development, which entail considerable commercial potential from the ecosystem viewpoint.

Helsinki has strong capabilities in many technological application areas such as cyber security, wearable devices and sensor technology, IVD, monitoring and imaging supported by information and wireless technology. A mature digital infrastructure, a lively start-up environment, and established capabilities in medical technology and engineering provide a strong basis for the development of digital health solutions which will become an integral part of medical care in the near future.

Furthermore, Helsinki is considered to be one of the leading cities in having high-quality and comprehensive health data in digital format, driven by the country's universal healthcare system, universal identification number and innovation-friendly regulation. In this respect, Helsinki is in a strong position to drive EMA's technological development. Finland was the first country in the world to pass specific and comprehensive

biobank regulation. Also, Finland has the unique ability to combine biological sample data patient records, national registries and other phenotype data. Finland's high-quality care system with its uniform standards and universal access can provide a strong platform for product development, testing and clinical evidence gathering in a real-life environment. There is a wide range of stakeholders suitable for collaboration, and all solutions developed will likely be applicable to a wide range of service providers worldwide.

The Finnish Government has also committed to developing the health sector in Finland, and is currently implementing the Health Sector Growth Strategy for research and innovation activities, with an extensive roadmap for 2016-2018. Through the national genomic strategy the government's aim is that by the year 2020 genomic data will be effectively used in healthcare and in the promotion of health and wellbeing. A legal framework will be available in 2018 for the application of genomics. Genomics research is integrated into healthcare, and informatics infrastructure is in place for effective application of genomics.

Strong expertise

Finland and the Helsinki region possess advanced expertise in the life sciences in terms of a high-quality talent pool, world-leading research, strong support services, and functioning networks of collaboration among academia, industry and the public sector. The Helsinki region boasts a top-quality life-sciences talent pool of over 30,000 people who hold PhDs and Master's degrees in related subjects.

There is strong expertise across all key specialties, with especially strong talent in biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, microbiology, pharmacology and bioinformatics.

The talent pool is highly experienced (42% have more than five years of experience), with rich cross-industry expertise, especially with IT (34% of life sciences experts have worked in the IT sector). More than 3,000 life-sciences graduates enter the talent pool every year.

World-class research

Helsinki has a world-leading life-sciences research cluster, ranking as a top 10 research location globally in 34 out of 39



fields of medicine. There are two world-class universities in the Helsinki region.

Life science is one key focus area at the University of Helsinki. The university has internationally strong research in fields such as oncology, neuroscience and bioinformatics. The University of Helsinki is the oldest and largest institution of academic education in Finland, an international scientific community of 40,000 students and researchers. In international university rankings, the University of Helsinki typically ranks among the top 100.

Furthermore, the University of Helsinki is among the best medical campuses in Europe, bringing excellent research, teaching and medical care together every day. The robust research expertise of the campus ranges from basic biological research to clinical applications.

Aalto University, with 20,000 students and over 400 professors, excels in biomedical engineering, neuroscience and neurotechnology, biotechnology, biomaterials, and digital health. Areas of expertise include medical and wellness devices, data science and software engineering for healthcare and wellbeing, biomaterials, biotechnology, and pharmaceuticals.

The Helsinki University Central Hospital is one of the leading healthcare organisations in Europe in terms of both volume and quality. The high standard of treatment and continuous research developing it are core competences. It has been ranked among the top 10 in Europe regarding academic medical research. The University Hospital's Comprehensive Cancer Center (HUCH CCC) is the first Nordic institution accredited by the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI).

Industry

The robust talent pool and research expertise, combined with Finland's leadership in IT and communications, form a vibrant life-sciences and med-tech industry in the Helsinki region. There are over 400 companies active in the Helsinki region in the life sciences, employing 21,000 professionals.

Famous for high-tech IT and communications, Finland has been one of the pioneers in health-related digitalisation. Finland has the world's highest number of digital health start-ups relative to the size of the country. Several leading health companies have recently chosen Helsinki as their strategic research centres – proof that Finland rates highly in tight international comparisons.



The ECHA success story



ECHA is acclaimed as the best example of the establishment of a new agency, with strong employee retention (as little as 3-5% expert employee turnover in the first 5 years).



Exceptional host city and country collaboration – flexible, highly ambitious, and well organised.



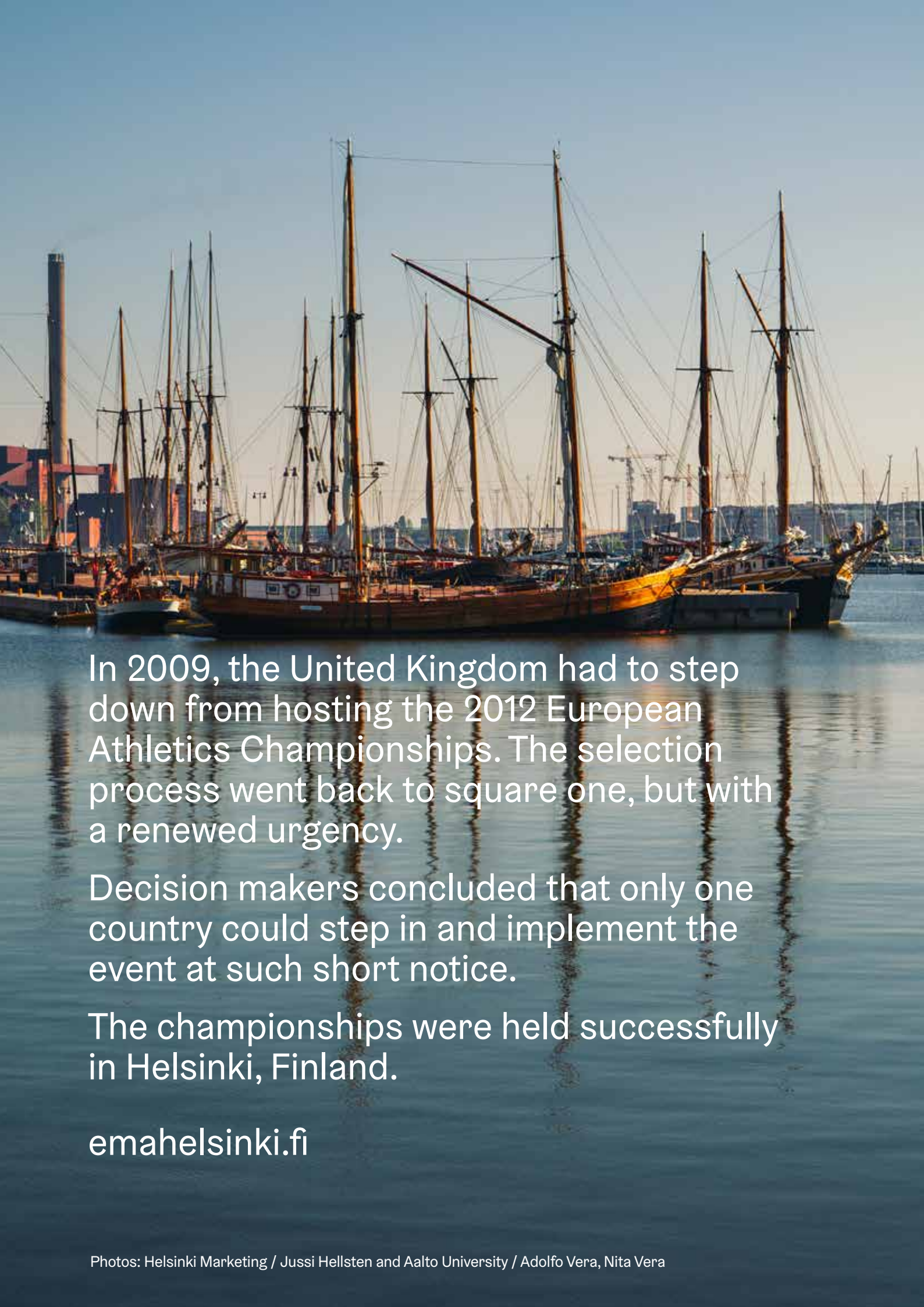
Centralised information sharing with a one-stop shop for all stakeholders.



This was not just a technical process – we focused on the importance of helping personnel to adjust and making them feel at home, taking account of social networks and pre- and post-relocation activities.



Realistic information and transparency, leading to one of the highest satisfaction rates among EU agency employees.



In 2009, the United Kingdom had to step down from hosting the 2012 European Athletics Championships. The selection process went back to square one, but with a renewed urgency.

Decision makers concluded that only one country could step in and implement the event at such short notice.

The championships were held successfully in Helsinki, Finland.

emahelsinki.fi