

# Budget session of Prime Minister Orpo's Government on 1–2 September 2025

## Counter-cyclical economic policy

The Government will explore mechanisms to balance economic cycles and will look into, among other things, the role of the Employment Fund in the implementation of economic policy. As part of this work, a study will be launched to assess ways to better prevent unfavourable pro-cyclical changes in the unemployment insurance contribution. The study will be conducted by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Ministry of Finance in cooperation with partners in the labour market.

## Nuclear power

The Government considers it very important to build additional nuclear power facilities and sees the piloting and utilisation of new technology solutions for small-scale nuclear power as an opportunity to ensure the supply of reasonably priced electricity and heat. The Government aims to bring about at least one decision to invest in a conventional nuclear power plant in Finland. The Government is prepared to support the building of a new nuclear power, for example by providing a guarantee during construction. Other means for promoting nuclear power will be assessed as part of a report to be completed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment in the first half of 2026. The Government will put forth more detailed policies on nuclear power in its Energy and Climate Policy Strategy and will submit its reform of the Nuclear Energy Act to Parliament in autumn 2025.

## Further development of the tax on mined minerals

In line with the Minerals Strategy, the Government will assess the effectiveness of the tax on mined minerals through a study to be conducted by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Finance. As part of the study, the Government will explore the possibility of developing the structure of the tax on mined minerals into a hybrid model consisting of value-based royalties and a tax based on net income. In addition, the Government will monitor the development of mining volumes and world market prices for metals and ensure that the reference price on which the taxable value is based corresponds as closely as possible to the actual market prices.

## Promoting quantum technology

The central government will promote the launch of investments in Kvanttinova, the Centre of Excellence for Quantum Technology, by supporting negotiations between a user group led by VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and the financiers of the real estate investment.



## Raising the level of skills

As part of the growth measures put forth in the mid-term policy review, the Government decided to increase the intake of higher education institutions and to introduce a free 30-credit study voucher for students who have graduated from upper secondary education and have not been admitted to a higher education institution. A total of EUR 100 million in appropriations allocated to these measures is being prepared for inclusion in the supplementary budget proposal.

## Priority procedure for investments

In line with its earlier policies on the matter, the Government will provide sufficient resources to ensure fast permit processes and continue the priority procedure for investments. The resources of the environmental, permit and supervisory authority will be strengthened by increasing the fees for environmental and water permits to correspond to costs in accordance with the Act on Criteria for Charges Payable to the State. In the supplementary budget proposal for 2026, the Ministry of the Environment will draw up a concrete plan for how to strengthen the resources of the environment, permit and supervisory authority by increasing the fees for environmental and water permits to correspond to costs in accordance with the Act on Criteria for Charges Payable to the State. The plan must also examine the costs of granting permits. Once the concrete plan drawn up by the Ministry of the Environment is complete, the need for fixed-term bridge funding can be assessed in connection with the supplementary budget proposal for 2026 in order to ensure that permits can be granted quickly.

## European Athletics Championships and major international sporting events

In line with the Government Programme, Finland will further increase its role as an international organiser of sporting events and events involving physical activity. In its mid-term policy review, the Government also decided that systematic advocacy work would be done to attract major sporting events to Finland. The goal is to develop a funding model to support the organisation of such events in Finland. The Government is committed to supporting the application for and organisation of the 2030 European Athletics Championships in Helsinki.

## Socioeconomic status of athletes

To strengthen the socioeconomic status of athletes, the Government will explore possibilities to improve the pension and accident insurance for system for athletes, such as by adding pension insurance to athlete grants and removing the maximum time limit for transferring income to the sport fund.

## Olympic Fund

The Government will look into whether the capitalisation of the Olympic Fund can also include funding received through sports organisations and foundations, which is not funding received through the State or public bodies, and the matter will be brought to the Ministerial Committee on Economic Policy for a decision in the autumn.

## Ban on keeping animals

The Government will develop the regulation on the ban on keeping animals in accordance with a report completed by the Ministry of Justice in May 2025.

## Hunting permits

A comparison of models for limiting the right of appeal in hunting permits in different Nordic countries will be made within a short timeframe, and preparations will be made for a possible Finnish model.

## Supporting the language skills development of immigrant children

The Government will look into the possibility of introducing an assessment of language skills development in Finnish or Swedish among children with an immigrant background aged 3 or 4 in connection with the maternity and child health clinic system. The possibilities of referring children into more intensive services in early childhood education and care or in different services will be examined on the basis of the assessment. The aim is to reinforce the conditions for language learning at an early stage.

## Integration

The majority of quota refugees will be directed to bilingual municipalities to promote the Government's goal of having 5–10 per cent of immigrants integrate in Swedish.

As part of its plan for 5–10 per cent of immigrants to integrate in Swedish, the Government will look into possibility of creating a model for coordinated integration (including reception, employment, education and municipal cooperation). The aim is to gradually develop the activities into a centre of expertise for bilingual integration and reception, which can be used more extensively to achieve the goal of integration in Swedish.



## Seafarer's subsidy

Together with the relevant maritime operators, the Government will explore a practically suitable model for Finland similar to the Swedish net wage system, which would replace the current seafarer's subsidy and which can be introduced at the latest in connection with next year's budget negotiations. The net wage system must ensure that it is competitive to sail under the Finnish flag.

## Private schools

The Government aims to recognise the added value of private schools in the Finnish basic education system. As a rule, the licences of established private primary and lower secondary education providers will be made permanent once the legislative requirements are met. In the process of authorising education providers, applicants will be treated equally and in accordance with the legal principles of good governance.

## International students

Based on entries made in the mid-term policy review, the Government will conduct a study to assess the challenges related to third-country students' and their family members' ability to make a living, misuse of the permit system and possible security threats, as well as the need to respond to them. Based on the study, a ministerial working group will outline measures to be implemented within a short timeframe.