

Comparative Study of Electoral Systems Module 4: Macro Report

September 10, 2012

Country: Finland

Date of Election: April 19, 2015

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NOTES TO COLLABORATORS:

- The information provided in this report contributes to an important part of the CSES project. The information may be filled out by yourself, or by an expert or experts of your choice. Your efforts in providing these data are greatly appreciated! Any supplementary documents that you can provide (e.g., electoral legislation, party manifestos, electoral commission reports, media reports) are also appreciated, and may be made available on the CSES website.
- Answers should be as of the date of the election being studied.
- Where brackets [] appear, collaborators should answer by placing an “X” within the appropriate bracket or brackets. For example: [X]
- If more space is needed to answer any question, please lengthen the document as necessary.

Data Pertinent to the Election at which the Module was Administered

1a. Type of Election

- Parliamentary/Legislative
- Parliamentary/Legislative and Presidential
- Presidential
- Other; please specify: _____

1b. If the type of election in Question 1a included Parliamentary/Legislative, was the election for the Upper House, Lower House, or both?

- Upper House
- Lower House
- Both (unicameral)
- Other; please specify: _____

2a. What was the party of the president *prior* to the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was presidential?

National Coalition Party

2b. What was the party of the Prime Minister *prior* to the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was parliamentary?

National Coalition Party

2c. Report the number of cabinet ministers of each party or parties in cabinet, *prior* to the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write "all".) Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights. List also cabinet members that are 'independent'. If known, specify if the 'independents' are affiliated or close to certain parties.

<u>Name of Political Party</u>	<u>Number of Cabinet Ministers</u>
National Coalition Party	7
Social Democratic Party of Finland	7
Swedish People's Party of Finland	2
Christian Democrats of Finland	1

2d. What was the size of the cabinet *prior* to the election (total number of cabinet ministers detailed in 2c)? Please include only full ministers and the prime minister in the count. Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights.

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3a. What was the party of the president *after* the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was presidential?

National Coalition Party

3b. What was the party of the Prime Minister *after* the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was parliamentary?

Centre Party

3c. Report the number of cabinet ministers of each party or parties in cabinet, *after* the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write "all"). Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights. List also cabinet members that are 'independent'. If known, specify if the 'independents' are affiliated or close to certain parties.

<u>Name of Political Party</u>	<u>Number of Cabinet Ministers</u>
Centre Party	6
National Coalition Party	4
Finns Party	4

3d. What was the size of the cabinet *after* the election (total number of cabinet ministers detailed in 3c)? Please include only full ministers and the prime minister in the count. Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights.

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4a. How many political parties received votes in the election? In this answer, we want political parties, not merely alliances or coalitions of political parties. Please include all parties that received votes, but do not include independents. Where coalitions are present, please count all member parties separately – for instance, a coalition of three parties would count as three parties in your answer, not as one party. Please provide separate information for elections held contemporaneously (e.g., legislative and presidential voting), when voters cast separate ballots.

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4b. Please provide a source of data and link to a website with official, detailed election results (votes and seats) for all parties participating in the election. If the data is not available electronically, please provide the information in paper format if possible.

<http://vaalit.fi/en/index.html>

http://stat.fi/til/vaa_en.html

https://www.stat.fi/til/evaa/2015/evaa_2015_2015-04-30_en.pdf, p. 45–46.

4c. Please list all parties who received at least 1% of the vote nationally, and the applicable electoral results for each, in the following table. Please indicate the source (even if the same as in Question 4b), and add additional rows to the table as necessary. Please provide party names both in English and in the original language, if applicable.

Source: Official Statistics of Finland, https://www.stat.fi/til/evaa/2015/evaa_2015_2015-04-30_en.pdf.

Party Name	Number of Votes	% of Vote	Number of Seats	% of Seats
Centre Party of Finland Suomen Keskusta	626,218	21.1	49	24.5
National Coalition Party Kansallinen Kokoomus	540,212	18.2	37	18.5
The Finns Party Perussuomalaiset	524,054	17.7	38	19
The Social Democratic Party of Finland Suomen Sosialidemokraattinen Puolue	490,102	16.5	34	17
Green League Vihreä liitto	253,102	8.5	15	7.5
Left Alliance Vasemmistoliitto	211,702	7.1	12	6
Swedish People's Party in Finland Svenska folkpartiet i Finland	144,802	4.9	9	4.5
Christian Democrats in Finland Suomen Kristillisdemokraatit	105,134	3.5	5	2.5
Total	2,968,459	100	199*	100

*There are 200 MPs in the Finnish Parliament. One MP is elected from the autonomous and Swedish-speaking Åland Islands. This MP works within the parliamentary group of the Swedish People's Party.

4d. What was the voter turnout in the election? Please also provide an official Internet address (preferably) or other official source where this information is available.

70.1% (Finnish citizens living in Finland), 10.1% (Finnish citizens living abroad), https://www.stat.fi/til/evaa/2015/evaa_2015_2015-04-30_en.pdf, p. 3

Turnout for the entire electorate (including Finnish citizens living abroad), 66.9 %
http://stat.fi/til/evaa/tau_en.html

It should be noted that the right to vote is guaranteed to all Finnish citizens, without a separate registration process. Those who emigrate do not lose their right to vote, even though they would live their entire lives abroad but do not give up the Finnish nationality. In the 2015 election, there were 242,096 eligible Finnish voters abroad. That corresponds to 5.7 per cent of the entire electorate.

4e. Please provide the following six statistics for the country at the time of the election studied, so that we may calculate voter turnout in various ways. Some definitions, where provided, are based on those developed by International IDEA. Please also provide an official Internet address (preferably) or other official source where this information is available.

- Total Population: 5,471,753 (at the end of 2014),
http://www.stat.fi/til/vaerak/2014/vaerak_2014_2015-03-27_tie_001_en.html

Definition: The total population includes all inhabitants, of all ages, both citizens and non-citizens (including illegal aliens).

- Total Number of Voting Age Citizens: 4,463,333 (This is the total number of persons entitled to vote, including citizens living abroad. The number including Finnish population above legal voting age of 18 but not entitled to vote is not applicable. Every Finnish citizen is automatically included in the electoral registry.
http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin_vaa_evaa_evaa_2015/120_evaa_tau_103.px/?rxid=d64bc786-de2f-418d-ba39-261eb05322b6

Definition: This number is meant to approximate the eligible voting population.

- Total Vote: 2,983,856
http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin_vaa_evaa_evaa_2015/120_evaa_tau_103.px/?rxid=d64bc786-de2f-418d-ba39-261eb05322b6

Definition: The total number of votes cast in the relevant election. Total vote includes valid and invalid votes, as well as blank votes in cases where these are separated from invalid votes.

- Total Number of Invalid and Blank Votes: 15,397
http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin_vaa_evaa_evaa_2015/120_evaa_tau_105.px/?rxid=d64bc786-de2f-418d-ba39-261eb05322b6

- Voting Age Population: 4,396,261 (This is the Voting Age Population residing in Finland, including non-Finnish citizens).
http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin_vrm_vaerak/?tablelist=true&rxid=763cac80-1c4b-4067-b0d4-7bd56e0a6190

Definition: Includes all persons above the legal voting age.

- Number of Registered Voters: 4,463,333 (registration is taken care by the voting officials i.e. the number equals to eligible voting population)
http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin_vaa_evaa_evaa_2015/120_evaa_tau_103.px/?rxid=d64bc786-de2f-418d-ba39-261eb05322b6

Definition: The figure represents the number of names on the voters' register at the time that the registration process closes, as reported by the electoral management body.

5. Ideological family of political parties. For this question, please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 4 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

Party Name	Ideological Family
A. National Coalition Party	E
B. The Finnish Social Democratic Party	D
C. The Finns Party	J or O (populist party)
D. Centre Party of Finland	L
E. The Left Alliance	F
F. Green League	A
G. Swedish People's Party in Finland	M
H. Christian Democrats in Finland	E

Ideological Party Families: (These are suggestions only. If a party does not fit well into this classification scheme, please provide an alternative and some explanation.)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| (A) Ecology Parties | (F) Left Liberal Parties | (K) Independents |
| (B) Communist Parties | (G) Liberal Parties | (L) Agrarian Parties |
| (C) Socialist Parties | (H) Right Liberal Parties | (M) Ethnic Parties |
| (D) Social Democratic Parties | (I) Christian Democratic Parties | (N) Regional Parties |
| (E) Conservative Parties | (J) National Parties | (O) Other Parties |

6a. Ideological Positions of Parties:

Please indicate party positions on a left-right dimension (in the expert judgment of the CSES Collaborator). Please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 4 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

Party Name	Left										Right	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A. National Coalition Party									X			
B. The Finnish Social Democratic Party				X								
C. The Finns Party							X					
D. Centre Party of Finland								X				
E. The Left Alliance			X									
F. Green League					X							
G. Swedish People's Party in Finland								X				
H. Christian Democrats in Finland							X					

6b. If you have asked respondents to rank political parties on an alternative dimension, other than the left-right dimension, please also provide your own rankings of the parties on this dimension. Please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 4 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

Name of dimension:

Label for left hand position:

Label for right hand position:

Party Name	Left									Right	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A.											
B.											
C.											
D.											
E.											
F.											
G.											
H.											
I.											

NOT AVAILABLE IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

7. In your view, what are the five most salient factors that affected the outcome of the election (e.g. major scandals; economic events; the presence of an independent actor; specific issues)? Rank them according to their salience (1 = most salient).

1. Employment and national economic competitiveness
2. Government spending and public debt
3. Immigration
4. Social welfare, health care and other types of public services
5. The EU, foreign and security politics

8. Party Leaders and Presidential Candidates:

In the table below, report the leader(s) of each party. Please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 4 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I). If candidates were endorsed by more than one party, please indicate this.

Party Name	Name of Party Leader	Name of Presidential Candidate, if appropriate
A. National Coalition Party	Alexander Stubb	
B. The Finnish Social Democratic Party	Antti Rinne	
C. The Finns Party	Timo Soini	
D. Centre Party of Finland	Juha Sipilä	
E. The Left Alliance	Paavo Arhinmäki	
F. Green League	Ville Niinistö	
G. Swedish People's Party in Finland	Carl Haglund	
H. Christian Democrats in Finland	Päivi Räsänen	

9a. Fairness of the Election

How impartial was the body that administered the election law?

- Very impartial
- Mostly impartial
- Not very impartial
- Not impartial at all

9b. Was there a formal complaint against the national level results?

- Yes
- No

9c. Were there irregularities reported by international election observers?

- Yes
- No
- No international election observers

9d. On what date was the election originally scheduled to be held?

April 19, 2015

9e. On what date was the election actually held? If different from 9d, please explain why.

April 19, 2015

10a. Election Violence

To what extent was there violence and voter or candidate intimidation during the election campaign and the election day?

- No violence at all
- Sporadic violence on the part of the government
- Sporadic violence on the part of opposition groups
- Sporadic violence on all sides
- Significant violence on the part of the government
- Significant violence on the part of opposition groups
- Significant violence of all sides

10b. If there was violence, was it geographically concentrated or national?

- Geographically concentrated
- National

10c. Post-Election (and election-related) Violence

To what extent was there violence following the election?

- No violence at all
- Sporadic violence on the part of the government
- Sporadic violence on the part of opposition groups
- Sporadic violence on all sides
- Significant violence on the part of the government
- Significant violence on the part of opposition groups
- Significant violence of all sides

10d. Post-Election (and election-related) Protest

To what extent was there protest following the election?

- No protest at all
- Sporadic protest
- Significant protest (NOT related to the election result but the proposed budget cuts by the new government)

Questions about the Possibilities of Electoral Alliance

Definitions: A joint list refers to one on which candidates of different parties run together. Apparentement refers to a legal agreement between two or more lists to pool their votes for the purposes of an initial seat allocation, with seats initially allocated to the alliance then reallocated to the lists in the alliance.

11. Joint Lists/Candidates

There are multiple types of electoral alliances/coalitions, but we are explicitly interested in those involving joint lists or candidates - i.e. those where parties compete as a unit during the election.

The Finnish system falls between joint lists and apparentement. Technically, the joint lists are joint lists (the seats are allocated to the joint list within constituencies), but the parties never compete as a unit. On the other hand, there is no reallocation of seats to the lists in the alliance. Thus, we have listed the formed alliances below.

Is this type of electoral coalition legally allowable?

- Yes
 No

Is this type of electoral coalition used in practice, even if not legally allowable?

- Yes
 No

If “Yes” was answered to either of the above questions, then please complete the following table for the election at which the Module was administered. Please mention only alliances that received at least 1% of the vote nationally. Add additional lines to the table as necessary.

Alliance Name	Participating Parties (please indicate dominant members with an “*”)
Alliance 1: The Constituency of Helsinki	Christian Democrats* and “For the Cause of the Poor” (fringe party)
Alliance 2: The Constituency of Varsinais-Suomi	National Coalition Party* and the Swedish People’s Party
Alliance 3: The Constituency of Lapland	The Finns Party* and Christian Democrats
Alliance 4:	
Alliance 5:	

12. If joint lists are possible, are they subject to different regulations than single-party lists? For example, higher thresholds, different numbers of candidates that may appear on the list, etc. (please mark all applicable responses)

- Yes, joint party lists must satisfy higher thresholds
- Yes, joint party lists may present different numbers of candidates
- Yes, joint party lists are subject to other regulations that are different from the regulations governing independent parties; please specify: _____
- No, joint parties are governed by the same rules as the other parties
- Not applicable; no joint party lists are allowed

13a. Is there apparentement or linking of lists?

- Yes
- No

13b. If apparentement is possible, what lists can participate in such agreements:

- lists of the same party in the same constituency
- lists of the same party from different constituencies
- lists of different parties in the same constituency

14a. Can candidates run with the endorsement of more than one party?

- Yes
- No

14b. If candidates can run with the endorsement of more than one party, is this reflected on the ballot?

- No
- No party endorsements are indicated on the ballot paper
- Yes, candidate's name appears once, together with the names of all supporting parties
- Yes, candidate's name appears as many times as there are different parties endorsing him/her, each time with the name of the endorsing party
- Yes, other; please explain: _____

Data on Electoral Institutions

If possible, please supplement this section with copies of the electoral law, voters' handbooks, electoral commission reports, and/or any other relevant materials.

Questions 15a through 21d must be repeated for each electoral tier (segment) of each directly elected house of the legislature.

Electoral Tier (Segment) and House

15a. In your answers for questions 15a through 21d, which electoral tier (segment) is being referred to? (Note: Countries with only one tier may skip this question.)

15b. In your answers for questions 15a through 21d, which house is being referred to (lower or upper)? (Note: Countries with only one tier may skip this question.)

Questions about Voting

16a. How many votes do voters cast or can cast? In systems where voters rank order the candidates, if there are 10 candidates (for example), the response to this question should be 10.

1

16b. Do they vote for candidates (not party lists) or party lists? (Note: Collaborators may select multiple answers, if appropriate.)

(Definition: Party bloc voting is used in multi-member districts where voters cast a single party-centered vote for their party of choice; the party with the most votes wins all of the district seats.)

Candidates

Party Lists

Party Bloc Voting

Other; please explain: The Finnish system is an open list system. A voter must select a candidate but the vote goes in first hand to the party list (d'Hondt at a constituency level).

16c. How many rounds of voting are there?

1

16d. If there are lists, are they closed, open, flexible, or is there party bloc voting?

Closed (order of candidates elected is determined by the party and voters are unable to express preference for a particular candidate)

Open (voters can indicate their preferred party and their favored candidate within that party)

Flexible (voters can allocate votes to candidates either within a single party list or across

different party lists as they see fit)

17. Are the votes transferable?

(Definition: In systems with preferential voting, a voter can express a list of preferences. E.g., votes can be cast by putting a '1' in the column next to the voter's preferred candidate, a '2' beside their second favorite candidate and so on. Votes are counted according to the first preferences and any candidates who have achieved the predetermined quota are elected. To decide which of the remaining candidates are elected the votes are *transferred* from candidates who have more than the necessary number to achieve the quota and from the candidate with the least number of votes. An example of this is the election in Ireland in 2002.)

- Yes
 No

18. If more than one vote can be cast, can they be cumulated?

(Definition: Cumulative voting refers to systems in which voters are allowed to cast more than one vote for a single candidate.)

- Yes
 No

19. Is voting compulsory?

(Definition: Voting is compulsory if the law states that all those who have the right to vote are obliged to exercise that right.)

- Yes; Strictly Enforced Sanctions
 Yes; Weakly Enforced Sanctions
 Yes; Without Sanction for Violation
 No

20. Please list and describe any other features of voting that should be noted.

- Finland is an open list system where the votes for candidates per party list in each constituency form the basis for seat allocation. Each voter must choose a candidate; it is not possible to vote for a party as such. The method for seat allocation is PR/d'Hondt within each constituency.
- Because of demographic transitions within Finland, the number of constituencies was reduced to 13 (from 15) at the election of 2015. There are in total 200 MPs. The number of MPs per constituency is decided before each election based on the number of inhabitants in each constituency. In the Parliamentary election of 2015, the number of MPs on the mainland constituencies varied between 7 (in the constituency of Lapland) and 35 (Uusimaa). Of the 200 MPs, 199 are elected in mainland Finland. Moreover, the constituency of the autonomous Åland Islands elects 1 MP according to the Election Act.

Questions about Converting Votes into Seats

21a. Are there legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed before it is eligible to receive seats?

- Yes
 No

21b. If YES in Question 21a, what is the threshold?

21c. If YES in Question 21a, what is the unit for the threshold mentioned in Question 21b?

- Percent of total votes
 Percent of valid votes
 Percent of the total electorate
 Other; please explain: _____

21d. If YES in Question 21a, please specify to what House/ Electoral Tier (Segment) the threshold(s) apply.

Please repeat questions 15a through 21d for each electoral tier (segment) of each directly elected house of the legislature. Countries with only one tier should proceed to Question 22.

References

22. Please provide an official source for district-level election results. English language sources are especially helpful. Include website links or contact information if applicable.

Statistics Finland's PX-Web databases: support for parties in Parliamentary elections 2015
(http://pxnet2.stat.fi/PXWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin_vaa_evaa_evaa_2015/130_evaa_tau_103.px/?rxid=5416ab15-91ae-4354-96c6-804157f3b479)

23. Please list any resources that were consulted in the preparation of this report, or that the CSES community may find especially helpful in understanding the political system described. Include website links if applicable.

Grönlund, Kimmo and Wass, Hanna. eds. 2016. Poliittisen osallistumisen eriytyminen. Eduskuntavaalitutkimus 2015. Selvityksiä ja ohjeita 28/2016. Helsinki: oikeusministeriö. http://www.oikeusministerio.fi/fi/index/julkaisut/julkaisuarkisto/1468219625672/Files/OMSO_28_2016_Eduskuntavaalitutkimus_2015.pdf

Statistics Finland: Parliamentary elections 2015, confirmed result
https://www.stat.fi/til/evaa/2015/evaa_2015_2015-04-30_en.pdf

The election website of Statistics Finland
http://stat.fi/til/vaa_en.html

The election website of the Ministry of Justice
<http://www.vaalit.fi/en/index.html>