



Water services in Finland

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Finnish Water Utilities Association (FIWA)

• FIWA is a nationwide organization of water and wastewater utilities:



- about 300 utility members covering over 85 % of water production
- over 150 co-operative members (manufacturers, consultants,...)
- no individual members



Water resources in Finland

- 10 % of the surface area is covered by water (almost 188.000 lakes)
- Renewable water resources 58.000 litres/capita/day of which 2 % is used
- Quality of waters is good

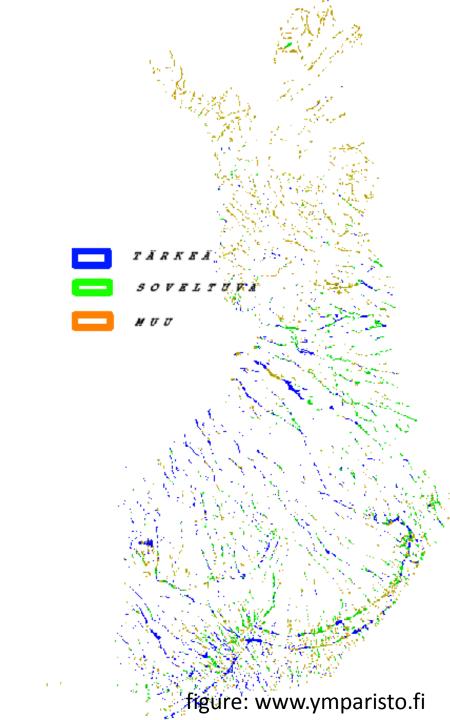


 In coastal areas water resources are scarce → water transportation and artificial recharge of groundwater

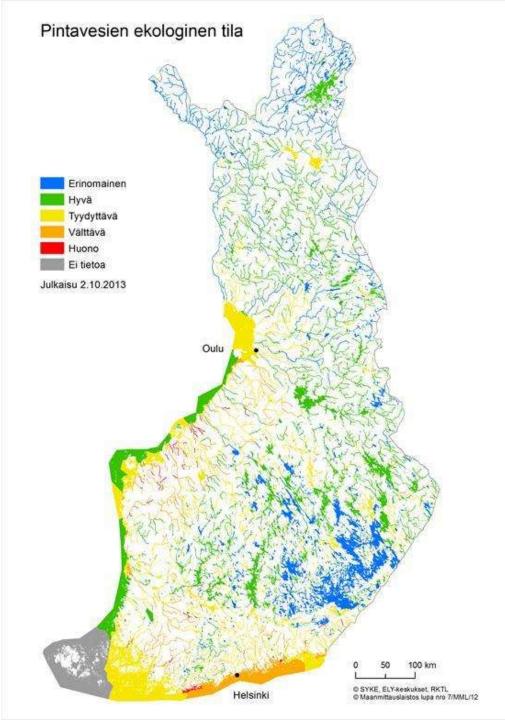


Groundwater in Finland

- Eskers (sand and gravel deposits) main resevoirs but locally also fractured rock
- Good water quality, but locally problems mainly with iron, magnesium, color, salt, and occasionally in local wells radon and nitrate
- Many small water companies
- Multiple risks due to road construction (e.g. deicing salts), local industry, peatland drainage, climate change



Surface water status

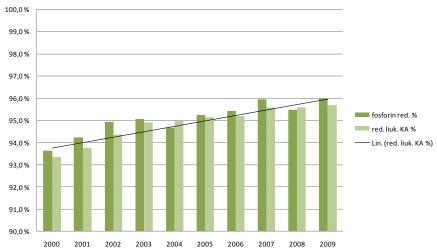


Wastewater treatment in Finland

- Over 80 % of inhabitants connected to wastewater networks
- All the wastewaters treated biologically with phosphorus removal
 -- nitrogen removal when needed
- The average reduction BOD 97 %, Phosphorus 96 %, Nitrogen 56 %



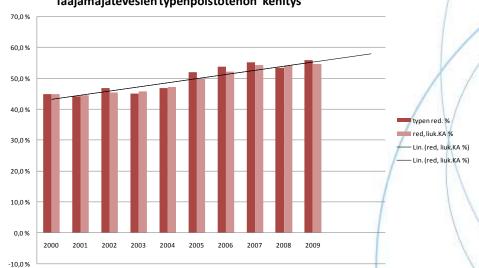
Wastewater treatment in Finland



Fosforinpoistoteho taajamajätevesistä

phosphorus reduction trends in urban areas 2000-2009

nitrogen reduction trends in urban areas 2000-2009

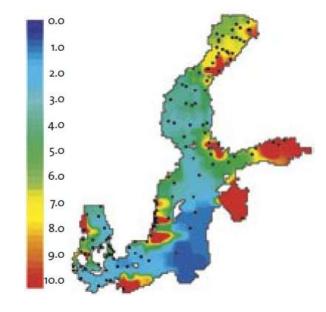


Taajamajätevesien typenpoistotehon kehitys

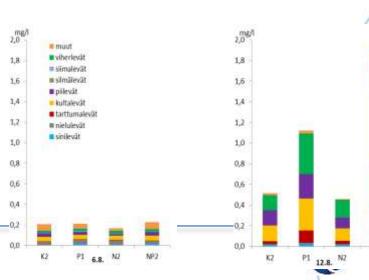


N removal and the Bothnian bay









NP3

Management of water services

- Local authorities are responsible for providing water services
- Most of the utilities are small
- Waterworks and sewage in the same organization
- No private water companies, except many cooperatives in the rural areas, owned by the water users



Management of water services

- Inter-municipal cooperation is increasing
 - common abstraction wells and water treatment
 - centralized wastewater treatment and sludge disposal
 - → bilateral agreements, wholesale companies etc.
- Water utilities are becoming more independent parts of the municipal organizations

Financing of water services

- 80-90 % of the total expenses are fixed i.e. are not depending on water consumption
- All the water is metered when entering the customer's building
- Costs are covered by direct customer fees (connection fee + fixed fee + metered fee)
- Small subsidies by the government are granted for important inter-municipal connections



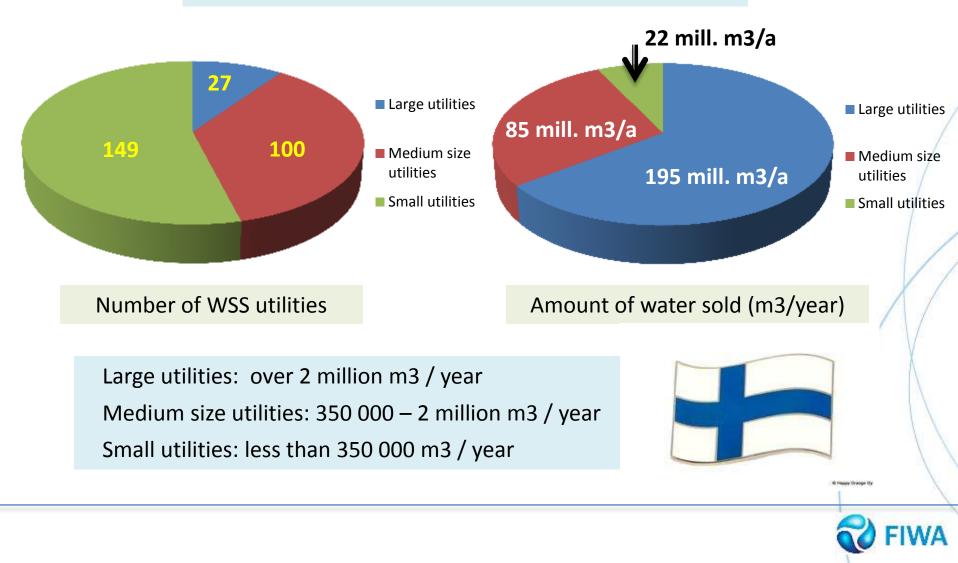
Some challenges for the Finnish water services management

- Small utility size → problems with viability and availability of professional personnel
- Ageing infrastructure & ageing staff
 - Need to promote inter-municipal and regional cooperation and merging of small utilities?
 - Need to develop knowledge management and ICT solutions and applications
 - Need to invest more in rehabilitation and improve asset management systems

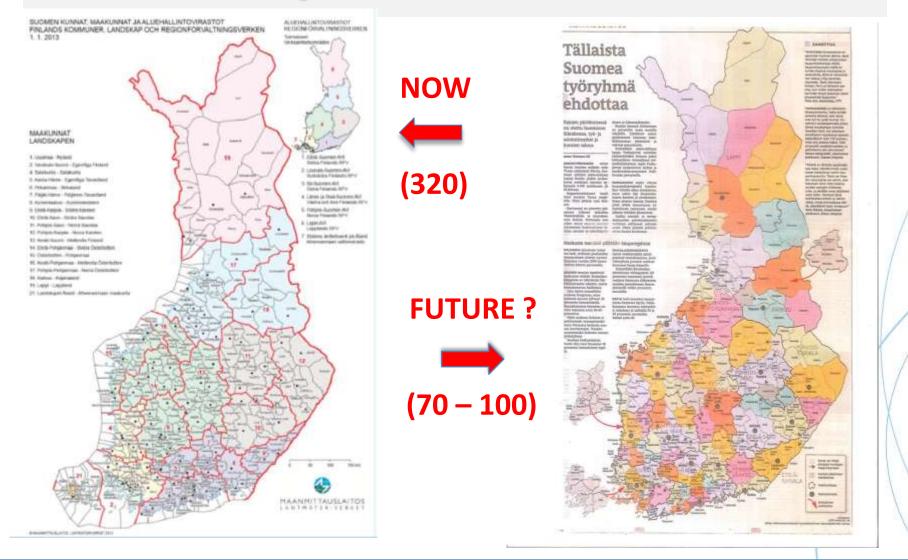


Diversity of WSS sector in Finland

Size distribution of FIWA's member WSS utilities



Municipal structure reform





Water infrastructure – networks and asset management

- Recent studies on water infrastructure status and rehabilitation needs
 - Actual need for network rehabilitation investments is even 2-3 times the amount of current investments
 - Concern for service reliability and water security losses and leakages are not the main driver for rehabilitation
- Many water utilities do not have proper network maps (electronic / digital)
- Improved network maps and databases would be important in developing better asset management plans and systems



Conclusions

- Water resources of good quantity and quality (local problems mainly due to land use)
- Water suply and service sector managed locally
- WSS include many small units, but the size is growing
- Ageing infrastructure & ageing staff
 - Need for better knowledge management and ICT solutions, larger WSS units
 - Network maintenance seen as a key future challange

