

Finland

Ethnicity in Finland

Power relations

The Finnish constitution (see Section 17 below) stipulates that Finland is a bilingual nation. The Swedish People's Party of Finland is the only relevant ethnicity-based political organization in Finland. Although the party usually has less than 10% of parliamentary seats, it almost constantly participates in government. As the party represents a center-right ideology it was excluded only from a few socialist governments. Considering that these periods of exclusions were short (the last one in 1978-1979) and based on political ideology rather than ethnicity, it is reasonable to code the Swedes as "junior partner" since 1946. ⁽¹²⁰²⁾.

¹²⁰² [Wikipedia, 2014]

Other ethnic groups are not politically organized and are irrelevant. According to the U.S. Department of State ⁽¹²⁰³⁾, there is some "discrimination against foreign-born residents and Roma". However, this does not take place in the political realm.

¹²⁰³ [US State Department, 2009]

Constitution of Finland (Quote): Section 17 - Right to one's language and culture

"The national languages of Finland are Finnish and Swedish.

The right of everyone to use his or her own language, either Finnish or Swedish, before courts of law and other authorities, and to receive official documents in that language, shall be guaranteed by an Act. The public authorities shall provide for the cultural and societal needs of the Finnish-speaking and Swedish-speaking populations of the country on an equal basis.

The Sami, as an indigenous people, as well as the Roma and other groups, have the right to maintain and develop their own language and culture. Provisions on the right of the Sami to use the Sami language before the authorities are laid down by an Act. The rights of persons using sign language and of persons in need of interpretation or translation aid owing to disability shall be guaranteed by an Act."

Bibliography

- [Wikipedia, 2014] Wikipedia. (2014). Swedish People's Party of Finland. Retrieved on 15.4.2014 from:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swedish_People%27s_Party_of_Finland
- [US State Department, 2009] US State Department. (2009; 2013). Human Rights Report: Finland. Retrieved on 15.3.2014 from:
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/>

Political status of ethnic groups in Finland

From 1946 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Finns	0.93	SENIOR PARTNER
Swedes	0.06	JUNIOR PARTNER



Figure 271: Political status of ethnic groups in Finland during 1946-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Finland

From 1946 until 2013

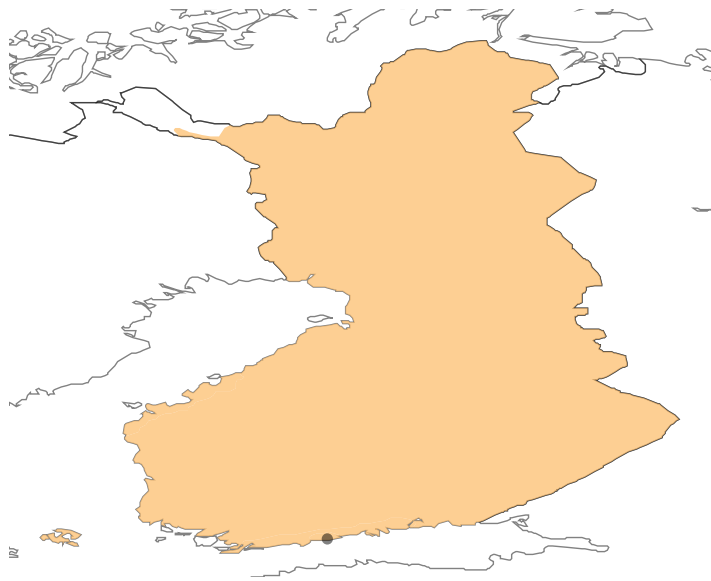


Figure 272: Map of ethnic groups in Finland during 1946-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Finns	320 144	Regional & urban
Swedes	7882	Regional & urban

Table 82: List of ethnic groups in Finland during 1946-2013.