

Finland

Ethnicity in Finland

Group selection

The **Finns** are the demographic majority (93%), in addition there is a **Swedish** minority (6%).

Power relations

The Finnish constitution (see Section 17 below) stipulates that Finland is a bilingual nation. The Swedish People's Party of Finland (SFP) 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. In the 2015 elections the SFP was not included in the government coalition but it has regularly held ministerial posts since about 1930, when Finland started to typically be governed by coalition governments (2003). The SFP represents a center-right ideology and is thus, based on political ideology rather than ethnicity. Yet, it is reasonable to code the Swedes as "junior partner."

²⁰⁰³ [Finnish Government, 2017]

Even though there is a separate Sami Parliament, the representative body for Sami people in Finland, the group is not coded as relevant at the national political level, as the responsibilities of the parliament mainly include language and cultural matters as well as "implementing the cultural self-government guaranteed to the Sami as an indigenous people" rather than wider political interests (2004).

²⁰⁰⁴ [Samediggi, 2017]

Other ethnic groups, like the Roma, are not politically discriminated or organized and therefore not relevant for this data set (2005).

²⁰⁰⁵ [World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Pe

Constitution of Finland. 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 (²⁰⁰⁶).”

²⁰⁰⁶ [Ministry of Justice Finland, 1999]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Finland

From 1946 until 2021

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



Figure 371: Political status of ethnic groups in Finland during 1946-2021.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Finland

From 1946 until 2021

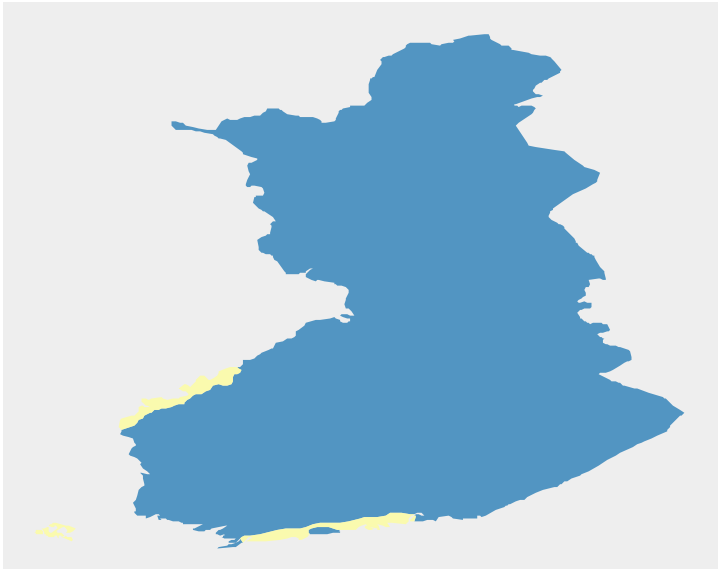


Figure 372: Map of ethnic groups in Finland during 1946-2021.

Group name		Area in km ²	Type
■	Finns	322 197	Regional & urban
■	Swedes	7917	Regional & urban

Table 133: List of ethnic groups in Finland during 1946-2021.