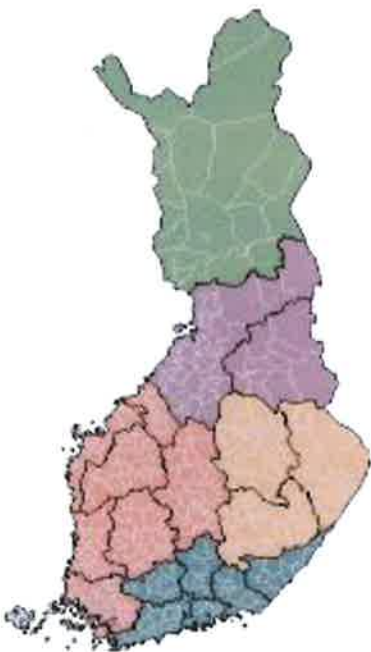




Welcome to Oulu



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Inhabitants 485 000 total (+-) 31.12.2015
Northern Ostrobothnia (N-O) 410 000 (+) & Kainuu 75 000 (-)

Population density 2015
8 people/km² (+-)

Land area 57 000 km²
Land and water 61 000 km²
Municipalities 38 (N-O 29 + Kainuu 9)

Age structure 2015

- 0 - 14 - years N-O 20% (+) Kainuu 14% (-)
- 15 - 64 years N-O 62% (-) Kainuu 61% (-)
- 65 - years N-O 17% (+) Kainuu 25% (+)

Excess of births 2015
N-O 1895 Kainuu -384

Industrial structure 2013

- Agriculture and forestry
N-O 5% Kainuu 8%
- Industry
N-O 23% Kainuu 18%
- Services
N-O 71% Kainuu 74%

Education 2014

Upper secondary education
N-O 44% (+-) Kainuu 45% (+)
Higher education
N-O 28% (+) Kainuu 23% (+)

Unemployment rate 6/2016
N-O 15.4% (+) Kainuu 15.9% (+)

Household dwelling units 2015
N-O 183 989 (+) Kainuu 37 268 (-)

Demographic dependency ratio 2015
N-O 60.7% (+) Kainuu 64.8% (+)

JWGHS, Oulu, 22nd March 2017

Opening words by *Mrs. Margit Pääta*lo, director in the Regional State Administrative Agency for Northern Finland in the Division of Basic Public Services, Legal Rights and Permits.

Dear distinguished guests of this 24th meeting of the Joint Working Group for Health and Social Issues!

I have a great pleasure and honour to welcome you to the Regional State Agency for Northern Finland and also to Oulu on behalf of director general Mrs. Savolainen. She will attend this meeting later today in the dinner.

You are also welcome to this main building which is one of the most valuable and eldest buildings in Oulu. This building is from 1890. The art collection around you is one of the most valuable in the state offices outside Helsinki. Unfortunately I am not able to tell you more this time about the history during this opening speech.

Our Regional State Agency is responsible for its duties in two counties; Northern Ostrobothnia and Kainuu. On the map you will see some information about the region of our Agency.

Our agency is located in Oulu which is the biggest city in the northernmost Scandinavia.

In these two regions there are inhabitants about 485 000, In the Northern Ostrobothnia about 410 000 and Kainuu about 75 000. In the city of Oulu there are about 200 000 inhabitants.

In the Northern Ostrobothnia is living the youngest population of Finland, middle age is 38 years and in the county of Kainuu the population is one of the most aging in Finland.

Because Northern Ostrobothnia is such a young region I will say some words about education: There are about 24 000 students in the university Oulu and in the university of applied sciences. In the Oulu Regional Joint Authority for Education and Oulu vocational college there are 11 000 students.

In our region there is higher education also in two other cities: Kajaani and Ylivieska.

Of course there are many high schools, preliminary schools and also private education schools in our region and basic education from 7-16 year old children in

the municipalities and pre-primary education for 6 year old children and early childhood education is for every child.

In our region domestic demand has improved, the construction industry is growing, the situation is improving in services. Challenges are related to the decrease in export growth (ICT/Nokia left a hole). Corrective action plays a central role in both business communities and the entire state economy => increased export income, more jobs. Even though the unemployment rate has decreased, it is still high. We are in our region particularly effected by the challenges of long-term and youth unemployment.

However Northern Finland has opportunities in the traditional forestry industry, as well as in bioeconomy, energy, and in cleantech investments. In the both counties there are great opportunities in tourism.

Some one million passengers travel through Oulu Airport per year. It's the second busiest airport in Finland. The other airport of our region is located in Kajaani.

Thank you for having your meeting here.

I wish you all a successful meeting and hope you will enjoy your time in Oulu!