



Centre for Economic Development,
Transport and the Environment



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Prosperity, competitiveness, sustainable development



The Library Bus brings books to where the readers are. The ELY Centre develops library services and finances library buildings.

The ELY Centre – co-operation for the benefit of customers and the regions

The Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres) are responsible for the government's regional implementation and development tasks. Their role is to develop and support economically, socially and ecologically sustainable well-being alongside other operators. The values that all the ELY Centres share are customer orientation, competence, collaboration and openness.

Duties

- Financing and development services for enterprises, employment-based aid and labour market training, handling of agricultural and fishery issues, management of immigration issues and work with EU Structural Funds projects
- Vocational education, library services, sports and fitness services, and projects involving the education system and youth services
- Road maintenance, road projects, transport permits, traffic safety, public transport and island traffic
- Environmental protection, guidance on the use of land and construction, nature protection, environmental monitoring, and use and management of water resources.

The ELY Centre is an important regional developer and distributor of EU funding. It co-operates closely with the Regional

Councils and other agencies. The ELY Centre co-ordinates the operations of the Employment and Economic Development Offices.

The Centre strives to provide its clients with a high quality, prompt service– whether in person, online, or by telephone.

Areas of responsibility

- Business and industry, the labour force, competence and skills, and cultural activities
- Transport and infrastructure
- Environment and natural resources

Relevant ministries and government agencies

- Agency for Rural Affairs
- Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira
- Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation (Tekes)
- Finnish Transport Agency
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ministry of Education and Culture
- Ministry of Employment and the Economy
- Ministry of the Environment
- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Transport and Communications

Operational goals

Regional viability

- Identification and exploitation of the region's strengths
- A balanced population structure and high employment rates
- Sustainable social structure and an efficient transport system
- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Biodiversity and clean waters

Well-being

- A healthy, safe and pleasant environment
- Reliable transport services and traffic systems
- Safe food
- Participation of young people
- Integration of immigrants
- Library, cultural and sports service

Success factors for business and industry

- Good accessibility and land use
- Business regeneration and quality of working life
- Innovation, growth, and internationalisation
- Renewable energy and eco-efficiency
- A viable labour market and skilled labour force



A custom-made kitchen worktop is taking shape in the hands of a skilled carpenter. The ELY Centre provides enterprises with advice, training, development services and funding.

Preconditions for advancing business and industry

The ELY Centre implements regional industrial, innovation, rural and labour policy. It promotes regional competence, education, training and culture. In addition, the Centre deals with matters relating to immigration, integration and good ethnic relations.

Tasks and services

- Advisory, financing and development services for enterprises
- Development of business and industry and innovation environments
- Regional labour and industrial policy, and the guidance of Employment and Economic Development Offices
- Development of agricultural and rural industries
- Promotion of the fishing industry and recreational fishing as well as the management and maintenance of fishing waters
- Implementation of the Finnish Fishing Act and general monitoring of the fishing industry
- Implementation and monitoring of specific legislation (Finnish Act on the Financing of Reindeer Husbandry and Natural Economy Industries, Finnish Skolt Act)
- Performance management of the Reindeer Herders' Association
- Forecasts of business and employment trends and the need for skills and training
- Pay security
- Promotion of culture and the creative economy
- Planning, procurement and supervision of labour market training for adults
- Short-term supplementary training for teaching staff
- Integration and employment of immigrants and the placement of refugees with local authorities
- Library, sports and youth services
- Support for the construction of educational institutions, libraries, and sports venues



Proud of his past, this farmer has set his eyes on the future. The ELY Centre helps to ensure the vitality of the countryside.

Development services for enterprises

Enterprises can benefit from the ELY Centre's services and financing schemes when developing their business and striving for growth.

Targets of business development:

- International activities
- Efficiency of business operations
- Leadership
- Technology and innovation
- Employees' professional skills
- Training for new staff

The ELY Centre's technology experts assist regional enterprises and research organizations in their domestic and international R&D projects. They bring Tekes's financing and consulting services as well as the agency's R&D networks close to the customer.

Innovation experts assess new inventions made by companies or individuals and give advice as to their novelty value, technical possibilities, and commercial potential.

Working hard to create more jobs

The ELY Centre plans, develops, and co-ordinates labour services and employment support. Jointly with the regional Employment and Economic Development Offices (TE Offices), the

Centre is responsible for the planning and procurement of labour-market training for adults. The TE Offices' operations are supervised by the ELY Centre. The Centre supports local employment and distributes employment-based aid to improve unemployed job-seekers' chances in the labour market

A viable countryside

Keeping Finland's rural areas viable and attractive for residents is an important common goal.

The ELY Centre promotes agriculture and horticulture and the competitiveness of enterprises in these and other rural industries. Farms and other rural companies receive financial support for investment and business development. Funding is also available for projects to improve business opportunities for rural industries, encourage the establishment of new enterprises and develop existing businesses.

The Centre monitors agricultural subsidies and conducts inspections related to organic farming, plant health, and food safety. A major goal is the enduring viability of the Finnish fishing industry. The ELY Centre represents the interests of the sector, co-ordinates the management of fishing waters and encourages recreational fishing. It also supports business activities committed to the sustainable use of renewable natural resources.

Advice on the special needs of rural areas:

- Food safety, purity and traceability
- Hygienic production environments and animal welfare
- Production guidance
- The environment
- Verification of aid payments

Promoting education, culture, and the creative economy

The ELY Centre promotes guidance and advice in adult education and internationalisation by supporting networking between actors.

Furthermore, the ELY Centre provides support to cultural entrepreneurship and the creative economy, reinforcing co-

operation among actors in the cultural sector and those involved in regional development. It also promotes the development of new forms of arts and cultural services.

The ELY Centre develops library services and finances the construction of library buildings. It helps improve local sports facilities, with support for the range of services offered and construction projects.

In a wide range of collaborative projects, the ELY Centre promotes conditions in which young people can live and grow while gaining independence. It also advances active citizenship and social empowerment. The aim of these activities is for all young people to participate more actively in society, voice their opinions, and take part in leisure activities.

Enterprise Finland

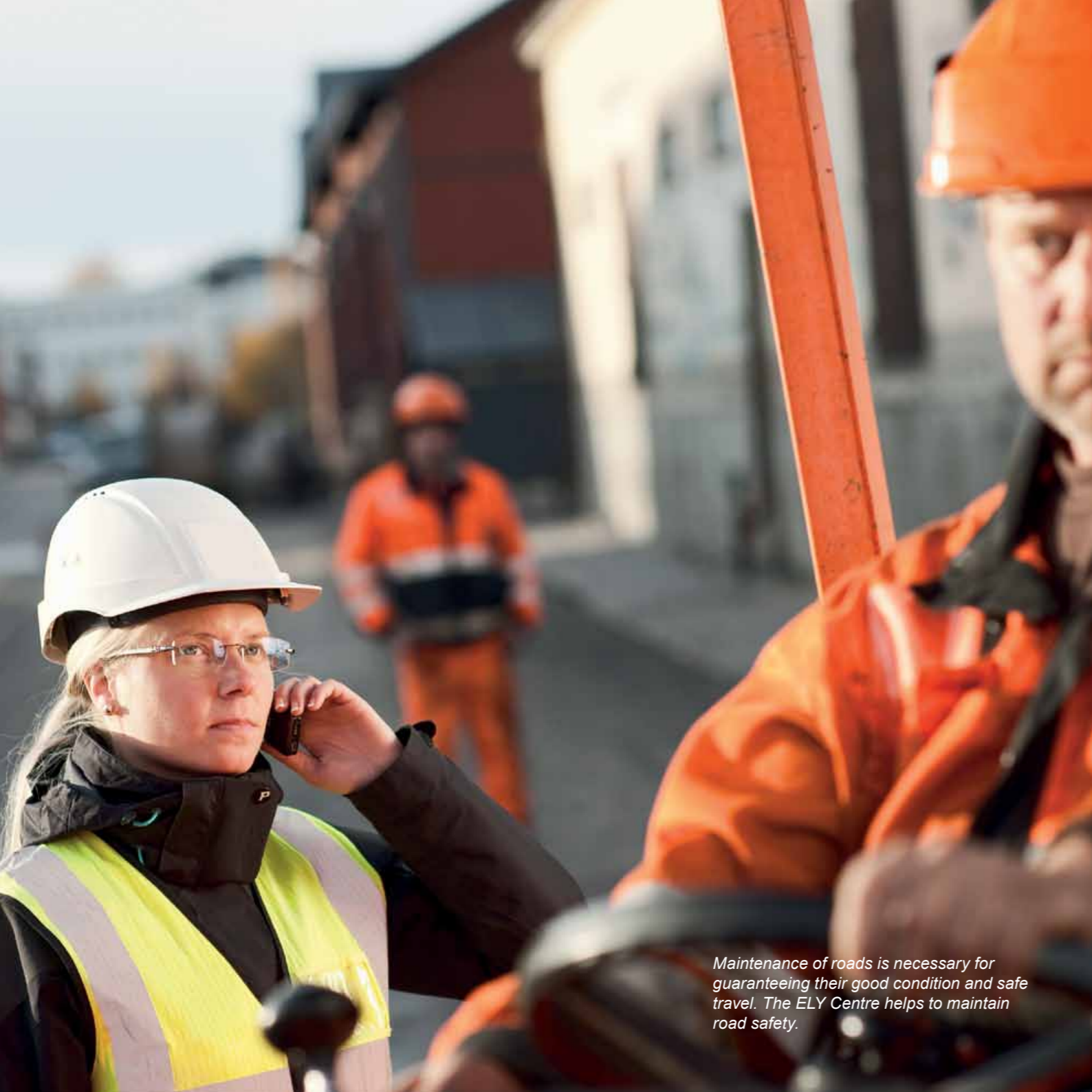
A service for SMEs in particular, Enterprise Finland is an online service that provides information about the kinds of assistance available to companies or individual entrepreneurs for setting up, growing and developing a business. The Enterprise Finland Hotline offers advice on the relevant public services available for start-ups.

Enterprise Finland Online Service:
www.yrityssuomi.fi
Enterprise Finland Hotline for start-ups: +358 10 19 4680

National Help Line (Työlinja)

The National Help Line (Työlinja) is a service for both job-seekers and employers.

National Help Line (Työlinja) for private customers
+358 10 19 4904
tyolinja@te-toimisto.fi
National Help Line (Työlinja) for corporate customers, organisations and employers
+358 10 19 4907
tyolinja@te-toimisto.fi



Maintenance of roads is necessary for guaranteeing their good condition and safe travel. The ELY Centre helps to maintain road safety.

Working toward safe and functional transport and traffic systems

Alongside other actors, the ELY Centre is responsible for ensuring the safety of daily travel and transport in a sustainable way. Improving road safety is the guiding principle in decisions on projects and measures.

Tasks and services

- Transport-system management
- Ensuring road safety
- Road maintenance
- Improvement and development of the road network
- Subsidies for public transport
- Transport permits
- Transport customer service
- Island traffic

Improving traffic safety together

Promoting traffic safety is one of the key goals of co-operation between the local authorities, the ELY Centre, the traffic safety organisation, Liikenneturva, the police, and other actors. Particular attention is paid to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists and of elderly and young road users.

Improving the road environment by, for example, building median barriers and elk fences, reduces the risk of traffic accidents and helps to mitigate their consequences. Driving speeds are subject to speed limits that reflect conditions and circumstances.

Traffic and transport systems are developed through cooperation with other actors in the field. The purpose is to plan and develop the system as a whole and integrate it with land use planning. The main goals are functional and safe travel and transport chains.

Reconciling land use with traffic is important, not only in terms of road safety, but also with regard to the reduction in emissions. Efforts to reduce environmental harm caused by traffic also include noise abatement and the protection of groundwater.

Responsibility for roads

Maintenance of roads is necessary for ensuring their good condition and safe travel. As an asset, they are worth €15 billion.

The ELY Centres keep the roads in good order. Road maintenance is governed by national guidelines. Main roads are the primary area of focus; elsewhere measures are applied in line with local conditions. Considerable efforts are made to safeguard the movement of people and goods on all roads.

The ELY Centre is responsible for road lighting, rest areas, bus stops, ferries, and telematic appliances (such as traffic lights, automatic traffic signs, and signposts).

The ELY Centre maintains:

- 78,000 kilometres of roads
- 5,000 kilometres of cycle lanes
- 14,600 bridges

Services are acquired by the Centre from market suppliers, as necessary.

Good public transport

Consideration of public transport needs is part of all transport planning. The ELY Centre ensures that it is efficient and available. It buys up bus services when they are not profitable for the operators, so that there are always good public transport connections.

In addition, it promotes public transport by subsidising city, regional, and commuter tickets and granting state assistance to local authorities for local and on-demand public transport and for public transport development projects.

The Customer Service Centre – the link between customers and the authorities

The nationwide Centre for Traffic Customer Service is a crucial link between road users and the traffic authorities.

The Centre for Traffic Customer Service:

- Provides help and advice on matters related to permits and agreements
- Provides legal advice on how to initiate proceedings
- Responds to customer feedback and questions
- Gives advice and information to users of the online services provided by the Finnish Transport Agency and the ELY Centre

Traffic Customer Service: **+358 206 90300**

Serious problems affecting road traffic can be reported to the Road Users' Phone Service Hotline at any time (**+358 200 2100, 24/7**).

Finnish Transport Agency: www.liikennevirasto.fi

Information on border traffic in Southeast Finland:
www.rajaliikenne.fi

Information on island traffic in the archipelago:
www.saaristoliikenne.fi



If something gets in your way, call the Road Users' Phone Service!



Installing solar panels with sunshine in mind. The ELY Centre assumes responsibility for a healthy environment, sustainable development and curbing climate change.

Sustainable well-being

The ELY Centre works to develop a balanced regional and social structure. Its responsibilities include the promotion of a clean environment, sustainable development and curbing of climate change.

Tasks and services

- Guidance on land use and construction
- Protection and management of the cultural environment
- Protection of biodiversity
- Improvements to the recreational use of nature
- Protection of the environment (land, air, and water)
- Implementation of projects related to the environment, water supply and waterways
- Use and management of water resources

Biodiversity – a prerequisite for life

The ELY Centre develops the network of environmental protection areas and safeguards the protection of species. It plans the management and use of the Natura 2000 areas and implements METSO, a volunteer programme for the protection of the environment. The Centre also promotes the protection of landscapes and maintains ecological values in land-use planning.

Lower emissions and more sustainable consumption

The goals of environmental protection and conservation are ecological improvements, lower emissions and sustainable consumption.

The ELY Centre and the environment:

- Guidance and monitoring in accordance with environmental legislation
- Monitoring of the Regional State Administrative Agency's environmental and water permit decisions
- Protecting the public interest in environmental and water-related issues
- Decisions on notifications of contaminated soil
- Prevention of environmental damage and provision of expert help in countering hazards
- A contact authority for assessment procedures under the Environmental Impact Assessment Act (EIA)
- Providing opinions and statements on the environmental assessment process for plans and programmes (SEA Act)

By raising ecological awareness and with the aid of waste management plans, the ELY Centre encourages consumers to reduce waste and aim for sustainable consumption.

Solid structures, quality construction

A solid social structure and pleasant environment have a powerful effect on the well-being of residents, industry and business and on regional competitiveness.

The ELY Centre promotes and oversees the planning of land use and construction. The guiding principles for the use of land include a functional social structure, economic and ecological sustainability and quality of construction. The Centre is involved in the drafting of regional land use plans, supervises planning, and decides on exceptional permits for such projects as coastal construction.

The ELY Centre fosters the region's cultural environment and heritage by:

- Overseeing the planning of land locally
- Granting assistance for managing the built heritage
- Taking decisions on the preservation of buildings in accordance with the Act on the Protection of Buildings

Clean water

The ELY Centre promotes local water planning measures to achieve a good state of surface water and groundwater. It provides expert advice on the rehabilitation of water bodies and catchment areas, with the aim of improving their condition and usability. In collaboration with the local authorities, local actors and other authorities, the Centre plans and implements relevant projects.

The ELY Centre is responsible for the wider development and monitoring of the water supply, for supervising its planning, and for allocating state support. It promotes sustainable use of groundwater resources by defining groundwater areas and participating in surveys to acquire and protect groundwater.

The ELY Centre's flood protection measures

- Defining flood levels and risk areas
- Providing guidance on construction outside areas at risk of flooding
- Offering protection from flood damage
- Ensuring the safety of dams

The ELY Centre develops the regulation of inland waters to ensure that future water levels and flows will correspond more precisely to the objectives set for water use and the state of the environment.

Comprehensive environmental information and advice for consumers and enterprises:
www.environment.fi

Building heritage portal (in Finnish):
www.rakennusperinto.fi

Website of the Finnish Environmental Administration:
www.environment.fi

Environmental information for enterprises:
www.yrityssuomi.fi/web/enterprise-finland



Samples are taken regularly for monitoring of water quality. The ELY Centre helps to keep the region's water bodies in good condition.

Your Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment Opens New Possibilities

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