

FINNISH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION IN BUILDING

THE GREEN FUTURE





Finland is a Nordic country committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and becoming carbon neutral by 2035¹.

To reach these ambitious targets, Finland needs to transform its society and economy in a fair, inclusive, and resilient way.

Finnish society organizations, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local authorities, and green parties, play a vital role in enhancing climate responsibility and promoting sustainable development in Finland.




Finnish NGOs and Climate Action

NGO Barometer 2023: over 135,000 registered NGOs in Finland, with about 5.5 million members.

According to a survey conducted by SOSTE, the Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health, in 2022, 68% of social and health NGOs had taken action to fight climate change, compared to 61% in 2019.

The actions included reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to the effects of climate change, raising awareness and advocacy, and supporting climate justice.



Examples

- The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC), the largest environmental NGO in Finland, has over 180,000 members and supporters. FANC protects biodiversity, promotes sustainable use of natural resources, and mitigates and adapts to climate change. FANC is also a member of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)⁵.
- The Finnish Red Cross (FRC), the largest humanitarian NGO in Finland, has over 85,000 members and volunteers. FRC assists people affected by disasters, conflicts, and health emergencies in Finland and abroad. FRC also works to prevent and reduce the humanitarian consequences of climate change, such as displacement, food insecurity, and disease outbreaks. FRC is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which has adopted a global strategy for climate action.
- The Finnish development NGO Fingo is a platform for over 300 Finnish civil society organizations working on global development and sustainability. Fingo advocates for a fair and sustainable world where human rights, democracy, and the environment are respected. Fingo also supports its member organizations in integrating climate action and justice into their work. Fingo is a member of CONCORD, the European confederation of development NGOs.

Raising Awareness and Advocacy:

- CSOs actively raise awareness about environmental issues, climate change, and sustainable practices. They engage with communities, policymakers, and businesses to promote eco-friendly solutions.
- Through advocacy campaigns, CSOs influence policies, encourage sustainable practices, and foster public support for green initiatives.



Coordinated Efforts and Shared Goals:

- CSOs collaborate across borders, sharing knowledge and best practices. By working together, they avoid duplicating efforts and maximize impact.
- Their coordinated actions contribute to regional sustainability goals, such as reducing carbon emissions, protecting biodiversity, and promoting clean energy.



Innovation and Adaptation:

- CSOs drive innovation by developing and implementing sustainable solutions. They pilot projects, conduct research, and experiment with new approaches.
- Despite limited financial resources, CSOs find creative ways to address environmental challenges, adapt to changing circumstances, and promote green technologies.



Environmental Governance and Partnerships:

- CSOs act as watchdogs, holding governments and businesses accountable for environmental commitments.
- They collaborate with academia, private sectors, and other stakeholders to enhance environmental governance and ensure effective implementation of green policies.



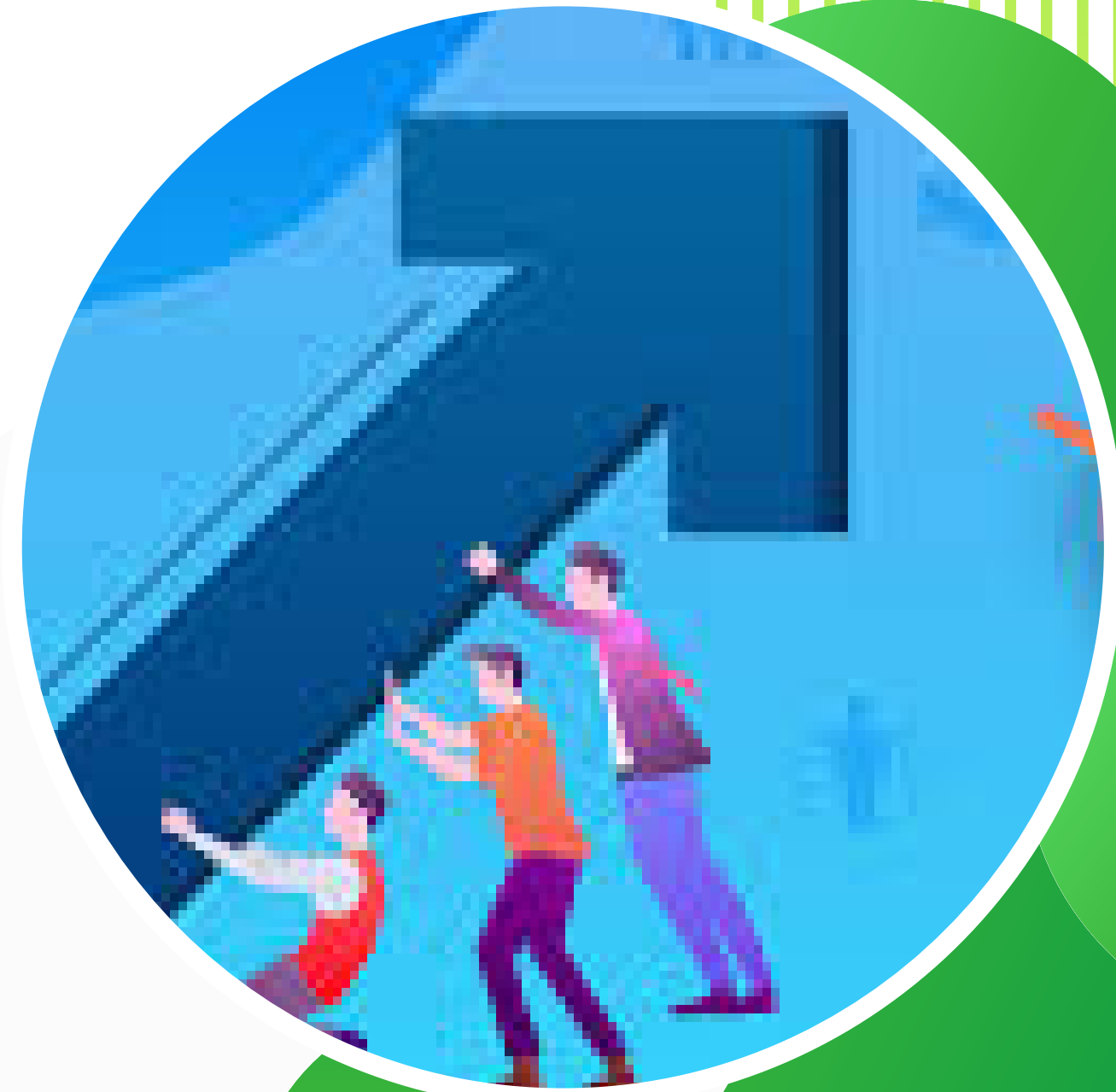
Overcoming Challenges:

- CSOs face obstacles, including limited resources, legal constraints, and societal pressures. However, their resilience and determination drive positive change.
- The COVID-19 pandemic posed additional challenges, but CSOs adapted by focusing on emergency response, digital transformation, and community support.



EU Support and Regional Networks:

- The European Union (EU) recognizes the importance of CSOs in the green transition. It provides support for capacity-building, awareness campaigns, and sustainable development initiatives.
- Regional CSO networks in the Nordic-Baltic region collaborate to achieve sustainable development goals, share experiences, and advocate for a greener future.





**THANK
YOU**