

# Finland's National Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing 2023–2025



Ministry of  
Social Affairs and Health

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# Finland's National Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing 2023–2025

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## Finland's National Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing 2023–2025

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### Abstract

The economy of wellbeing is a decision-making approach where the solutions found by examining the links between various components of wellbeing and the economy help to achieve a better balance between the economic, social and ecological dimensions of sustainability. It is important to develop the economy of wellbeing in order to make the social dimension of sustainability a balanced part of sustainability assessment. This way the economy of wellbeing does not only bring the perspectives of the sustainability of wellbeing, the economy and the environment closer together but it also changes decision-making and administration.

The National Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing includes five recommendations for promoting the economy of wellbeing between 2023 and 2025. These are:

1. continuing the preparation of the guidance model for the economy of wellbeing;
2. examining how the monitoring of wellbeing, as part of sustainability thinking, can be made a more integral part of the key decision-making processes of the central government, regions and municipalities;
3. developing impact assessments and strengthening competence;
4. exercising influence within the EU, incl. the European Semester for economic policy coordination; and
5. strengthening inclusion.

A cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary steering group on the economy of wellbeing appointed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health was responsible for drawing up this Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing that is suitable for Finnish conditions. The Action Plan was prepared by an intersectoral multi-operator division working under the steering group.

<b>Keywords</b>	economy of wellbeing, social sustainability, sustainable development, decision-making systems, public administration
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## Suomen kansallinen hyvinvointitalouden toimintaohjelma 2023–2025

### Sosiaali- ja terveysministeriön julkaisuja 2023:5

Julkaisija	Sosiaali- ja terveysministeriö		
Yhteisötekijä	Sosiaali- ja terveysministeriö		
Kieli	englanti	Sivumäärä	23

#### Tiivistelmä

Hyvinvointitaloudella tarkoitetaan päätöksenteon lähestymistapaa, jossa talouden ja hyvinvoinnin eri osatekijöiden yhteyksien tarkastelun avulla haetut ratkaisut tuottavat nykyistä paremman taloudellisen, sosiaalisen ja ekologisen kestävyyden tasapainon. Hyvinvointitalouden kehittäminen on tärkeää, jotta sosiaalisen kestävyyden ulottuvuus saadaan tasapainoisesti mukaan osaksi kestävyystarkastelua. Näin ollen hyvinvointitalous ei pelkästään tuo hyvinvoinnin, talouden ja ympäristön kestävyyden näkökulmia lähemmäksi toisiaan, vaan se myös muuttaa päätöksentekoa ja hallintoa.

Toimintaohjelmassa on tunnistettu viisi suositusta hyvinvointitalouden edistämiseksi vuosina 2023–2025

1. Jatketaan hyvinvointitalouden ohjausmallin valmistelua
2. Selvitetään, miten hyvinvoinnin seuranta osana kestävyysajattelua saadaan nykyistä vahvemmin osaksi valtion, alueiden ja kuntien keskeisiä päätöksenteon prosesseja
3. Vaikutusarvointien kehittäminen ja osaamisen vahvistaminen
4. EU vaikuttaminen ml. eurooppalainen ohjausjakso
5. Osallisuuden vahvistaminen

Tämän Suomen oloihin sovelletun hyvinvointitalouden toimintaohjelman laatimisesta on vastannut Sosiaali- ja terveysministeriön (STM) asettama monialainen ja toimialarajat ylittävä hyvinvointitalouden ohjausryhmä. Toimintaohjelman valmistelu on toteutettu ohjausryhmän alla toimineessa poikkihallinnollisessa ja monitoimijaisessa jaostossa.

Asiasanat	hyvinvointitalous, sosiaalinen kestävyys, kestävä kehitys, päätöksentekojärjestelmät, julkinen hallinto
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## Finlands nationella handlingsprogram för välfärdsekonomi 2023–2025

### Social- och hälsovårdsministeriets publikationer 2023:5

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**Språk** engelska

**Sidantal** 23

### Referat

Med välfärdsekonomi avses ett angreppssätt där beslutsfattandet utgår från granskning av sambanden mellan olika delfaktorer av ekonomi och välfärd i syfte att få till stånd lösningar som ger en bättre balans mellan ekonomisk, social och ekologisk hållbarhet än för närvarande. Det är viktigt att utveckla välfärdsekonomin för att på ett balanserat sätt få med den sociala hållbarhetsdimensionen i den övergripande hållbarhetsgranskningen. Således innebär välfärdsekonomi inte enbart att de hållbarhetsdimensioner som gäller välmående, ekonomi respektive miljö förs närmare varandra, utan också att beslutsfattandet och förvaltningen förändras.

Handlingsprogrammet innehåller följande fem rekommendationer om vad som bör göras för att främja välfärdsekonomin 2023–2025:

1. fortsätta beredningen av en välfärdsekonomisk styrmodell
2. utreda hur uppföljning av välfärden som en del av ett hållbarhetstänkande kan integreras starkare i statens, regionernas och kommunernas centrala beslutsprocesser
3. utveckla konsekvensbedömningarna och stärka kompetensen
4. påverka inom EU, inklusive den europeiska planeringsterminen
5. stärka delaktigheten.

Social- och hälsovårdsministeriet har tillsatt en förvaltningsövergripande och mångdisciplinär styrgrupp för välfärdsekonomi, som har ansvarat för utarbetandet av detta handlingsprogram för en välfärdsekonomi anpassad till finländska förhållanden. Beredningen av handlingsprogrammet har skett i en förvaltningsövergripande sektion underställd styrgruppen. I sektionen har ingått representanter för ett flertal aktörer.

**Nyckelord** välfärdsekonomi, social hållbarhet, hållbar utveckling, stödsystem för beslutsfattande, offentlig förvaltning

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# 1 Introduction

The economy of wellbeing is a decision-making approach, which enables us to achieve a better balance between the social, economic and ecological dimensions of sustainable development. It creates opportunities to increase wellbeing and support a sustainable economy while taking into account the limits of environmental sustainability. The economy of wellbeing brings the perspectives of wellbeing, economy and environmental sustainability closer together and also changes decision-making and governance.

Developing the economy of wellbeing is important in order to ensure that the dimension of social sustainability can be included in the examination of sustainability in a balanced manner. A balanced examination of sustainability thinking also requires interdisciplinary collaboration and use of approaches typical for different disciplines.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health appointed a multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral steering group for the economy of wellbeing with the task to develop the economy of wellbeing as a tool of decision-making and policy measures adjusted to Finland's circumstances. The steering group was responsible for drawing up the Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing for 2023–2025.

**The objective of Finland's Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing is to integrate the economy of wellbeing into national, regional and local decision-making and to improve balanced consideration of social, environmental and economic sustainability.**

The Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing consists of three parts.

- Part I contains an introduction to the definition of the economy of wellbeing and its basic premises in national and international contexts.
- Part II of the Action Plan discusses practising the economy of wellbeing, the various actions of which it consists, and the way it is visible in national, regional and local decision-making.
- Part III describes recommendations for promoting the economy of wellbeing.



## 2 Part I Basic premises of the economy of wellbeing

### 2.1 Economy of wellbeing as an approach to sustainable decision-making

The economy of wellbeing refers to a decision-making approach in which solutions sought by examining the links between different aspects of the economy and wellbeing result in a better balance between economic, social and ecological sustainability. The basic premise of the economy of wellbeing is that people's wellbeing is the main focus and the starting point for decision-making. Consequently, the economy of wellbeing not only brings the perspectives of wellbeing-related, economic and environmental sustainability closer together but also changes decision-making and governance.

The economy of wellbeing represents an effort to assess the different dimensions of sustainability simultaneously and on an equal basis. Finding a balance between a sustainable economy and social sustainability is essential to ensure ecologically sustainable development, which links the economy of wellbeing to the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. The economy of wellbeing also supports a comprehensive understanding of the interconnection between protecting human and animal health and the ecosystem in line with the One Health mindset and systemic thinking of planetary health and wellbeing. Reciprocity between environmental and human health was also highlighted in the report of the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development, the key conclusion of which is that social care and healthcare must be made a social and political priority and their critical importance for sustainable development and social cohesion must be recognised<sup>1</sup>. Equality and gender equality are a key part of the economy of wellbeing.

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1 Drawing light from the pandemic: A new strategy for health and sustainable development (who.int)

## 2.2 Promotion of the economy of wellbeing in Finland

Finland has been developing and promoting the Economy of Wellbeing approach for long already. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have played an active role in this. Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (SOSTE) introduced this approach 2012 in Finland.

Finland has promoted the economy of wellbeing approach in Europe since 2019, when Finland held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The EU Member States gave their political support for the economy of wellbeing agenda by adopting the Council conclusions on the economy of wellbeing in October 2019.

## 2.3 Economy of wellbeing in the international context

Finland has succeeded in promoting the economy of wellbeing approach and putting it on a permanent footing in the EU and international forums and participated in the networks of key international economy of wellbeing actors. Participation in international discussions and development efforts has also supported addressing social sustainability in national cross-administrative work, including the national implementation of the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility and the preparation of the Government's Sustainability Roadmap. Strengthening this perspective will be increasingly important, for example when assessing the impacts of climate change on health, wellbeing, gender and equality of different population groups.

The economy of wellbeing was the main theme of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health during Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2019. The Council conclusions prepared in a cross-administrative process contain a number of recommendations for measures for the Member States and the Commission. In the EU, the implementation of the conclusions on the economy of wellbeing is linked to the Commission's strategy and work programme, including the implementation of the Pillar of Social Rights and numerous other programmes, such as Economy That Works for the People, the Green Deal and Just Transition.

Finland and the OECD are working closely together to promote the economy of wellbeing. The OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE) serves as an umbrella for the wellbeing themes. The OECD produces important analytics on wellbeing and economy and actively develops work on the economy of wellbeing with its member states. In spring 2023, the OECD produced a report to support Finland's economy of wellbeing work<sup>2</sup>.

The WHO European Region (WHO EURO) has included the economy of wellbeing in its action plan. The Director-General of the WHO convened a high-level Council on Economics of Health for All, which was tasked to produce independent information and recommendations for the WHO and its member states on this topic<sup>3</sup>.

Finland joined the WEGo network (Wellbeing Economy Governments) led by Scotland in 2020. Its members are Finland, Scotland, Wales, Iceland and New Zealand. Membership in the WEGo network has provided Finland with an opportunity to profile itself as a country committed to the economy of wellbeing, to promote and advance economy of wellbeing approach in government activities, and to draw on other countries' good practices.

Finland has promoted the economy of wellbeing approach at United Nations meetings. The Commission for Social Development (CSocD), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) have provided opportunities to promote the economy of wellbeing approach globally. Collaboration with international organisations such as the ILO offer good opportunities to highlight the economy of wellbeing.

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2 Well-being in Finland. Bringing together people, economy and planet. <https://doi.org/10.1787/4ca48f7c-en>

3 Health for All – transforming economies to deliver what matters. <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/373122/9789240080973-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

## 2.4 Preparation of the Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing

A multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral steering group for the economy of wellbeing, which was tasked to develop the economy of wellbeing as a tool of decision-making and policy measures both nationally and internationally, was appointed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The steering group was responsible for drawing up this Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing adjusted to Finland's circumstances. The Action Plan includes measures that will support the realisation of the economy of wellbeing in the government as part of evidence-based decision-making and processes. The Action Plan was drafted by a division operating under the steering group.

In the Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing, the economy of wellbeing means:

- a decision-making approach in which a better balance between economic, social and ecological sustainability is achieved by examining the links between different aspects of the economy and wellbeing
- tapping broad-based information that describes wellbeing (studies, indicators and qualitative information) in decision-making (including the budget process, drafting and implementation of the Government Programme) alongside information describing economic and environmental sustainability.

## 3 Part II Goal state and realisation of the economy of wellbeing

### 3.1 Object by 2025

**The economy of wellbeing will have been integrated into national, regional and local decision-making, improving balanced consideration of social, economic and environmental sustainability.**

In decision-making and resource allocation, investments focus on actions that have positive impacts on all dimensions of sustainability and efforts are made to alleviate negative impact of any policies to human wellbeing and economic and ecological sustainability.

This is indicated by the following national (government) processes:

- Indicators for the economy of wellbeing have been developed, and the government will have agreed upon their use in its decision-making and monitoring.
- A practice for assessing the impacts of different dimensions of sustainability together has been developed, and its use has been agreed upon.
- The drafting of decisions is guided by ex-ante impact assessment.
- Ex-post evaluations of impacts are used in government decision-making.
- Phenomenon-based budgeting is put into practice in jointly agreed processes and reform projects that are central to the welfare of the population.

The economy of wellbeing is integrated into decision-making in regions and municipalities, making the promotion of residents' wellbeing an essential aspect of economic and operational planning and addressing ecological sustainability. Wellbeing is promoted in cooperation with municipalities, regional actors, NGOs, companies and municipalities' residents. This is manifested in the following local and regional processes:

- municipalities and regions have access to sufficient and up-to-date data on residents' wellbeing, economy and ecological sustainability.
- municipalities and regional actors assess the impacts of their decisions on the population's wellbeing, the economy and ecological sustainability.
- municipalities and regional actors deliver services as indicated by their residents' needs.
- municipalities and regional actors have evaluated good practices and sufficient resources for launching new measures.
- public authorities and elected representatives of municipalities and regional actors have access to user friendly information and competence for putting into practice and monitoring the economy of wellbeing.

### 3.2 Knowledge base building, indicators, and monitoring

The economy of wellbeing knowledge base combines information on the state and trends of wellbeing, the economy and the environment. It helps to identify interdependencies between these areas and to monitor the impacts of the measures taken. The economy of wellbeing promotes the inclusion of social sustainability in examinations of sustainability. There are different options for measuring the economy of wellbeing, which are linked to the definitions of wellbeing and approaches to the economy of wellbeing in use.

### 3.3 The economy of wellbeing in central government processes

A precondition for improving the integration of the economy of wellbeing into central government processes is a broad-based and cross-administrative approach. This section identifies some central government processes in which the economy of wellbeing can be incorporated. It also discusses briefly the economy of wellbeing approach in the European Semester for economic policy coordination. In addition to central government, the economy of wellbeing is put into practice in regional and local decision-making. The goal is that decision-making at different levels is in line with the economy of wellbeing approach. This is the only way to achieve the intended societal change that the economy of wellbeing aims for.

The Government Programme is a political action plan agreed on by the parties in Government that describes the Government's objectives and main areas of activity. It sets out the guidelines that the Government intends to follow during its term of office. The Prime Minister oversees the implementation of the Government Programme and sees to it that the Government agrees on appropriate implementation procedures at the beginning of its term.

Every fourth year futures reviews are prepared by ministries lead by each ministry's Permanent Secretary. Their objective is to produce overviews and anticipate societal trends for political debate and government formation talks. All sectoral ministries participate in a joint foresight working group, which develops strategic foresight to support decision-making.

The government budgetary process plays a key role in terms of the economy of wellbeing. The four-year General Government Fiscal Plan produced each spring provides a guideline to prepare the following year's budget proposal for the administrative branches.

Examinations of sustainability are prepared by public officials to facilitate the government's work. The purpose of this is to combine different models of sustainability thinking (including the economy of wellbeing, green transition, planetary health and wellbeing) into a single entity and produce regular and broad-based assessments of the different dimensions of sustainability to underpin policy planning and decision-making. In addition to monitoring past progress, it looks to the future. Its task is to improve society's capacity for achieving an extensive sustainability transition and to create capabilities for sustainable action at the time of new, as yet unknown crises.

Central government steering systems are in a constant flux. Rather than individual and clearly delimited sets of issues, steering increasingly comes across phenomena that transcend the boundaries of administrative branches. No systemic change can be achieved through practices built for individual sectors and exclusively using conventional regulatory instruments and the methods of guidance by resources. Getting to grips with and managing intertwined and complex policy issues require an overall view as well as different steering methods and combinations of methods<sup>4</sup>.

In international evaluations, Finland has for several years come up as the world's best nation in promoting sustainability. Finland has also been found the happiest country in the world. Consequently, Finland is often seen as an example worth following. The Agenda 2030, which was adopted in 2015, has reached the halfway point of its term. Finland has demonstrated an ability to critically consider its national sustainability challenges and to look for new approaches to them.

Three issues have been highlighted in efforts to develop the steering and monitoring of the economy of wellbeing: integrating ecological sustainability into developing the steering of the economy of wellbeing, developing tools simultaneously for different administrative levels, and strengthening participation in the planning and realisation of the economy of wellbeing.

### 3.3.1 Impact assessment

Impact assessment is a process associated with the drafting of legislation and official plans and programmes, the aim of which is to support public discussion on their preparation, implementation, monitoring and drafting. Impact assessment primarily produces information on the impacts of the proposal to be drafted and its options. Its objectives also include supporting participation and cooperation as well as resolving conflicts.

To promote knowledge-based decision-making, reliable impact assessments based on research evidence are needed. The preconditions for this are methodologically improving and building up competence and facilitating access to research

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4 Government steering Beyond 2020 : From Regulatory and Resource Management to Systems navigation. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-162-9>



datasets. While the knowledge base is large, it is fragmented. To support its expert consolidation, a clear, comprehensible and widely accepted economy of wellbeing framework is needed.

An adequately participatory approach is also needed for high-quality drafting of decisions, where key groups are heard already in the preparation phase. In addition, sufficient and clear information must be compiled for decision-makers. Allocating adequate resources to the drafting and impact assessments of decisions is a economy of wellbeing measure. We also need to know how information produced by impact assessments has changed decision-making and operating practices.

Piloting practices in legislative projects and major structural reforms and programmes would be crucial. Ex-ante impact assessment is underpinned by existing research which, in turn, is typically based on ex-post evaluations of previous reforms. Reliable ex-post evaluations are only possible if the ex-post evaluation of the reform, once implemented, is possible by using comparable groups that are affected differently by the reform. In order to develop the knowledge base regarding impact, planning the ex-post evaluations should be integrated into the drafting of legislation.

### 3.3.2 European Semester for economic policy coordination

During the European Semester, the Member States adapt their budgetary and economic policies to rules agreed upon at EU level. The focus of the European Semester is on the first half of each year. Finland's National Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing should be integrated into economic and social policy coordination in keeping with the European Semester. Several sets of economy of wellbeing tasks and measures are already incorporated in the European Pillar of Social Rights, for example, which in turn has been included in the Semester.

The Council conclusions on the economy of wellbeing adopted by the EU Council of Ministers (24 October 2019) highlighted the importance of the European Semester as a framework for coordinating Member States' economic policies and a tool for monitoring the implementation of key Social Pillar areas. The number of specific recommendations on social, employment, education and equality policies, health and long-term care, pensions, poverty and social exclusion has gradually increased, and currently almost one half of them concern these issues. Consequently, cross-sectoral cooperation and an appropriate balance between these policies and economic policy play a key role in the European Semester.

In its Communication on the European Green Deal issued in December 2019, the Commission announced its intention to incorporate the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the European Semester. This supports the integration of the Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing into the Semester.

Developing further quantitative and qualitative data collection and statistical methods is an essential part of the Action Plan for the Economy of Wellbeing. They are used to regularly measure and monitor people's wellbeing. The argument that political decision-making in the Semester should be based not only on economic policy indicators but also on a comprehensive analysis of different aspects of wellbeing has also been highlighted in the context of the European Semester.

### 3.4 Economy of wellbeing in local and regional decision-making

At the regional and municipal level, the economy of wellbeing is a precondition for welfare and vitality. Municipalities and wellbeing services counties follow the economy of wellbeing principles in practice as part of their decision-making. To promote wellbeing, municipalities and regions need adequate resources and a sufficiently free hand to respond to local wellbeing phenomena. The promotion of wellbeing should focus on producing impact rather than on monitoring processes. Regions and municipalities should also together identify the impacts of their cooperation on residents' wellbeing and health. This requires effective interaction and communication channels as well as cooperation with NGOs, companies and civil society. Municipalities and wellbeing services counties should also be encouraged more strongly to develop their competence and experiment with effective solutions.

Finland has good prerequisites for bringing the economy of wellbeing approach to bear on different administrative levels. Effective practices exist for cooperation between different administrative levels in Finland. Joint central and local government processes have worked quite smoothly for decades in such areas as wellbeing and health promotion. In regional policy, cooperation between the central government and regions has also proven that different governance and policy steering processes can be promoted dialogically and interactively, yet efficiently, in Finland.

## 3.5 Research and competence

To examine the combined effects of social, economic and ecological factors, multidisciplinary research is needed. Research evidence can be used to build indicators, monitor the current situation and assess the impacts of decisions. Credible impact assessments must be supported by research evidence on the impacts of previous decisions.

It is important that impact assessments cover the analysis of inequality impacts, opportunities for which are created by register datasets and standardised microsimulation methods. In addition to simulations, it is also important to study the actual behaviour of people, which in turn provides opportunities for natural experimental designs. The perspective of subjective wellbeing should also be included in the assessments.

In order to put the economy of wellbeing into practice, competence is needed by both those participating in decision-making processes and those producing the knowledge base. It is important that drafters of decisions examine the matter to be prepared from multiple perspectives and consider its impacts on different parties and target groups. Competence in drafting also includes cross-administrative cooperation, participatory engagement of different sectors and preparation that is as open as possible.

### 3.5.1 Influencing and communication – Strengthening inclusion and trust

The economy of wellbeing is about striving to understand what is important for people and communities in terms of wellbeing, now and in the future, and how economic solutions can support this. Different countries have approached and attempted to understand wellbeing and its significance in different ways. Some have started from a theoretical framework, while others have used various participatory methods and data collections. Understanding people's views and expectations regarding 'future wellbeing' is vital. Wellbeing should be seen as a process and end result. It is based on interaction, participation and trust.

The basic premises of the economy of wellbeing include the goal of strengthening the equality and inclusion of everyone, including gender equality. The preconditions for this also include an autonomous and active civil society. A vital civil society that engages different groups of citizens is an essential part of the economy and wellbeing as a whole. Strengthening, promoting and evaluating autonomous civil society should be part of central government, regional and local decision-making.

Including information on civil society, which contains data on NGO activities and information produced by civic activities on different phenomena and the situation of different target groups in the information that describes wellbeing would be useful. Interaction and partnership between the government and civil society should be developed, ensuring that this information is also available for drafting and making decisions. This information also supports impact assessment related to decision-making.

So far, more broad-based discussion on the role of the private sector in the economy of wellbeing has not taken place in Finland. In the international context, there are examples of the private sector's role and cooperation. Such examples should be collected and an operating model suitable for Finland should be developed to ensure that the economy of wellbeing will be realised in different sectors of society across a broad front.

## 4 Part III Recommendations for promoting the economy of wellbeing 2023–2025

### 4.1 Recommendations

1. Continuing the preparation of a steering model for the economy of wellbeing
  - a. Defining a framework for examining social sustainability and using it as part of overall consideration of sustainability. Developing suitable indicators for the framework as a tool for monitoring the economy of wellbeing. Tapping cross-disciplinary research and expertise to produce the framework and indicators.
  - b. Appointing an independent expert forum or scientific panel on social sustainability. Its task will be to strengthen understanding of social sustainability by building a big picture and processing multidisciplinary information on the state of wellbeing to support decision-making. This task can also be entrusted to an existing group that has sufficient expertise in the factors affecting the various dimensions of wellbeing.
  - c. Including a regularly published report in the steering model for the economy of wellbeing, or a section on the economy of wellbeing in other key reports.
  - d. Integrating the economy of wellbeing into government steering. This can be piloted as part of the steering of the wellbeing services, the planning of which is currently under way.

2. Exploring ways in which the monitoring of wellbeing can be integrated more strongly into central government, regional and municipal decision-making processes as part of sustainability thinking.
  - a. The methods to be examined will include more comprehensive inclusion of the wellbeing perspective in the knowledge base that underpins decision-making (including forecasts used in planning and phenomenon-based budgeting).
  - b. Investigating the possibilities of incorporating expert knowledge of the state of wellbeing in the established processes of government decision-making.
3. Developing impact assessments and building competence
  - a. Piloting impact assessment from the economy of wellbeing perspective in one or two legislative projects/reforms. Based on these pilots, the needs to develop impact assessments will be analysed, making it possible to address the different dimensions of sustainability in a more balanced manner in the assessment.
  - b. Developing methods for enabling ex-post evaluations in connection with the planning of measures and for producing the evaluations. Implementing reforms in a way that facilitates ex-post evaluation (for example, step-wise introduction of reforms).
  - c. Building up the impact assessment competence and resources of the ministries and other actors.
  - d. Developing and using evaluation methods in the ministries and research institutes.
  - e. Providing more opportunities for continuous cross-administrative learning in order to support response to systemic and wicked challenges, to develop new steering methods for the public sector, and to complement the range of instruments available at the time of societal multi-crises.

#### 4. EU-level influencing, including in the context of the European Semester

- a. Strengthening the reciprocal relationship between wellbeing policy and economic growth, balanced and multi-sectoral cooperation between different policy areas, evidence-based approach as well as preventive and early-stage measures to support the implementation of the Social Pillar and the UN 2030 Agenda. Making an effort to influence the new Commission's work programme, and taking into account and strengthening the principles of the economy of wellbeing approach in the preparation of the Council's strategic programme.
- b. Stepping up the assessment of the wellbeing impacts of legislative initiatives and major policy initiatives, also from the perspective of economic policy. In cooperation with EU institutions, improving and developing reliable and internationally commensurate indicators for measuring and monitoring human wellbeing in the Union, taking into account country-specific situations and the work carried out by other key international actors. When developing indicators, ensuring their fitness for purpose.
- c. Linking the economy of wellbeing thinking to such new openings as the Mental Health Initiative and the EU's Healthier Together EU NCD initiative.

#### 5. Strengthening inclusion

- a. Strengthening civil society's participation in developing tools for the economy of wellbeing and ensuring inclusive communication and interaction as part of the steering model.
- b. Setting up a citizens' forum or similar, among other things in connection with the publication of reports.
- c. Developing the knowledge base describing civil society activities and their impact and including it in the knowledge base of the economy of wellbeing.
- d. Exploring different models for stepping up cooperation and dialogue with the private sector.

## 4.2 Implementation of the recommendations

The Action Plan examines putting the economy of wellbeing into practice as part of general government processes. To mainstream the economy of wellbeing approach in general government processes, structures that support its realisation and incentives for changing practices need to be identified. The realisation of the economy of wellbeing must be supported by a designated party, an 'owner', to ensure that cross-administrative work makes headway.

The ministries' futures reviews have highlighted the promotion of sustainable development. This lays the foundation for promoting the economy of wellbeing in the government. These recommendations will also be implemented as part of the project titled Impact assessment in the economy of wellbeing (2022–2024), which will be carried out as part of Finland's Sustainable Growth Programme.



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