

National report for Finland 4 / 2017: no secrets

Date	1.2.2018 (time frame October – December 2017)
Country	Finland
Organisation	Suomen Rautatiematkustajat ry, http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/
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Positive points for public transport in our country:

1. Not surprisingly, opposition lost the [interpellation vote](#) on the rail reform (95-77¹).
2. Foreign companies are interested in our [passenger rail traffic](#) as you can figure out the [names](#).
3. The Government practiced [open government](#) in tendering [Southern Finnish](#) regional train services. It remains to be seen what effect the public feedback will have, if any.
4. VR reduced its [Saver ticket prices](#) by [ten per cent](#) in November.
5. The City of Helsinki aims to accelerate tram timings (short summary [in English](#)).
6. West Metro [finally opened](#) on [18th November](#).
7. Improvement work of the rail line [Seinäjoki - Oulu](#) was completed in November².
8. [Henna](#) commuter [station](#) between Helsinki and Lahti was opened in December.
9. "Additional" (or merely recently withdrawn) trains were introduced all over the country in December³.
10. HSL [streamlined ticket prices](#) in favour of the passengers.

Negative points for public transport in our country:

1. Planning, administrative, economical and operational flaws of the West Metro will most probably be reported in the future (as it happens, you find only positive things [in English](#) while one should understand Finnish⁴ to see the darker side).
2. One of the biggest lost property companies (VR and Finnair among its clients) has overcharged its services. Only the Supreme Administrative Court made an end to the policy.⁵
3. As HSL [quit selling tickets](#) in trains, many conductors have had problems with the new situation⁶ (what's the purpose if you may not sell tickets?). On the other hand, some have resorted to the "by the book" attitude while a foreigner was tossed away from a train in the dead of night⁷. But there have been attitude problems outside the HSL area, too. Near Tampere, a 78-year old lady was reprimanded for buying her mobile ticket with "a wrong kind of mobile phone"⁸.
4. Trains have been so crowded that VR has had to [return retired cars](#) to traffic (however, long distance passenger numbers are still below the 2014 figures). Meanwhile, such cars were [exposed](#) to the "elements" and only after the Ministry expressed concern, VR found safer storage facilities to them.
5. Because of slow orders, train times between Helsinki and Joensuu were slowed some 5 – 10 minutes in December⁹.
6. The Finnish Market Court fined several bus companies (one of them owned by VR) for [prohibited restraints on competition](#) in December.

NOTE: Feel free to ask further details, if this report and links are not informative enough.

¹ <https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-9865357?origin=rss>

² <https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-9955370?origin=rss>

³ <https://www.lvm.fi/-/ministeri-berner-junaliikenteeseen-lisayksia-eri-puolille-maata-960045>

⁴ <https://www.hs.fi/kaupunki/art-2000005395331.html>,

<https://helsinginmetro.wordpress.com/2017/10/04/erityvistilintarkastus-17-sivua/>,

http://www.iltalehti.fi/kotimaa/201710052200440617_u0.shtml,

<https://helsinginmetro.wordpress.com/2017/10/23/voiko-sekavammaksi-menna/>,

<https://www.hs.fi/kaupunki/art-2000005429770.html>, <https://helsinginmetro.wordpress.com/2017/11/06/13-poimintaa-mustasta-muistioista/>,

<https://motiivilehti.fi/lehti/artikkeli/lansimetro-se-maksoi-miljardin-mutta-vessat-unohtuivat/>

⁵ <https://www.hs.fi/kotimaa/art-2000005442824.html>

⁶ <https://www.hs.fi/kaupunki/art-2000005448003.html>

⁷ <https://www.hs.fi/mielipide/art-2000005453840.html?share=90f52756d8e41e0b3c093dfe8a8e80f6>

⁸ <https://www.aamulehti.fi/uutiset/ritva-keso-78-joutui-vrn-konduktooriin-haukkumaksi-koska-ei-omista-alypuhelinta-minua-ei-ole-ikina-noyryytetty-ja-halveerattu-niin-200486849>

⁹ <https://www.verkkouutiset.fi/junaradan-huono-kunto-pidentaa-matka-aikoja-ita-suomessa/>