

## National report for Finland – October 2014

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Country Finland  
Organisation Suomen Rautatiematkustajat ry, <http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/>  
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### Positive points for public transport in our country:

1. The City of Tampere chose the tramway project<sup>1</sup> procurement consultants<sup>2</sup>, building set to start by 2016.
2. Against all odds ("the specific characters"), a municipal initiative was presented to build four new halts in Kangasala on existing regional train route Tampere–Haapamäki by 2016.<sup>3</sup>
3. VR and Finnair now offer air-and-rail tickets between St. Petersburg and international destinations connecting via Helsinki (stopovers in Helsinki allowed).<sup>4</sup>
4. Helsinki rolling stock firm Junakalusto Oy ordered 34 more Stadler FLIRT EMUs<sup>5</sup> (the downside "naturally" being that older VR owned units will be scrapped).
5. Our complaint against the Finnish Government is proceeding in the EU bureaucracy<sup>6</sup>, although the official letter still remains to be sent<sup>7</sup> (see national reports September 2013, January and June 2014).
6. While not nice for those left at the platform, the bus reform has increased passenger numbers<sup>8</sup> and led to lower prices at least on certain routes<sup>9</sup>.

### Negative points for public transport in our country:

1. Despite appeals to the Supreme Administrative Court<sup>10</sup> by us<sup>11</sup>, the Town of Mikkeli<sup>12</sup>, five local associations as well as some private individuals<sup>13</sup>, trains ceased to stop at Haukivuori on August, 10<sup>14</sup> (see national report June 2014). As the case is still pending, the decision should not have been carried into effect.
2. VR reduced the number of trains at weekends between Helsinki and Turku<sup>15</sup> starting June, 16. This is evidently to optimize "needs" between VR's rail and bus branches and certainly no matter what the passengers want.
3. VR closed ticket booths at 11 stations in August, causing among other things students having to fetch certain type of tickets from 190 kilometres away<sup>16</sup>.
4. While we are still waiting to see the official EU reaction (see p.p. five), our fresh Minister of Transport and Communications underlines flexibility to market opening rules because of "the specific characters" of Finland<sup>17</sup> while attending The Transport Ministers meeting in Luxembourg on October, 8<sup>18</sup>.

NOTE: Google translator might help with the text links unless you ask details from us.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.tampere.fi/english/transportandstreets/tramway.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.tampere.fi/tampereinfo/viestinta/tiedotteet/2014/aqKbcqizg.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.kangasalansanommat.fi/index.php/uutisia/etusivun-nostot/2052T>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.vrgroup.fi/en/vrgroup/newsroom/news/vr-and-finnair-partnership-allegro-train-to-be-included-as-part-of-finnairs-international-flight-service-260920140805/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.railwaygazette.com/news/passenger/single-view/view/helsinki-exercises-second-flirt-option.html>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/eu-kantelu/DOC\\_67378.pdf](http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/eu-kantelu/DOC_67378.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/eu\\_law/infringements/application\\_monitoring\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/eu_law/infringements/application_monitoring_en.htm)

<sup>8</sup> [http://yle.fi/uutiset/ylibuukattu\\_onnibus\\_jatti\\_matkustajia\\_jyvaskytaan/7351265](http://yle.fi/uutiset/ylibuukattu_onnibus_jatti_matkustajia_jyvaskytaan/7351265)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.ess.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/2014/07/18/essn-vertailu-bussimatkan-saa-jopa-pilkkahintaan-vr-kalpenee-onnibus.comin-ja-savonlinjan-hintakisassa>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.kho.fi/en/index.html>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/SRM\\_Haukivuorivalitus\\_20140616.pdf](http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/SRM_Haukivuorivalitus_20140616.pdf)

[http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/SRM\\_Haukivuorivalitus\\_taydennys.pdf](http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/SRM_Haukivuorivalitus_taydennys.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/haukivuori/Mikkeli\\_valitus%204.7.2014.pdf](http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/haukivuori/Mikkeli_valitus%204.7.2014.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/haukivuori/Valitus\\_KHO\\_1le\\_30.6.2014.pdf](http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/haukivuori/Valitus_KHO_1le_30.6.2014.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <http://vaunut.org/kuva/95088?s=1>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.ts.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/637607/VR+karsii+junavuoroja+Turun+ja+Helsingin+valilla>

<sup>16</sup> [http://yle.fi/uutiset/vrn\\_lipunmyyntien\\_sulkemisesta\\_tuli\\_opiskelijoiden\\_ongelma\\_osta\\_lippu\\_190\\_kmn\\_paa\\_sta/7406546](http://yle.fi/uutiset/vrn_lipunmyyntien_sulkemisesta_tuli_opiskelijoiden_ongelma_osta_lippu_190_kmn_paa_sta/7406546)

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.lvm.fi/tiedote/4421976/ministeri-risikko-rautateiden-henkiloliikenteen-avaaminen-suunniteltava-hyvin>

<sup>18</sup> <http://italia2014.eu/en/news/post/ottobre/tte-lussemburgo/>