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Company formation in Finland

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Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	Oy (osakeyhtiö, private limited company) [1]
Registry	Trade Register (Finnish Patent and Registration Office, PRH) [1]
Minimum capital	None [1]
Directors	Board of 1–5 members (a deputy is needed if fewer than 3) [1]
Local director	At least one board member and one deputy resident in the EEA, unless the registry grants an exemption [1]
Corporate tax	20% [2]
VAT / sales tax	25.5% [2]
Typical timeline	Usually 1–2 weeks online [1]
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [7]
Currency	Euro (EUR)

In short: To set up a company in Finland, most founders form an Oy, registered with the Trade Register (Finnish Patent and Registration Office, PRH). [1] Minimum capital: none. Corporate tax: 20%. Registration: usually 1–2 weeks online (as of November 2026).

The Finnish **osakeyhtiö (Oy)** is registered with the **Trade Register** of the Finnish Patent and Registration Office through the joint YTJ service. It has no minimum capital, but at least one board member and one deputy must live in the EEA unless an exemption is granted.

Business structures

Most founders in Finland form an Oy, registered with the Trade Register (Finnish Patent and Registration Office, PRH). [1] **Other forms are listed below.**

- **Oy** – private limited company
- **Oyj** – public limited company
- **Toiminimi** – sole trader

Requirements

Minimum share capital in Finland (2026): none. Directors required: board of 1–5 members (a deputy is needed if fewer than 3). Local resident director: at least one board member and one deputy resident in the EEA, unless the registry grants an exemption. [1]

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: none.
- Directors: board of 1–5 members (a deputy is needed if fewer than 3).
- Local residency: at least one board member and one deputy resident in the EEA, unless the registry grants an exemption.
- A registered office address in Finland.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.
- Beneficial owners reported to the beneficial owners register at the Trade Register.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in Finland (2026): usually 1–2 weeks online. [1] **The usual steps are:**

1. Choose the company form and check that the name is available.

2. Prepare and sign the articles of association.
3. File the registration with the Trade Register (Finnish Patent and Registration Office, PRH).
4. Receive the company's registration number, and pay in the share capital where required.
5. Register for corporate tax and VAT or sales tax with the Finnish Tax Administration (Vero).

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in Finland in 2026 is 20%. [2] **Standard VAT or sales tax: 25.5%.** [2]

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	20%
VAT / indirect tax	25.5%
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	Depends on the payer and recipient; see the Double tax treaties section

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in Finland: Companies file financial statements with the Trade Register and a corporate tax return with the Finnish Tax Administration. [1]

Double tax treaties

Finland has a network of double tax treaties. A double tax treaty decides which country may tax cross-border income and usually caps the withholding tax the paying country can charge.

Domestic withholding tax on payments to non-resident companies

Finland's rates depend on the legal form of the payer and recipient; dividends and royalties to non-resident companies are generally taxed at source unless a treaty or EU directive applies, and interest is generally exempt.

Within the EU, the Parent-Subsidiary and Interest and Royalties Directives can reduce these rates to 0% for qualifying group payments.

The reduced rate for each partner country is set by the treaty concerned; PwC's withholding tax summary for Finland lists them.

Domestic rates from the PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries withholding tax quick chart (November 2026). Treaty benefits require proof of tax residence and are subject to anti-abuse rules.

Frequently asked questions

How long does it take to register a company in Finland?

Typical registration time in Finland: usually 1–2 weeks online (as of November 2026), once all documents are ready. Opening a bank account and tax registrations can take longer.

What is the minimum share capital for a company in Finland?

Minimum share capital in Finland: none (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in Finland in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in Finland in 2026 is 20%. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

Can a foreigner own 100% of a company in Finland?

Yes. There is no nationality requirement for shareholders. Local director rule in Finland: at least one board member and one deputy resident in the EEA, unless the registry grants an exemption.

Official registries and resources

- Trade Register (Finnish Patent and Registration Office, PRH)
- Finnish Tax Administration (Vero)

Figures as of November 2026. Rates, thresholds and procedures change; confirm with the official registry, the tax authority or a local adviser before filing.

See also

- Comparison of company formation by country
- Company formation in the United Kingdom
- Company formation in Germany
- Company formation in Poland
- Company formation in Ireland
- All countries

References

Entries marked **Official** are the registry, government and tax authority sources for this country; footnote numbers in the infobox point to them.

1. Official Trade Register (Finnish Patent and Registration Office, PRH) . Government of Finland. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Finnish Tax Administration (Vero) . Government of Finland. Accessed November 2026.
3. Finland: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 09 September 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
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