



Ministry of
Social Affairs and Health

Country update - Finland

Expert Group on Alcohol and Substance Use (ASA EG)

June 18th, 2026



Tobacco and Nicotine

- An amendment to the Tobacco Act:
 - The aim is to make it easier for housing companies to ban smoking on balconies and inside the apartments.
 - Under the current Tobacco Act, housing companies can apply for a smoking ban from municipalities. In the future, municipalities wouldn't impose smoking bans anymore.
 - The aim is also to ban CBD and some other cannabinoids from tobacco products and tobacco substitutes (such as e-cigarettes and pouches).
 - Also in the parliament, an amendment to the Act on the Rental of Residential Flats (a default smoking ban)
- Nicotine pouches: the transition period for plain packaging ends in the beginning of August 2026
- New working group for the development of tobacco and nicotine policy will be appointed soon



Drugs

- The Finnish government, welfare areas and NGOs are taking action to reduce drug related deaths among young people. The government is allocating 10,9 million euros to fund these projects in 2025–2027.
- New legislation is being drafted in 2026. If successful in the Finnish parliament in autumn of 2026, they could take effect in 2027.
 - Removing legislative barriers to access to naloxone nasal spray, an opioid antidote.
 - Tackling more effectively the so called "legal highs" phenomenon by banning new psychoactive substances by groups ("generic classification") like nitazenes, cathinones, synthetic cannabinoids etc.
- The government is also funding projects to eliminate hepatitis C with 13,75 million euros in 2025–2027.



Gambling: Finland's gambling monopoly is ending

- Under the new Gambling Act (10/2026), betting games, online slot and casino games, and online money bingo will be opened to competition under a licensing system.
- The aim of the new Act is to prevent and reduce gambling-related harm and to improve the channelling rate of the gambling system.
- Most provisions of the new Act will enter into force on 1 July 2027.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (MSAH) will remain responsible for monitoring, researching, and assessing gambling-related harm, as well as for developing prevention and treatment.
- The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) carries out these duties under the mandate of the MSAH.
- The reform includes a centralized self-exclusion system and a data register for monitoring and research on gambling-related harm.
- The new Act also introduces new state grants to support the prevention and reduction of gambling-related harm.



Alcohol

- Numerous legislative amendments aimed at promoting fair and open competition
 - Allowing home delivery of alcoholic beverages
 - Clarifying cross-border distance selling
 - Allowing online marketing of strong alcoholic beverages
 - Expanding the right of small producers of alcoholic beverages to sell their products from the place of manufacture to consumers
- legislative proposals under consideration in Parliament
- Previously during this government term, the retail percentage limit for fermented beverages was raised to 8%

Thank you!