

# Observations on the Finnish healthcare system

MP Aki Lindén

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Member of Parliament since 2019

Minister of Health 2022

CEO, University Hospital Helsinki 2010–2018

CEO, University Hospital Turku 2001–2010

Chief Medical Officer, Provincial State Office (Southwest Finland) 1995–2000

Managing Director, Primary Health Care (City of Pori) 1987–1994

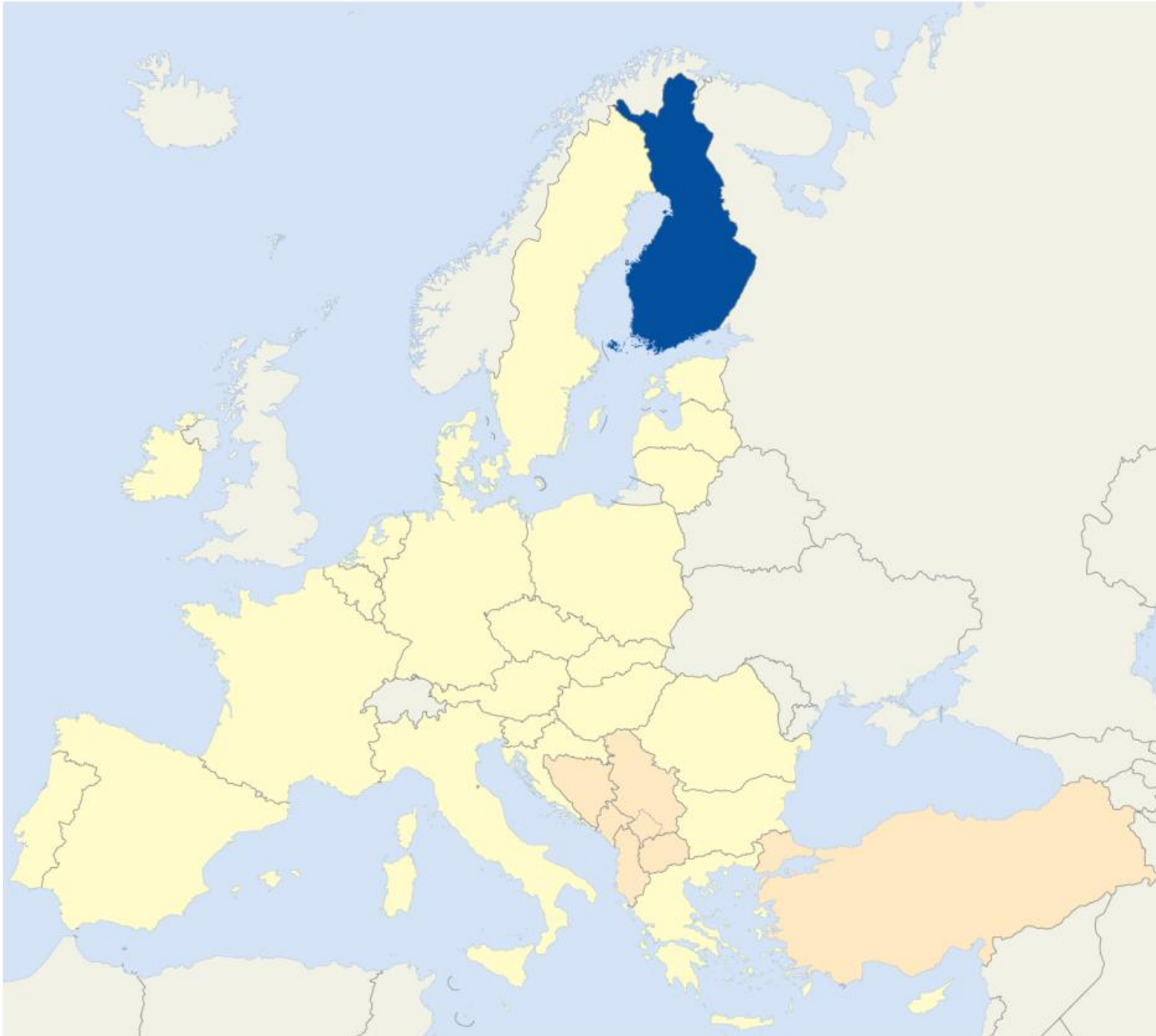
Senior Lecturer in Healthcare, University of Turku 1984–1987

General Practitioner, Turku 1978–1987

MD, MPH

Specialist in primary health care

Specialist in community health



Population: 5.6 million

GDP: €300 billion (~\$320 billion)

Life expectancy:  
Men 79.6 years  
Women 84.8 years

Health care  
expenditure: 10 % of  
GDP

5 university hospitals

15 large central hospitals

20 smaller hospitals

Public funding: 80 %

Private funding (patients & employers):

20 %

22 regional health authorities, funded by the state (capitation model)

Separate occupational health system

Extensive private healthcare (self-paid)

Medicines and travel costs covered by social insurance

# Health and social services reform in 2023

Previous funding: 75 % municipalities, 25 % state

Elected representatives:

Parliament

21 regional councils

300 municipalities

Investments in public health care financed by the state

Strong private sector operating alongside the public system

# Challenges

Labour shortage in the sector

Funding

Overlapping systems

Access to care and waiting times in public health care

# Strengths

Highly skilled professionals and advanced medical expertise

Strong infrastructure

High public trust (though slightly declining recently)