

Initiatives in Finland

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There has been many changes in Finland during this conference period. I try to present major issues that have happened or are going on now having influence on Finnish Infrastructure branch.

Perhaps the biggest change was reformation of the Transport Administration. Finnish Transport Agency was established at the beginning of year 2010 together with the Finnish Transport Safety Agency. The first one takes care of Finnish road, railway and waterways network, the other regulates safety on all traffic in Finland covering road, rail, water and aviation traffic.

The Finnish Traffic Agency has experimental program with the Finnish Association of Consulting Firms on which FTA takes new people to projects to learn project management or road planning skills. These learning positions were included in competitive bidding so that all offers must have one or two learning persons within calculated work amounts and costs.

In education field Finnish university system has separated from state at beginning of year 2010. This has made major changes to education system and to universities possibilities to sell training programs to market. The Finnish Traffic Agency has made a few new training programs with universities Further Education Centers after this change. Also Universities of Applied Sciences have started again programs on Construction Site Management, which was closed in the early 1990's.

Last but not least of these changes is the Finnish Institute of Public Management Ltd getting on "in-house" development organization status at the beginning of year 2010. This institute offers more than 300 training sessions annually to Finnish public sector organizations which can order them without competitive bidding.