



Classification of the Finnish NPO sector

In the National Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, an NPO is defined as follows:

NPOs are legal persons, groups and groupings that primarily operate on a non-profit basis. An actor engaged in profit-driven activities may also be an NPO if the activities are partially on a non-profit basis.

An NPO raises, receives and/or uses or relays funds or other economic support for charitable, religious, educational, social, fraternal or ideological purposes or for other types of charity, or for sports, leisure-related, artistic, cultural or advocacy activities.

Most of the NPOs operate as non-profit associations, foundations, federations, political parties or other organisations.

The following list provides a detailed classification of the entities in the Finnish NPO sector.

Associations

There is a large number of various types of associations operating on a non-profit basis in Finland. Some associations engage in business activities as a taxpayer.

Associations can largely be categorised as follows:

Political associations

- party associations (political parties, their regional and municipal associations, local associations)
- women's organisations, youth organisations and student organisations of political parties
- other political associations (including electoral associations, the cooperation and support associations of political parties, associations of independent candidates)



Associations related to professions and businesses

- labour market organisations (employers' organisations, trade unions of employees and salaried employees, and associations of agricultural producers and forest owners)
- associations related to different professions/businesses and their promotion
- personnel associations
- associations related to the promotion of employment
- associations related to investing, saving, consumption and housing
- other associations related to professions and businesses

Associations in the field of social services and health

- associations related to an illness or disability (including patient organisations, associations for people with disabilities, disabled war veterans)
- associations related to child protection, childcare, parenthood and guardianship
- associations related to the wellbeing of the elderly
- associations related to substance abuse, abstinence organisations
- associations related to the promotion of health and wellbeing and the prevention of social exclusion
- other associations in the field of social services and health

Cultural associations

- associations related to science and research
- associations related to studying and education
- music arts associations
- theatre arts associations
- visual arts associations
- other arts associations
- heritage and museum associations
- associations related to customs, food and drink culture
- historical societies, village associations
- family history societies



- nature, environment and animal welfare associations
- ethnic associations
- other cultural associations

Leisure associations

- youth associations (including youth societies, scouting organisations, 4H and other youth and early youth associations)
- associations related to hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities
- associations related to pets and other animal-related hobbies
- associations related to collecting, building, handicrafts and games
- associations related to recreational activities involving cars, boats, aviation and other motor vehicles (non-sporting)
- hiking and travel associations and other recreational associations
- other recreational associations

Sports and exercise associations

- multi-sport associations, general athletic associations
- associations for individual sports
- associations for team sports
- motorsport associations
- support associations and umbrella organisations related to sports and exercise
- other associations related to sports and exercise

Associations related to religion and worldviews

- associations related to religions, life philosophies and worldviews (including associations related to Christianity and other religions, mission associations, bible societies, support and cooperation associations of churches and congregations, associations related to different life philosophies and worldviews)



Humanitarian aid associations and associations that operate primarily in the field of development cooperation

- There are several large well-established organisations in the field of development cooperation in Finland. They operate both domestically and internationally.
- Most of the large development cooperation organisations also provide humanitarian aid to regions suffering from crises.
- The humanitarian subsector can be divided into two groups:
 - Established humanitarian organisations, particularly ECHO-certified humanitarian organisations. Organisations that have been awarded a Humanitarian Partnership Certificate by the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), see https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/partnerships/humanitarian-partners_en
 - Other humanitarian organisations

Associations related to national defence and international relations

- Associations related to national defence (including conscript and reservist associations, guilds for different branches of the defence forces, associations for peacekeepers and non-military servicemen)
- peace organisations (including peace societies and associations for conscientious objectors)
- associations related to international relations (including associations related to international bilateral, multilateral and other cooperation, friendship societies)
- other associations related to national defence or international relations (including war veterans' associations and associations for war widows, widowers and their families, associations for children evacuated during the war)

Other associations

- associations related to volunteer rescue services (including volunteer fire brigades, associations related to road and water safety)
- clubs, lodges and fraternities (including Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, round table, Soroptimists)



- women's associations (including Ladies' Circle, Zonta Clubs, feminists)
- Martha associations
- pensioners' associations
- other associations that do not fall into the above categories (including youth chambers of commerce and recycling associations)

Non-registered association

- Operating as a non-registered association is not prohibited, but non-registered associations are not legal persons, and they cannot obtain or enter into commitments or be a party to legal proceedings in a court of law. In such cases, the liability for any commitments lies with the signing individuals personally, not the association.

Foundations

Foundations are generally categorised as follows:

- Foundations that distribute grants (grant foundation, capital foundation). Foundations that distribute grants are common in the fields of culture, science and arts. They fulfil their purpose by distributing grants and contributions from their capital and the return on their capital.
- Operative foundations (institutional foundation, continuously funded foundation). Operative foundations are common in the fields of social services and health, education, sports and youth work. They fulfil their purpose by producing services themselves.

This document was drawn up at the Ministry of the Interior on 28 May 2024. The classification was prepared by the NPO project working group. For more information on the topic, please visit rahanpesu.fi.