

City of Kuopio small modular reactor project

The City of Kuopio is studying a solution enabling the use of a small modular reactor (SMR) for district heating in two areas, Sorsasalo and Hepomäki. The background to the sites is described in more detail in the participation and assessment schemes. Land use planning will take place directly at the local master plan level, as the projects fall within the scope of the steering effect of the existing local master plan.

Kuopion Energia Oy is simultaneously conducting an environmental impact assessment related to the SMR.

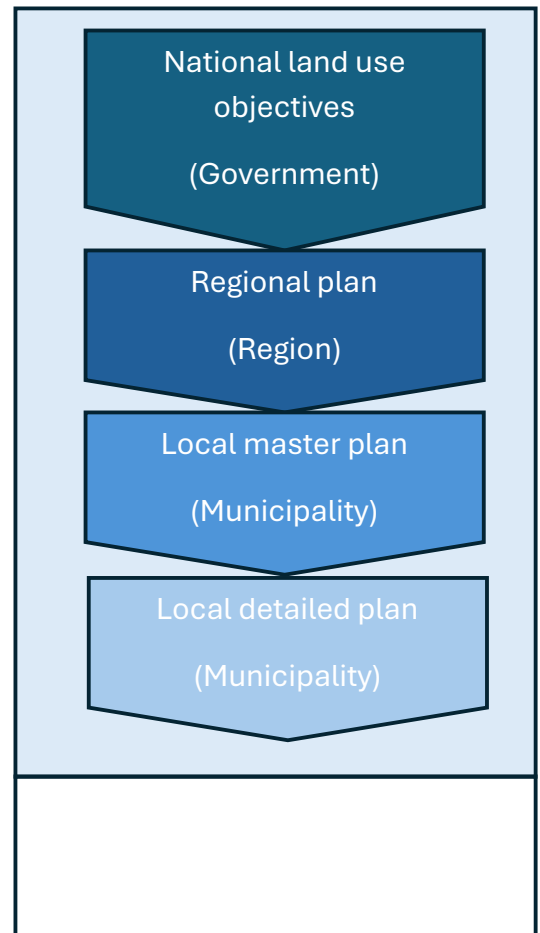
This document summarises the legal framework for land use planning for the international hearing under the Espoo Convention.

Land use planning system in Finland

In Finland, general guidance for land use planning is based on the Land Use and Building Act. The national land use objectives guide planning in regions and municipalities. In addition to the national objectives, the land use planning system consists of the regional plan, the local master plan and the local detailed plan.

The regional plan resolves regional land use matters, while the local master plan defines the broad lines for municipal development and the use of land. The local detailed plan is the most detailed level of planning: it is prepared for the detailed organisation of land use, construction and development. The local detailed plan indicates, as required by the need for guidance, the boundaries in the land use plan and the various areas within, the general or private uses of the areas, the volume of construction, the principles governing the placement of buildings and, where appropriate, the construction method.

The regional plan is approved by the regional council's highest decision-making body, and the local master plan and local detailed plan by the municipal council. The regional plan is used as a guideline when preparing and amending the local master plan and the local detailed plan. The local master plan is used as a guideline when preparing and amending the local detailed plan.



Municipal planning procedure in Finland

The planning procedure is divided into several stages, but all stages focus on inclusion. The plans must also be based on adequate studies. Communication about all stages complies with the law.

A participation and assessment scheme is prepared at a sufficiently early stage in the preparation of a plan to explain how the participation and interaction procedures and impact assessment of the plan will be organised.

A draft plan is prepared and made available for public consultation at the preparation stage. There may be several optional drafts.

The plan proposal must be made available for public consultation, and the general public must be informed of this in a manner appropriate for the purpose and significance of the plan. Residents of the municipality and other interested parties must be reserved the opportunity to express their opinions on the matter.

The local detailed plan is approved by the municipal council. The municipal council's authority may be delegated in the rules of procedure to the municipal executive or a committee.

Key legislation:

Land Use and Building Act (132/1999) Available at
<https://www.finlex.fi/fi/lainsaadanto/1999/132>

Land Use and Building Decree (895/1999) Available at
<https://www.finlex.fi/fi/lainsaadanto/1999/895>