

**RAISE
THE BAR**

SMEs are the core of growth and investments

Raising the bar concerns everyone: the public sector, political decision makers, businesses and employees. “Raising the Bar” is the theme of the 2023 parliamentary election manifesto of Suomen Yrittäjät, the Finnish SME association.

For decision makers, this means putting the public finances into shape, making the public sector focus on its core tasks while delivering them better than before, and giving businesses room to grow and an equal opportunity to provide public services.

The methods we present in our Raising the Bar parliamentary election manifesto are designed to ensure the Finnish economy can recover from the debt burden caused by the Covid crisis and the war while growing sustainably, and that employment can be increased and the foundation for the welfare state strengthened. Small and medium sized business is Finland's backbone. The goal of the Raising the Bar manifesto is to ease entrepreneurship and employment. **Read more: nostetaanrimaa.fi!**



Solutions of Suomen Yrittäjät:

- Take immediate steps to consolidate public finances. This means reviewing and cutting state, municipal and well-being service county spending.

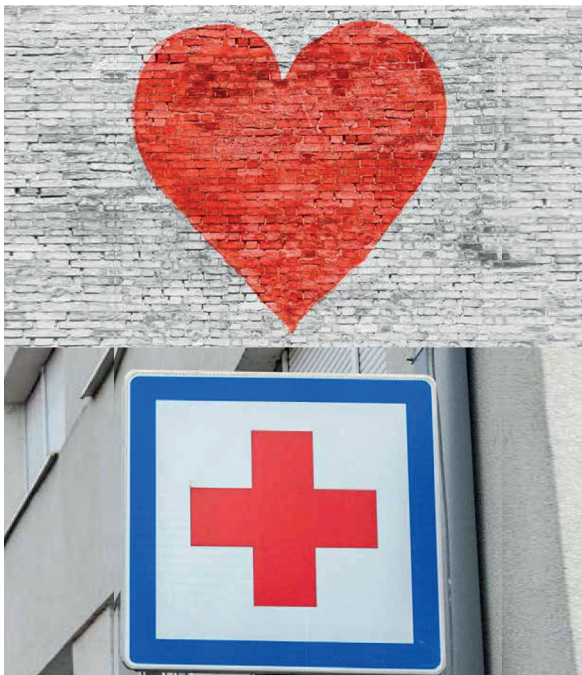
Taxation to incentivize business ownership and risk taking

- Businesses' and business owners' taxes must not rise.
- The corporate tax rate must be kept competitive.
- Change the dividend tax model for non-listed limited liability companies to remove the dependency on net assets, including a tax break to recognize the risk business owners take.
- Retain the business owner tax credit.
- Continue the transfer of the focus of taxation to indirect taxation.

Only work done is important: fair freedom to bargain for workplaces

- Give workplaces more bargaining freedom by removing statutory obstacles.
- Enact amendments to legislation which make hiring easier.
- Tighten the sanctions for illegal strikes and forbid disproportionate sympathy strikes.
- Promote labour immigration through measures such as removing the requirement for a labour market needs test.

Yrittäjät



Smooth business ownership and fair competition

- Conduct even more careful assessments of the impact on legislative amendments on businesses.
- Make it easier to restart a business after failure.
- Speed up dispute resolution in the courts, improve competition counselling and oversee compliance with payment term regulations.
- Divide public competitive tenders into lots to allow SMEs to participate in them.
- Involve SMEs in the social service and health care reform to allow them to provide services and know-how to the public and stakeholders. This can be done through service vouchers and procurements.

Social security that provides incentives to work

- Shorten and stagger earnings-linked unemployment security and make it universal.
- Reform the entrepreneur's pension (YEL) system to increase flexibility and business owners' freedom.

Solutions: Suomen Yrittäjät structural reform top 10

1. Reform social security so it encourages jobseekers to accept work.
2. Shorten and stagger earnings-linked unemployment benefit and introduce universal earnings security.
3. Reduce the additional expenses of hiring by making the pension system more efficient and lightening solvency regulation.
4. Increase local bargaining by removing prohibitions of bargaining and granting the right to agree otherwise.
5. Aid hiring by making fixed-term contracts and dismissals on the basis of personal reasons easier and shortening the qualifying period for sick leave to three days.
6. Restrict political strikes, forbid disproportionate sympathy strikes and tighten the sanctions for illegal strikes.
7. Promote labour immigration through measures such as removing the requirement for a labour market needs test.
8. Increase apprenticeships by reducing salaries at the start of apprenticeships and increasing education compensation for employers.
9. Deliver a series of fixes to the social service and healthcare reform which promote the multi-provider model and freedom of choice.
10. Enact maximum processing times for permits and speed up zoning to accelerate investments.

Read more: nostetaanrimaa.fi

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