

# Finland Country Profile

EU Tax Centre

June 2017

## Key tax factors for efficient cross-border business and investment involving Finland

**EU Member State** Yes

**Double Tax Treaties** With:

Argentina	Czech Rep.	Japan	New Zealand	Switzerland
Armenia	Denmark	Kazakhstan	Norway	Tajikistan
Australia	Egypt	Rep. of Korea	Pakistan	Tanzania
Austria	Estonia	Kosovo	Philippines	Thailand
Azerbaijan	France	Kyrgyzstan	Poland	Turkey
Barbados	Georgia	Latvia	Portugal	UAE
Belarus	Germany	Lithuania	Romania	UK
Belgium	Greece	Luxembourg	Russia	Ukraine
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Hungary	Macedonia	Serbia	Uruguay
Brazil	Iceland	Malaysia	Singapore	US
Bulgaria	India	Malta	Slovakia	Uzbekistan
Canada	Indonesia	Mexico	Slovenia	Vietnam
China	Rep. of	Moldova	South Africa	Zambia.
Croatia	Ireland	Montenegro	Spain	
Cyprus	Israel	Morocco	Sri Lanka	
	Italy	Netherlands	Sweden	

**Forms of doing business** Limited liability company (Oy), limited partnership (Ky).

**Legal entity capital requirements** Minimum share capital of Oy - EUR 2,500.

**Residence and tax system** A company is resident in Finland if it is incorporated under Finnish law. Residents are subject to tax on their worldwide income. Non-residents are subject to Finnish tax on their Finnish source income.

**Compliance requirements for CIT** Fiscal year follows the financial period. Tax return should be filed within four months after the end of a fiscal year, e.g. if financial year ends on December 31, 2016, the corporate income tax return needs to be filed no later than April



<b>purposes</b>	30, 2017.
<b>Tax rate</b>	20 percent.
<b>Withholding tax rates</b>	<p><b>On dividends paid to non-resident companies</b></p> <p>0 / 15 / 20 / 30 / DTT percent.</p> <p><b>On interest paid to non-resident companies</b></p> <p>0 percent.</p> <p><b>On patent royalties and certain copyright royalties paid to non-resident companies</b></p> <p>0 / 20 / 30 / DTT percent.</p> <p><b>On fees for technical services</b></p> <p>No</p> <p><b>On other payments</b></p> <p>No</p> <p><b>Branch withholding taxes</b></p> <p>No</p>

**Holding rules**

**Dividend received from resident/non-resident subsidiaries**

Dividends received by a Finnish corporate entity are tax-exempt in Finland if the dividend-distributing entity qualifies under the Parent-Subsidiary Directive or is resident in an EEA state and subject to tax on the profits from which the dividend is distributed at a rate of at least 10 percent.

However, dividends are fully taxable if the distributing entity is a listed company and the recipient is not a listed company and does not hold at least 10 percent of the shares in the dividend distributing entity.

75 percent of dividends derived from investment assets held by a financial, insurance or pension institution are taxable when the dividend distributing company is an entity covered by the Parent-Subsidiary Directive but where the 10 percent minimum holding requirement is not met or the dividend distributing entity is a domestic company or a company from an EEA state which does not fall under the Parent-Subsidiary Directive.

Dividends are fully taxable if deductible for the payer or if the dividend relates to a tax avoidance arrangement.

Dividends received by Finnish corporate entities from other than EU and EEA states are fully taxable if not exempted under the applicable tax treaty.



### Capital gains obtained from resident/non-resident subsidiaries

Exempt, if participation exemption requirements are met. Otherwise taxable.

### Tax losses

Tax losses can be carried forward for 10 tax years. Carry-back is not allowed. Tax loss carry-forwards are forfeited if more than 50 percent of the company's shares are subject to direct or indirect change of ownership.

### Tax consolidation rules/Group relief rules

Group consolidation possible via group contributions.

### Registration duties

Trade register, applicable tax registers.

Small administrative registration fee.

### Transfer duties

#### On the transfer of shares

Yes 1.6 percent, if the seller or buyer is resident in Finland for tax purposes and the shares are not publicly traded. 2 percent transfer tax applies on the transfer of shares of a real estate company or a joint-stock property company, on the transfer of shares in group companies holding the group's property, and on transfer of shares in real estate investment companies.

The transfer of shares in foreign companies can be subject to Finnish transfer duty provided that the preconditions listed below are fulfilled:

- the company's business operations consists of the direct or indirect ownership or management of real estate (real estate company);
- over 50 percent of the company's total assets directly or indirectly consist of real estate located in Finland;
- at least one of the parties participating in the transaction is generally tax liable to Finland (a person, corporation or certain branches that are resident in Finland for tax purposes).

#### On the transfer of land and buildings

Transfer tax of 4 percent, based on the purchase price of the property.

#### Stamp duties

No

#### Real estate taxes

Real estate taxes are levied. Rates vary by municipality.

### Controlled Foreign Company rules

Yes. Generally, if Finnish entities or individuals hold at least a 50 percent stake in a Controlled Foreign Company ("CFC"), or its foreign branch, which is subject to a low level of taxation and does not carry on business activities in certain lines of business, the Finnish CFC rules must be applied. CFC rules are not applied to companies effectively established in EEA Member States or



treaty countries not on the black list.

**Transfer pricing rules**

**General transfer pricing rules**

Yes. Generally, the provisions of the OECD Transfer Pricing Guidelines are followed when determining the arm's length prices.

**Documentation requirement**

Yes

**Thin capitalization rules**

No, but earnings stripping rules in place.

**General Anti-Avoidance rules (GAAR)**

Yes

**Specific Anti-Avoidance rules/Anti Treaty Shopping Provisions**

Yes

**Advance Ruling system**

Yes

**IP / R&D incentives**

Yes

**Other incentives**

Accelerated depreciation for qualifying new industrial investments acquired and taken into use between 2013 and 2016.

**VAT**

The standard rate is 24 percent, and the reduced rates are 14 and 10 percent.

**Other relevant points of attention**

No

Source: Finnish tax law and local tax administration guidelines, updated 2017.



## Contact us

**Jussi Jarvinen**

**KPMG in Finland**

**T** +358 20 760 3077

**E** [jussi.jarvinen@kpmg.fi](mailto:jussi.jarvinen@kpmg.fi)

[www.kpmg.com](http://www.kpmg.com)

© 2017 KPMG International Cooperative (“KPMG International”), a Swiss entity. Member firms of the KPMG network of independent firms are affiliated with KPMG International. KPMG International provides no client services. No member firm has any authority to obligate or bind KPMG International or any other member firm vis-à-vis third parties, nor does KPMG International have any such authority to obligate or bind any member firm. All rights reserved.

Country Profile is published by KPMG International Cooperative in collaboration with the EU Tax Centre. Its content should be viewed only as a general guide and should not be relied on without consulting your local KPMG tax adviser for the specific application of a country’s tax rules to your own situation. The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. Although we endeavor to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No one should act on such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation.

The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International.

