

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH AND THE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF REPUBLIC OF FINLAND  
AND  
THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTRY OF  
FINANCE OF REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
CONCERNING  
PROMOTING ELECTRONIC DATA EXCHANGE IN THE FIELD  
OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY**

The Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Finnish Ministry of Finance (together on the other side), the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs and the Estonian Ministry of Finance (together on the other side) ('the Participants'),

Taking into account the extensive movement of persons between Finland and Estonia, having regard to the close cooperation in the field of social security, considering the importance of suitable means of fluent and reliable data exchange in securing persons' social security rights,

taking into account, that EESSI (Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information) and other digital initiatives ongoing at EU level will not solve all data exchange needs,

promoting identification of errors and inconsistencies in the delivery of social security benefits, that require further investigation and prevention of fraud and abuse of social security benefits,

Have reached the following understanding:

***Section 1: Purpose /Objective***

The objective of the co-operation is to conclude a treaty of data exchange between Finland and Estonia.

The Participants will seek to promote the exchange of personal data between Finland and Estonia to ensure proper implementation of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the coordination of social security systems and Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems, and to prevent errors and frauds related to the payments of social security benefits and contributions.

***Section 2: Areas/Scope of co-operation***

Within the context of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Participants will have the possibility of sharing their resources, experience and expertise with due consideration to be given of the objective to conclude a treaty on electronic data exchange, and will co-operate among other issues to:

1. create a means of electronic exchange of data on working and income, which data is primarily owned by Finnish Incomes Register and Estonian Tax and Customs Board;
2. evaluate the benefits of electronic data exchange in relation to the cost of designing, deploying and using electronic data exchange channel;
3. ensure, that the most appropriate technical channel is used and the created solutions correspond to interoperability principles;

4. inform other Participants of cost and legislative changes needed;
5. assess the possibility to make a joint application for EU funding.

### ***Section 3: Financial contributions***

Each Participant will bear its own expenses in connection with the preparation of the above-mentioned co-operation to the extent that it is not covered by possible EU funding.

### ***Section 4: Disputes***

Any dispute about the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved by consultations between the Participants, and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement.

### ***Section 5: Amendments***

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time by the mutual written consent of the Participants.

### ***Section 6: Termination***

This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Participant giving six months written notice. The Participants will consult to determine how any outstanding matters should be dealt with. Termination will not affect the validity of any contract made under this Memorandum of Understanding.

### ***Section 7: Duration and effective date***

This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in effect until further notice. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of signature.

### ***Section 8: Relationship with national and international law***

1. This Memorandum of Understanding is not legally binding and is not intended to supersede national law or international obligations, which the Participants are bound up with. The Participants will notify each other in case of any conflict arising from this Memorandum of Understanding.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding is not eligible for registration under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

### ***Section 9: Exchange of information***

1. All information provided or generated pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding will be safeguarded, used, transmitted, stored and handled in accordance with the Participants' national laws and regulations.
2. The Participant will take all lawful steps available to ensure that all classified information provided or generated pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding is used only for the purposes it was provided for and is protected from further disclosure unless the other Participant consents to such a disclosure.

The foregoing represents the understanding reached between the Participants on the matters referred to in this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed in duplicate at Helsinki on 2 October 2023 in English.

For the Ministry of Social affairs and health  
and the Ministry of Finance of Finland

For the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of  
Finance of Estonia

Sanni GRAHN-LAASONEN  
Minister of Social Security

Signe RIISALO  
Minister of Social Protection