A STATEMENT OF
THE FINNISH ACADEMY OF
SCIENCE AND LETTERS

BENDING, BUT NOT BREAKING

From the coronavirus pandemic to strengthening Finland's crisis resilience

HANNA KOIKKALAINEN


yle TV1
THL: Epidemian huippu ei tiedossa
Suomessa on todettu noin 400 tartuntaa

KAAPO KAMU

OBJECTIVES AND TIMELINE

- Invited a group of experts in late May 2020, first meeting in June
- Aim: to report around the end of the year how to look beyond the crisis
- Worked August – December 2020
- Report launch 8 February 2021

- A small team – 10 world class researchers from different fields:

  Biology, Neuroscience, Immunology, Environmental Physics, Linguistics, Philosophy, Physics, Medicine, Social Policy, Education

- No economists?
  Invited for consultation

GROUP OF EXPERTS

CHAIR

Anna Mauranen
President of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters,
Professor Emerita of English at the University of Helsinki

MEMBERS

Eva-Mari Aro
Academician, Professor Emerita of Molecular Plant Biology,
University of Turku

Riitta Hari
Academician, Professor Emerita of Systems Neuroscience and
Brain Imaging, Aalto University

Sirpa Jalkanen
Academician, Professor of Immunology, University of Turku

Markku Kulmala
Academician, Professor of Aerosol and Environmental Physics,
University of Helsinki

Arto Mustajoki
Professor Emeritus of Russian Linguistics, University of Helsinki

Risto Nieminen
Academician, Professor Emeritus of Physics, Aalto University

Ilkka Niiniluoto
Academician, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, University of Helsinki

Kari Raivio
Chancellor Emeritus, University of Helsinki

Jorma Sipilä
Professor Emeritus of Social Policy, University of Tampere

Kirsi Tirri
Professor of Education, the University of Helsinki

SECRETARIES

Pekka Aula
Secretary General of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters

Jaakko Kuosmanen
Academy secretary

Rosa Rantanen
Science coordinator

IN SEARCH OF A NEW GENRE

- Previously: reports, booklets, typically from one specialist domain
- This report was to be short, readable, and multidisciplinary

SECTIONS

1. To survive a crisis, we need in-depth knowledge of different crisis types

2. The coronavirus pandemic is linked to the climate and environmental crisis

3. Social prerequisites for strengthening crisis resilience

4. The role of scientific knowledge in crisis resilience

5. Building crisis resilience through multilateral strengthening of communication capabilities

6. Social sensitivity

7. Mental security of supply: education and culture


MAIJU PALOHEIMO

SUBSECTIONS WITH SENTENCE HEADINGS

TO SURVIVE A CRISIS, WE NEED IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF DIFFERENT CRISIS TYPES

- The coronavirus pandemic can be defined as a crisis that is predictable but has unknown characteristics
- Coronavirus crisis aftercare has been discussed since the early stages of the pandemic, but the aftercare phase will not begin until the spreading of the virus has stopped
- The coronavirus crisis must be managed on a national level, but it is not possible without international cooperation

JYRI PITKÄNEN

SEVEN OBJECTIVES THAT STRENGTHEN FINLAND'S CRISIS RESILIENCE

1. Finland must take a more assertive approach to international cooperation and commit itself to proactive cooperation in the fields of politics, the economy, science and resolving the environmental crisis.
2. Finland must take more effective action to improve the climate and the environment.
3. Education needs to be reformed at all levels to promote diversity and wide variety of skills.
4. Communication capabilities must be developed, and more education should be provided in this field.
5. Economic incentives must encourage stronger commitment to the principles of sustainable development.
6. A scientific advisory mechanism based on the expertise of the independent scientific community must be established in Finland. This will improve our crisis resilience and ability to act quickly when necessary.
7. The share of Finland’s GDP that is directed to research, development and innovation must be increased to 8% by 2035.

IN SUM: INTERLINKED THREADS RUNNING THROUGH THE WHOLE

- The pivotal role of broad, multidisciplinary knowledge in constructing and maintaining resilience in society
- Environmental concerns: climate change and biodiversity
- Mental well-being (“Mental Security of Supply”) through social inclusion, education, art, and confidence in policy makers
- Strong communication capabilities
- An economy which builds on research-based innovation and sustainability


THANK YOU!
TUOMAS UUSHEIMO