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Design Policy Mapping in Europe

The following content is drawn from the “Design Policy Mapping in Europe” report. Access and download the complete report using the link:

https://madres.beda.org/en/publications/design-policy-mapping-in-europe/

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Sep 2025

Country Profile: Finland

Country Size: 336,884 sq km
Citizens: 5,603,851 (2024) | Tendency: falling
GDP per Capita: 53,188.6 $ (2024) | Tendency: rising
EU Innovation Scoreboard: Innovation Leader (2025) | 141,1%
BEDA Member Organisations: Ornamo Art and Design Finland

Dedicated design policy status

No explicit national design policy adopted since *Design Finland Programme* (2012), prepared by Ministries of Employment, Economy, and Education & Culture, in collaboration with stakeholders.

Design in other policy agendas

- → **CCI Strategy** – *Cultural Policy Report (2025)* references design as part of the creative economy, highlighting competences in service design, customer insight, UX/UI, and business development opportunities. [Integrated]
- → **Circular Economy** – *Strategic Programme for a Circular Economy* includes references to circular and eco-design. [Integrated]
- → **Architecture Strategy** – *National Architectural Policy Programme (apoli)* 2022–2035 integrates design in the built environment, emphasising "Design for All," education, cultural development and internationalisation.
- → **Innovation, industrial/development, digital strategies** – No strategies or references to design were identified.

Observations

Finland lacks a current dedicated design policy but retains a strong legacy through the *Design Finland Programme (2012)*. Design now appears mainly within cultural and architectural frameworks, as well as circular economy policy. The *apoli* programme, with its emphasis on "Design for All" and education, represents a significant contemporary reference point.

ADDRESS

c/o BEDA The Bureau of European Design Associations c/o Wallonie-Bruxelles Design Mode (WBDM) - AWEX, Place Sainctelette 2, 1080 Brussels, Belgium | www.madres.beda.org

ACCOUNT DETAILS

The Bureau of European Design Associations | BNP Paribas Fortis
IBAN: BE97 0019 8615 7549
BIC: GEBABEBB

CONTACT

office@beda.org

REGISTRIES

RPM: Bruxelles
Union des Associations Internationales Org ID: BE 0844.127.553
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