



**Task 1** Strategic PV Analysis and Outreach

# National Survey Report of PV Power Applications in Finland 2018

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PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS  
TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATION PROGRAMME

**PVPS**



Cover picture:  
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## WHAT IS IEA PVPS TCP

The International Energy Agency (IEA), founded in 1974, is an autonomous body within the framework of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The IEA carries out a comprehensive programme of energy cooperation among its 30 member countries and with the participation of the European Commission. The IEA Photovoltaic Power Systems Programme (IEA PVPS) is one of the collaborative research and development agreements (technology collaboration programmes) within the IEA and was established in 1993. The mission of the programme is to *"enhance the international collaborative efforts which facilitate the role of photovoltaic solar energy as a cornerstone in the transition to sustainable energy systems."*

In order to achieve this, the Programme's participants have undertaken a variety of joint research projects in PV power systems applications. The overall programme is headed by an Executive Committee, comprised of one delegate from each country or organisation member, which designates distinct 'Tasks,' that may be research projects or activity areas. This report has been prepared under Task 1, which deals with market and industry analysis, strategic research and facilitates the exchange and dissemination of information arising from the overall IEA PVPS Programme.

The IEA PVPS participating countries are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, and the United States of America. The European Commission, Solar Power Europe, the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA), the Solar Energy Industries Association and the Copper Alliance are also members.

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## WHAT IS IEA PVPS task 1

The objective of Task 1 of the IEA Photovoltaic Power Systems Programme is to promote and facilitate the exchange and dissemination of information on the technical, economic, environmental and social aspects of PV power systems. Task 1 activities support the broader PVPS objectives: to contribute to cost reduction of PV power applications, to increase awareness of the potential and value of PV power systems, to foster the removal of both technical and non-technical barriers and to enhance technology co-operation. An important deliverable of Task 1 is the annual "Trends in photovoltaic applications" report. In parallel, National Survey Reports are produced annually by each Task 1 participant. This document is the country National Survey Report for the year 2018. Information from this document will be used as input to the annual Trends in photovoltaic applications report.

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Data for non-IEA PVPS countries are provided by official contacts or experts in the relevant countries.

Data are valid at the date of publication and should be considered as estimates in several countries due to the publication date.



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# 1 INSTALLATION DATA

The PV power systems market is defined as the market of all nationally installed (terrestrial) PV applications with a PV capacity of 40 W or more. A PV system consists of modules, inverters, batteries and all installation and control components for modules, inverters and batteries. Other applications such as small mobile devices are not considered in this report.

For the purposes of this report, PV installations are included in the 2018 statistics if the PV modules were installed and connected to the grid between 1 January and 31 December 2018, although commissioning may have taken place at a later date.

## 1.1 Applications for Photovoltaics

For a long time, the PV market in Finland has been concentrated on small off-grid systems. There are more than half a million summer cottages in Finland, and a significant proportion of them are electrified with an off-grid PV system capable of providing energy for lighting, refrigerators and consumer electronics. Since 2010, the number of grid-connected PV systems has started to increase. Currently, the market of grid-connected systems significantly outnumbers the market of off-grid systems. The grid-connected PV systems are mainly roof-mounted systems for public and commercial buildings, agricultural sites and individual houses. The largest individual solar PV plant in Finland is a 4.4 MW ground-mounted system, which is constructed on an industrial site in Nurmo. The majority of systems are built for self-consumption of PV electricity, since there is no economic potential for utility-scale PV systems for grid electricity generation yet.

## 1.2 Total photovoltaic power installed

The Energy Authority ([www.energiavirasto.fi](http://www.energiavirasto.fi)) collects the official data of grid-connected PV electricity in Finland from the grid companies. The total installed PV capacity was 133.5 MW by the end of the year 2018 with an increase of 53.1 MW from the year 2017 (Tables 1 & 2). Of the total capacity, 122.6 MW is grid-connected and 10.9 MW off-grid installations. The distribution of installed capacity in 2018 in the categories of residential, commercial and industrial installations is uncertain. However, according to an interview of a major PV system provider in Finland, it can be estimated that around 40 % of the capacity is covered by residential, 30 % commercial and 30 % industrial installations. This is used as a basis of the division presented in Table 2. Information about the data collection process is given in Table 3, about cumulative installed PV power in three sub-markets in Table 4, about other PV market information in Table 5, and about PV power in the broader national energy market in Table 6. The total number of PV power plants in Finland is estimated to be around 15000.

**Table 1: Annual PV power installed during calendar year 2018.**

		Installed PV capacity in 2018 [MW]	AC or DC
<b>PV capacity</b>	Off-grid	0.3*	DC
	Decentralized	52.8	DC
	Centralized	0	DC
	<b>Total</b>	53.1	DC

\*There is no data collected about the sales of off-grid systems. However, based on discussions with PV system provider the market in Finland is estimated to be around 300 kW on yearly basis.

**Table 2: PV power installed during calendar year 2018.**

			Installed PV capacity in 2018 [MW]	Installed PV capacity in 2018 [MW]	AC or DC
<b>Grid-connected</b>	BAPV	Residential	52.8	21.2	DC
		Commercial		15.8	DC
		Industrial		15.8	DC
	BIPV	Residential	~0	~0	DC
		Commercial		~0	DC
		Industrial		~0	DC
	Utility-scale	Ground-mounted	0	0	DC
		Floating		0	DC
		Agricultural		0	DC
	<b>Off-grid</b>	Residential	0.3		DC
		Other			DC
		Hybrid systems			DC
<b>Total</b>			53.1		DC

**Table 3: Data collection process.**

If data are reported in AC, please mention a conversion coefficient to estimate DC installations.	Data are reported as DC.
Is the collection process done by an official body or a private company/Association?	Public body
Link to official statistics (if this exists)	Collected by the Energy Authority, <a href="http://www.energiavirasto.fi">www.energiavirasto.fi</a>
	The data are collected with a yearly survey to grid companies by the Energy Authority.

**Table 4: The cumulative installed PV power in three sub-markets.**

Year	Off-grid [MW] (including large hybrids)	Grid-connected distributed [MW] (BAPV, BIPV)	Grid-connected centralized [MW] (Ground, floating, agricultural...)	Total [MW]
2015	10*	10	0	20
2016	10.3*	27.1	0	37.4
2017	10.6*	69.8	0	80.4
2018	10.9*	122.6	0	133.5

\*Mostly small off-grid PV systems in summer cottages, official statistics not available.

**Table 5: Other PV market information.**

	2018 Numbers
Number of PV systems in operation in your country	Estimate: 15 000
Capacity of decommissioned PV systems during the year [MW]	No data
Capacity of repowered PV systems during the year [MW]	No data
Total capacity connected to the low voltage distribution grid [MW]	Estimate: around 95 % of total capacity
Total capacity connected to the medium voltage distribution grid [MW]	No data available
Total capacity connected to the high voltage transmission grid [MW]	0

**Table 6: PV power and the broader national energy market.**

	2017 numbers	2018 numbers
Total power generation capacities [GW]	16.8	16.8
Total renewable power generation capacities (including hydropower) [GW]	7.4	7.6
Total electricity demand [TWh]	85.5	87
Total energy demand [TWh]	377	383
New power generation capacities installed in 2018 [GW]		
New renewable power generation capacities installed in 2018 (including hydropower) [GW]	Wind: 0.516	Wind: 0.016 Hydro: 0.039, Bio: 0.201
Estimated total PV electricity production (including self-consumed PV electricity) in [GWh]	44	88
Total PV electricity production as a % of total electricity consumption	0.05 %	0.1 %

\*The power capacities are based on power plant registry of Finland, which includes all the power plants with nominal capacity of > 1 MW.

### 1.3 Key enablers of PV development

Information on key enablers of PV development is presented in Table 7.

**Table 7: Information on key enablers.**

	Description	Annual Volume	Total Volume	Source
Decentralized storage systems	Probably < 5 MWh totally			No official data available
Residential Heat Pumps [#]	air-to-air ; air-to-water ; exhaust heat pumps & ground source	70 000	900 000	Heat Pump Association of Finland <a href="http://www.sulpu.fi">www.sulpu.fi</a>
Electric cars [#]	Battery electric vehicle (BEV) & Plug-in hybrid vehicle (PHEV)	PHEV: 7376 BEV: 955	PHEV: 13095 BEV: 2404	Finnish Transport and Communications Agency <a href="http://www.traficom.fi">www.traficom.fi</a>
Electric buses and trucks [#]		1	21	Statistics Finland <a href="http://www.stat.fi">www.stat.fi</a>
Other				



## 2 COMPETITIVENESS OF PV ELECTRICITY

### 2.1 Module prices

Finland is a net-importer of PV modules. The modules are mainly imported from Eastern Asia. However, there is some module manufacturing capacity in Finland. The prices have declined from year 2017 due to a decrease in global market prices. The module prices presented in Table 8 give the price of multiple panels typically delivered as a part of a PV system. The price data are given without VAT. The data were collected from the main PV system providers operating in Finland.

**Table 8: Typical module prices for a number of years.**

Year	Lowest price of a standard module crystalline silicon [€/W]	Highest price of a standard module crystalline silicon [€/W]	Typical price of a standard module crystalline silicon [€/W]
2014	0.65	1	0.85
2015	0.6	0.7	0.65
2016	0.5	0.65	0.55
2017	0.4	0.55	0.45
2018	0.25	0.35	0.3

### 2.2 System prices

The turnkey price intervals (excluding VAT) collected from three major PV systems providers operating in Finland are presented in Table 9. The prices represent the situation at the end of 2018. The prices do not include permitting costs; however, it may be a relevant system cost contributor in residential rooftop installations ( $P < 10$  kW). Especially, the amount of required installation work and materials varies in rooftop installations causing a spread of costs. Retailers, such as local electrical installation companies, typically sell the household rooftop systems. Companies specialized for the planning and installing of PV systems provide typically the larger commercial and industrial systems. The average trends of system prices (excluding VAT) are illustrated in Table 10. Only some ground-mounted systems have been built with an investment support from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, but they are still smaller than 10 MW and are mainly designed for the self-consumption of electricity.

**Table 9: Turnkey PV system prices of different typical PV systems.**

Category/Size	Typical applications and brief details	Current prices [€/W]
<b>Off-grid</b> Up to 1 kW	A stand-alone PV system is a system that is installed to generate electricity to a device or a household that is not connected to the public grid. Typically PV systems that are installed in boats, caravans, summer cottages and include lead-acid batteries.	5
Residential BAPV 5-10 kW	Grid-connected, roof-mounted, distributed PV systems installed to produce electricity to grid-connected households. Typically roof-mounted systems on villas and single-family homes.	1.05-1.61
Residential BIPV 5-10 kW	Grid-connected, building integrated, distributed PV systems installed to produce electricity to grid-connected households. Typically, on villas and single-family homes.	No data
Small commercial BAPV 10-100 kW	Grid-connected, roof-mounted, distributed PV systems installed to produce electricity to grid-connected commercial buildings, such as public buildings, multi-family houses, agriculture barns, grocery stores etc.	0.85-1.05
Small commercial BIPV 10-100 kW	Grid-connected, building integrated, distributed PV systems installed to produce electricity to grid-connected commercial buildings, such as public buildings, multi-family houses, agriculture barns, grocery stores etc.	No data
Large commercial BAPV 100-250 kW	Grid-connected, roof-mounted, distributed PV systems installed to produce electricity to grid-connected large commercial buildings, such as public buildings, multi-family houses, agriculture barns, grocery stores etc.	0.75-0.85
Large commercial BIPV 100-250 kW	Grid-connected, building integrated, distributed PV systems installed to produce electricity to grid-connected commercial buildings, such as public buildings, multi-family houses, agriculture barns, grocery stores etc.	No plants
Industrial BAPV >250 kW	Grid-connected, roof-mounted, distributed PV systems installed to produce electricity to grid-connected industrial buildings, warehouses, etc.	0.65-0.75
Small centralized PV 1-20 MW	Grid-connected, ground-mounted, centralized PV systems that work as central power station. The electricity generated in this type of facility is not tied to a specific customer and the purpose is to produce electricity for sale.	No plants
Large centralized PV >20 MW	Grid-connected, ground-mounted, centralized PV systems that work as central power station. The electricity generated in this type of facility is not tied to a specific customer and the purpose is to produce electricity for sale.	No plants, estimate 0.55-0.65
Other categories existing in your country.	Add a description similar to the ones above	None

**Table 10: National trends in system prices for different applications**

Year	Residential BAPV Grid-connected, roof-mounted, distributed PV system 5-10 kW [€/W]	Small commercial BAPV Grid-connected, roof-mounted, distributed PV systems 10-100 kW [€/W]	Large commercial BAPV Grid-connected, roof-mounted, distributed PV systems 100-250 kW [€/W]	Small centralized PV Grid-connected, ground-mounted, centralized PV systems 10-20 MW [€/W]
2014	1.5-1.8	1.25-1.5	1.2	No estimate
2015	1.45-1.75	1.15-1.4	1.05-1.35	1.1-1.3*
2016	1.3-2	1.05-1.35	0.95-1.3	1-1.2*
2017	1.2-1.8	0.9-1.15	0.85-1.15	0.9-1.1*
2018	1.05-1.61	0.85-1.05	0.75-0.85	0.55-0.65*

\*) There are no 10-20 MW ground mounted centralized PV systems in Finland. The given intervals are estimates given by PV system providers.

### 2.3 Cost breakdown of PV installations

The cost breakdown (VAT 0%) of a residential PV system in Table 11 was produced as follows. First, the system size was defined to be around 5 kW. Next, the component prices and the amount of installation work were discussed with PV system providers. Based on these discussions average case was defined. The cost of installation work to the employer was estimated to be 25 €/h\*1.6 = 40 €/h. The amount of installation work including electrical installation was estimated to be 2 h/module (275 W). Even lower values, such as 1-2 h/module, were indicated in the discussions with a PV system provider. In the literature<sup>1</sup>, the employment of a PV installation was estimated to be 11 man-years/installed MW of PV. This values around 4 h/module for work. However, there will be always working hours of installation staff that cannot be charged from customers. The fraction of planning, travel expenses and permitting was assumed to be 0.05 €/W for each component.

The profit margin was assumed to be 20 % of the whole system price. Residential PV system providers typically purchase the PV systems from wholesale instead of importing the systems themselves. In residential PV systems, the building permitting practices differ between municipalities. In the most progressive municipalities there are no building permitting requirements for residential rooftop systems. Some municipalities require an announcement and some a building permit depending on the system size and location. The VAT in Finland is 24 %.

So far, there are no utility-scale installations ( $P > 10$  MW) in Finland. Thus, the cost breakdown is not given for a utility-scale PV plant in Table 12.

<sup>1</sup> Jay Rutovitz, Steve Harris, Calculating Global Energy Sector Jobs: 2012 Methodology, University of Technology Sydney, Australia, 2012.

**Table 11: Cost breakdown for a grid-connected roof-mounted, distributed residential PV system of 5-10 kW.**

Cost category	Average [€/W]	Low [€/W]	High [€/W]
<b>Hardware</b>			
Module	0.3		
Inverter	0.15		
Mounting material	0.15		
Other electronics (cables, etc.)	0.05		
<b>Subtotal Hardware</b>	<b>0.65</b>		
<b>Soft costs</b>			
Planning	0.05		
Installation work	0.36		
Shipping and travel expenses to customer	0.05		
Permits and commissioning (i.e. cost for electrician, etc.)	0.05		
Project margin	0.29		
<b>Subtotal Soft costs</b>			
<b>Total (excluding VAT)</b>	<b>1.45</b>		
Average VAT	0.35		
<b>Total (including VAT)</b>	<b>1.8</b>		

**Table 12: Cost breakdown for a grid-connected, ground-mounted, centralized PV systems of >10 MW.**

Cost category	Average [€/W]	Low [€/W]	High [€/W]
<b>Hardware</b>			
Module			
Inverter			
Mounting material			
Other electronics (cables, etc.)			
<b>Subtotal Hardware</b>			
<b>Soft costs</b>			
Planning			
Installation work			
Shipping and travel expenses to customer			
Permits and commissioning (i.e. cost for electrician, etc.)			
Project margin			
<b>Subtotal Soft costs</b>			
<b>Total (excluding VAT)</b>			
Average VAT			
<b>Total (including VAT)</b>			

## 2.4 Financial Parameters and specific financing programs

The parameters for different financing schemes for PV in Finland are presented in Table 13. The banks will usually finance residential rooftop PV systems with home loans. Thus, the interest rate of these loans is as low as 0–2 %. MuniFin<sup>2</sup> is a funding organization for the Finnish public sector. It provides Green Bond loans and leasing for municipalities with interest rates around 1–2 % for PV system with the financing duration from 5 to 41 years. For private companies, the cost of loan, is far higher than for house owners of municipalities.

**Table 13: PV financing information in 2018.**

Different market segments	Loan rate [%]
Average rate of loans – residential installations	0–2 % can be financed with home loans
Average rate of loans – commercial installations	1–2 % loans and leasing for municipalities, higher for private-owned companies
Average cost of capital – industrial and ground-mounted installations	No information available

## 2.5 Specific investments programs

In Finland, there are several funding options for investments in PV plants or PV electricity (Table 14). Several companies offer the third-party ownership. The contract may include the selling of electricity from a rooftop PV plant to local consumption with a fixed price and fixed time (PPA). Panel rental services are provided for instance by energy companies like Helen and KSS Energia. They offer their customers the rental of a PV panel at a fixed monthly price. The value of electricity produced by the panel is deduced from the energy bill of the customer. Energy valuation is based on the electricity market Nordpool Finland area spot price. Several utilities provide financing for a PV system investment. There are also crowdfunding companies, such as Joukon Voima and Solarvoima, which are also funding solar PV installations.

**Table 14: Summary of existing investment schemes.**

Investment Schemes	Introduced in Finland
Third party ownership (no investment)	Yes
Renting	Yes
Leasing	Yes
Financing through utilities	Yes
Investment in PV plants against free electricity	No
Crowd funding (investment in PV plants)	Yes
Community solar	No
International organization financing	No

## 2.6 Additional Country information

The Energy Authority was used as a source for the retail electricity prices<sup>3</sup>. Household electricity prices include transmission, distribution, electricity tax, levies and VAT (24 %). Commercial company and industrial company prices include transmission/distribution, electricity tax and levies. The class 1 electricity tax (2.253 €cent/kWh VAT 0%) is assumed for households and commercial companies and class 2 (0.703 €cent/kWh VAT 0%) for industrial manufacturing companies. The country information is presented in Table 15. The electricity prices for the commercial companies and industry were collected from the database of the Statistics Finland ([www.stat.fi](http://www.stat.fi)).

<sup>2</sup> Municipality Finance, Green Bonds, available at: <https://www.munifin.fi/green-bond/>, accessed 15 June 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Electricity prices, Energy Authority, [www.sahkonhinta.fi](http://www.sahkonhinta.fi), accessed 15 June 2019.

**Table 15: Country information.**

Retail electricity prices for a household [€cent/kWh] (VAT 24 %)	13.8-20.2			
Retail electricity prices for a commercial company [€cent/kWh] (VAT 0%)	11-12.2			
Retail electricity prices for an industrial company [€cent/kWh] (VAT 0%)	6.7-8.6			
Population at the end of 2018	5 517 919			
Country size [km <sup>2</sup> ]	390 908			
Average PV yield in [kWh/kW]	800-950			
Name and market share of major electric utilities. In Finland, the electricity production and distribution are separated into different companies.		Electricity production [%]	Share of grid Subscribers [%]	Number of retail customers [pcs]
	Caruna Oy		18.9	671 857
	Elenia Oy		12	424 064
	Helen Sähköverkko Oy		10.8	383 621
	Tampereen Sähköverkko Oy		4	149 824
	Vantaan Energia Sähköverkot Oy		3.4	121 368

### 3 POLICY FRAMEWORK

This chapter describes the support policies aiming directly or indirectly to drive the development of PV. Direct support policies have a direct influence on PV development by incentivizing or simplifying or defining adequate policies. Indirect support policies change the regulatory environment in a way that can push PV development. There are currently no official national targets set for the solar PV capacity in Finland. An overview of active PV support measures is presented in Table 16.

**Table 16: Summary of PV support measures.**

	On-going measures in 2018 – Residential	Measures introduced in 2018 – Residential	On-going measures in 2018 – Commercial + Industrial	Measures introduced in 2018 – Commercial + Industrial	On-going measures in 2018 – Centralized	Measures introduced in 2018 – Centralized
Feed-in tariffs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feed-in premium (above market price)	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Capital subsidies	-	-	Yes	-	Yes	-
Green certificates	-	-	-	-	-	-
Renewable portfolio standards (RPS) with/without PV requirements	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income tax credits	Yes	-	-	-	-	-
Self-consumption	Yes	-	Yes	-	-	-
Net-metering	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net-billing	Yes	-	Yes	-	-	-
Collective self-consumption and virtual net-metering	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial bank activities e.g. green mortgages promoting PV	-	-	Yes	-	Yes	-
Activities of electricity utility businesses	Yes	-	-	-	-	-
Sustainable building requirements	Yes	-	Yes	-	-	-
BIPV incentives	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other (specify)	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 3.1 National targets for PV

There are currently no official national targets set for the solar PV capacity in Finland.

## 3.2 Direct support policies for PV installations

### 3.2.1 Capital subsidies for companies communities and other organizations

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment grants investment support/energy aid for the renewable energy production. This energy support is particularly intended for promoting the introduction and market launch of new energy technologies. In 2018, the Ministry has granted a 25 % investment subsidy of the total costs of grid-connected PV projects. The subsidy level will decrease to 20 % of total costs in 2019. Companies, communities and other organizations are eligible for the support. Business Finland ([www.businessfinland.fi](http://www.businessfinland.fi)) evaluates the subsidy applications and makes the decisions. The investment subsidy has been probably the most effective tool to increase the number of commercial and industrial-size solar PV investments for self-consumption in Finland. However, its' significance is decreasing due decreasing subsidy level as well as decreasing PV system prices.

### 3.2.2 Guarantees of origin

Guarantees of origin are certificates which guarantee that the sold electricity is produced from renewable energy sources. The electricity sales company marketing renewable energy has to be able to guarantee the origin of electricity. The nation-wide system operator Fingrid maintains the registry for the certificates. The system started on 1 January 2015. Guarantees of origin are granted as a blocks of MWhs. Hence, the system is not practical for solar PV micro-generation.

### 3.2.3 BIPV development measures

There are currently no specific measures promoting the building of building-integrated solar PV systems. PV electricity can be used to improve the energy class of a building (e.g. BAPV or BIPV). There are two conditions: 1) PV systems have to be installed either on the building or on the same property and 2) only the proportion of electric energy that is used in the building can be taken into account. The sold electric energy does not affect the energy class.

## 3.3 Self-consumption measures

The self-consumption measures in Finland are presented in Table 17.

**Table 17: Summary of self-consumption regulations for small private PV systems in 2018.**

PV self-consumption	1	Right to self-consume	Yes
	2	Revenues from self-consumed PV	Savings on the variable or fixed retail price of electricity from the grid.
	3	Charges to finance Transmission, Distribution grids & Renewable Levies	No
Excess PV electricity	4	Revenues from excess PV electricity injected into the grid	Yes, depends on contract: 1) Electrical energy price (typically SPOT)–commission 2) Fixed energy price
	5	Maximum timeframe for compensation of fluxes	Real-time, hourly net metering under discussion
	6	Geographical compensation (virtual self-consumption or metering)	On site only
Other characteristics	7	Regulatory scheme duration	Unlimited
	8	Third party ownership accepted	Yes
	9	Grid codes and/or additional taxes/fees impacting the revenues of the prosumer	German VDE-AR-N 4015 grid code generally accepted, no additional requirements
	10	Regulations on enablers of self-consumption (storage, DSM...)	No



	11	PV system size limitations	When $S_N < 100$ kVA or $E_a < 800$ kWh/a, exemption of electricity tax
	12	Electricity system limitations	No
	13	Additional features	No

### 3.3.1 Support to PV electricity self-consumption

Self-consumption of PV electricity is allowed in Finland. However, the current net-metering scheme is real-time, and the majority of installed electricity meters do not net-meter between phases. The hourly-based net-metering for individual consumers is under discussion, and will possibly be implemented later. In the case of individuals, both the consumption and generation of electricity are metered with the same energy meter owned by the electricity distribution company. Most electrical energy companies offer two-way electric energy contracts for the prosumers.

Electricity generation with the nameplate power of less than 100 kVA is exempted from the electricity tax. The tax exemption is also valid for larger plants (100 kVA–2 MVA), if the yearly electricity generation is less than 800 MWh. Thus, PV plants with an installed capacity of less than 900 kW are practically free from the electricity tax.

Owning of a PV system is not regarded as a business activity (1535/1992, TVL). Individuals can produce electricity for their own household use without paying taxes. For individual persons, the income from the surplus electricity sales is considered personal income. However, an individual person is able to subtract the depreciation and yearly system maintenance costs from the sales income. As a result, in most cases there will be no income from a rooftop PV system.

### 3.4 Collective self-consumption, community solar and similar measures

There are also some pilot projects where virtual metering is tested mainly in apartment buildings. However, there are no official measures for collective self-consumption yet. The implementation of virtual metering requires changes to the regulation.

### 3.5 Tenders, auctions & similar schemes

#### 3.5.1 Renewable electricity feed-in premium

In autumn 2018 the Energy Authority arranged a technology neutral premium auction for new renewable electricity production including technologies: wind, solar, biomass, biogas and wave power. The premium will be paid for a 12 years and the total subsidised electricity production can be up to 1.4 TWh. Based on the auction seven wind power projects were selected. The average subsidy level of accepted bids was 2.5 €/MWh. Currently, there are no plans about further auctions in the future.

### 3.6 Other utility-scale measures including floating and agricultural PV

For the agricultural sector, an investment subsidy is also available for renewable energy production from the Finnish Food Authority ([www.ruokavirasto.fi](http://www.ruokavirasto.fi)). The subsidy was 40 % of the total investment costs in 2018 without VAT. The minimum applied subsidy has to be 7000 €. The investment subsidy decisions are made based on applications. Only the proportion of the investment used in agricultural production is eligible for investment support.

### 3.7 Social Policies

There are no this kind of support measures.

### 3.8 Retrospective measures applied to PV

There are no measures affecting negatively to the profitability to previously installed solar PV plants.

## 3.9 Indirect policy issues

### 3.9.1 *Rural electrification measures*

There are no such measures, as almost all permanently inhabited buildings are electrified already.

### 3.9.2 *Support for electricity storage and demand response measures*

There are no specific support schemes for energy storages. Instead, an energy investment subsidy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, granted by Business Finland, can be applied also for energy storage projects. In order to be eligible for the support, the project has to include also renewable energy production. The Finnish transmission system operator Fingrid has a marketplace for reserve and regulating power. Currently, demand side management can participate in eight different marketplaces<sup>4</sup>.

### 3.9.3 *Support for electric vehicles (and VIPV)*

The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency ([www.traficom.fi](http://www.traficom.fi)) grants investment subsidy of 2000 € for individuals for buying a fully electric car. The car eligible to receive the support has to be for a personal use, and the total cost of the car, including VAT and vehicle tax, has to be less than 50 000 €. The investment subsidy is valid for the years 2018–21.

### 3.9.4 *Curtailement policies*

Currently, there is no curtailment policies in Finland.

### 3.9.5 *Other support measures*

Currently, there are few policy initiatives that might rapidly influence the PV installation rates in Finland. For consumers, the potential implementation of hourly net-metering and virtual metering would potentially have further effects on the installation rates especially in residential sector.

## 3.10 Financing and cost of support measures

Financially, the main cost elements of PV support measures are investment subsidies granted by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Finnish Food Authority, and tax breaks granted to individual persons for the PV system installation work. All the incentives are paid from state taxes. With 52.8 MW of new grid-connected PV capacity installed in 2018, the direct cost of all PV support measures was approximately 12 M€.

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<sup>4</sup> Fingrid marketplaces, available: <https://www.fingrid.fi/en/electricity-market/demand-side-management/market-places/> accessed 25 June 2019.

## 4 INDUSTRY

### 4.1 Production of feedstocks, ingots and wafers (crystalline silicon industry)

There is no manufacturing of silicon feedstock, ingots or wafers for solar PV in Finland (Table 18).

**Table 18: Silicon feedstock, ingot and wafer producer's production information for 2018.**

Manufacturers	Process & technology	Total Production	Product destination	Price
None	Silicon feedstock [Tonnes]	0		
None	sc-Si ingots. [Tonnes]	0		
None	mc-Si ingots [Tonnes]	0		
None	sc-Si wafers [MW]	0		
None	mc-Si wafers [MW]	0		

### 4.2 Production of photovoltaic cells and modules (including TF and CPV)

Module manufacturing is defined as the industry where the process of the production of PV modules (the encapsulation) is done. A company may also be involved in the production of ingots, wafers or the processing of cells, in addition to fabricating the modules with frames, junction boxes etc. The manufacturing of modules may only be counted to a country if the encapsulation takes place in that country.

There are two companies owning a PV module manufacturing line in Finland, Valoe<sup>5</sup> in Mikkeli and SaloSolar<sup>6</sup> in Salo. The modules produced by Valoe are of back contact type. Both companies produce c-Si modules. The total production capacity in 2018 was estimated to be 30 MW and the produced capacity around 9 MW in 2018. The total PV cell and module manufacture together with the production capacity information is given in Table 98 below.

**Table 19: PV cell and module production and production capacity information for 2018.**

Cell/Module manufacturer	Technology	Total Production [MW]		Maximum production capacity [MW/yr]	
		Cell	Module	Cell	Module
Wafer-based PV manufactures					
Salo Solar	Sc-Si/mc-Si		5*		10*
Valoe Oy	Sc-Si/mc-Si		2*		20*
Thin film manufacturers					
None					
Cells for concentration					
<b>Totals</b>			<b>7*</b>		<b>30*</b>

\*The given numbers are estimates.

<sup>5</sup> Valoe Oy, available at: <http://www.valoe.com/>, accessed 26 June 2019

<sup>6</sup> SaloSolar Oy, available at: <http://www.arevasolar.fi/fi/salosolar>, accessed 26 June 2019

### 4.3 Manufacturers and suppliers of other components

The listing below covers the main companies manufacturing PV systems or related components in Finland. The list is not necessarily complete. Please contact the author of this report if something relevant is missing. The company listing will be updated for the report of year 2019.

ABB Oy develops utility-scale PV inverters in Helsinki. Correspondingly, special transformers, protective relays, contactors, as well as control, monitoring and automation products for electricity distribution grids are developed and manufactured in Vaasa.

Beneq Oy provides technology for ALD (Atomic Layer Deposition) that can be used both in crystalline and thin film solar cells.

Danfoss Oy is located in Vaasa, Lappeenranta and Tampere. It is a frequency converter manufacturer. It produces power electronics mainly for electric transport purposes. For example, they have a 50 kW power module that can be applied in integrated PV and battery plants

Endeas Oy is located in Espoo. It provides solar photovoltaic measurement and simulation systems.

Ensto Oy manufactures different enclosing solutions such as combiner and junction boxes for solar PV applications.

Finnwind Oy is located in Lempäälä. In addition to selling and planning turnkey PV systems, it sells and manufactures mounting systems for PV modules.

Glaston Oy is located in Tampere, and it delivers machines and services globally for the production of heat-treated glass for solar PV and CSP solutions.

GreenEnergy Finland Oy is located in Lappeenranta. It is a developer and manufacturer of systems for the optimization of self-consumption of PV electricity and electric energy storage systems.

Luvata Oy manufactures copper-based flat wire used to connect silicon cells electrically and to carry current in crystalline silicon and thin-film photovoltaic modules.

Naps Solar Systems Oy manufactures complete off-grid PV systems consisting of solar modules, control units, batteries and all necessary accessories.

Ruukki Oy is currently a part of the steel company SSAB. It provides facade mounting systems for solar PV.

Sola Sense Oy provides solutions for optimization and monitoring of solar power plants.

Wartsila Oy is located in Vaasa. The company develops and provides diesel/gas engine and solar PV hybrid power plants on a MW scale. Wartsila has a strong vision on 100 % renewable electricity system powered mainly by solar and wind.

Yaskawa Oy is located in Vaasa and Lappeenranta. Its main products are generators and power electronics for wind turbines. However, they also provide inverters for utility-scale PV plants.

## 5 PV IN THE ECONOMY

This chapter aims to provide information on the benefits of PV for the economy.

### 5.1 Labour places

The estimated PV-related labour places in Finland in 2018 are presented in Table 20. There are no official figures available, and thus, the uncertainty in the estimates is high.

**Table 20: Estimated PV-related full-time labour places in 2018**

Market category	Number of full-time labour places
Research and development (not including companies)	100
Manufacturing of products throughout the PV value chain from feedstock to systems, including company R&D	150
Distributors of PV products	50
System and installation companies	200
Electricity utility businesses and government	50
Other	50
Manufacturing of products throughout the PV value chain from feedstock to systems, including company R&D	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>

### 5.2 Business value

The value of PV business in Finland in 2018 is estimated in Table 21. The uncertainties of the given estimates are at least  $\pm 20\%$ .

**Table 21: Rough estimation of the value of the PV business in 2018 (VAT is excluded).**

Sub-market	Capacity installed in 2018 [MW]	Average price [€/W]	Value [M€]	Sub-market [M€]
Off-grid	0.3	5	1.5	1.5
Grid-connected distributed	52.8	1.1	58	58
Grid-connected centralized				
Value of PV business in 2018				59.5



## 6 INTEREST FROM ELECTRICITY STAKEHOLDERS

### 6.1 Structure of the electricity system

Currently, the Finnish power system consists of power plants, the nationwide transmission grid, regional networks, distribution networks and electricity end-users. The Finnish power system belongs to the inter-Nordic power system together with power systems in Sweden, Norway and Eastern Denmark. In addition, there are direct-current transmission links from Finland to the Russian and Estonian power systems. These power systems are managed separately from the inter-Nordic power system. Correspondingly, the inter-Nordic power system is connected to Continental Europe by DC links.<sup>7</sup>

The backbone of the Finnish power systems is the nationwide transmission grid. It is a high-voltage network, which covers the whole of Finland and consists of 4600 km of 400 kV lines, 2200 km of 220 kV lines, 7600 km of 110 kV lines and 116 substations. The largest power plants, industrial plants and regional electricity distribution networks are connected to the transmission grid. The transmission grid is managed by Fingrid. The State of Finland is the main owner of Fingrid with 53 % ownership. The transmission grid serves electricity producers and consumers enabling electricity trading at the inter-Nordic power system level. The majority of electricity consumed in Finland is transmitted through the transmission grid. In addition to the ownership, Fingrid is responsible for the system supervision, operation planning, balance services, grid maintenance, construction and development, and promotion of the electricity market.<sup>7</sup>

The electricity distribution networks, local and regional, are owned both by municipal and private utility companies. The number of distribution networks is 77. Each distribution system operator has a license to operate alone in a certain area. Being monopolies, their operation is monitored and regulated by the Energy Authority. The electricity trading companies are separated from the electricity distribution companies. The Finnish electricity market was deregulated in 1995. Each electricity consumer is free to select the electricity provider. Currently, all electricity users have remotely read hourly-basis electric energy meters. The hourly system price of electricity is formed day-ahead based on supply and demand in the Nordic power market Nord Pool. Because of bottlenecks in power transmission capacities, there are several price areas. Hence, the area prices may differ from each other.

### 6.2 Interest from electricity utility businesses

Several utility companies have started to sell and install turnkey PV systems as a product for residential houses and commercial buildings. They either make the installations by themselves or have contracts with installation companies. In June 2017, the majority of utility companies have announced offers to buy surplus electricity from micro-PV plants. In general, the utilities pay the Nord Pool Spot Finland area price<sup>8</sup> of the surplus electricity without VAT 24 %, which is roughly one-third of the retail electricity price.

### 6.3 Interest from municipalities and local governments

Several municipalities have installed PV systems of their own and are, for example, planning new housing areas so that roofs will be aligned towards south and there are no shadowing obstacles. There is also a Finnish project Carbon Neutral Municipalities (<http://www.hinku-foorumi.fi/en-US>), which is coordinated by the Finnish Environment Institute. The municipalities involved in the project are

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<sup>7</sup> The power system in Finland, available at: <https://www.fingrid.fi/en/grid/electricity-system-of-finland/>, accessed 25 June 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Nordpool spot prices, available at: <http://www.nordpoolspot.com/Market-data1/#/nordic/table>, accessed 25 June 2019



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committed to large CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions. Tools for this are, for example, promotion of PV installations in the area of the municipality, removal of recognized regulatory barriers, provision of rooftop solar potential map services, and installation of PV systems on buildings owned by the municipality.



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## 7 HIGHLIGHTS AND PROSPECTS

### 7.1 Highlights

- The grid-connected solar PV capacity in Finland increased about 75 % between the years 2017-2018.



